

Our Part and God's Part in Life's Battles

Joshua 11:1-15

Joshua 11's main message: **In all of life's battles, God's got a part, and you've got a part.**

The text suggests **three truths about life battles** that will help believers clarify their part and God's part.

- **Truth #1: GOD'S INVOLVEMENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ANY BATTLE.**

When Jabin king of Hazor heard of this, he sent word to Jobab king of Madon, to the kings of Shimron and Acshaph, ²and to the northern kings who were in the mountains, in the Arabah south of Kinnereth, in the western foothills and in Naphtali Dor on the west; ³to the Canaanites in the east and west; to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites and Jebusites in the hill country; and to the Hivites below Hermon in the region of Mizpah. ⁴They came out with all their troops and a large number of horses and chariots—a huge army, as numerous as the sand on the seashore. ⁵All these kings joined forces and made camp together at the Waters of Merom, to fight against Israel. Joshua 11:1-5 (NIV)

When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. Deuteronomy 20:1 (NIV)

Two Observations

- Sometimes, Christians face overwhelming odds.
- When overwhelmed, believers realize – with even greater clarity – their dependence upon God.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution . . . traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. ²⁰Some of them, however . . . went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. Acts 11:19-21 (NIV)

- **Truth #2: DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY DOESN'T NEGATE HUMAN ACTIVITY.**

The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel, slain. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots." ⁷So Joshua and his whole army came against them suddenly at the Waters of Merom and attacked them . . . Joshua 11:6-7 (NIV)

God's sovereignty = the exercise of God's rule over His creation

I know, O Lord, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps. Jeremiah 10:23 (NIV)

A man's steps are directed by the LORD . . . Proverbs 20:24 (NIV)

For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up; ⁷but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. Psalm 75:6-7 (Revised Standard Version)

- **Truth #3: OUR PART IN LIFE'S BATTLES OFTEN REQUIRES OBEDIENCE.**

As the LORD commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses. Joshua 11:15 (NIV)

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. . . . 2 John 6 (NIV)

At that time Joshua turned back and captured Hazor and put its king to the sword. (Hazor had been the head of all these kingdoms.) ¹¹Everyone in it they put to the sword. They totally destroyed them, not sparing anything that breathed, and he burned up Hazor itself. ¹²Joshua took all these royal cities and their kings and put them to the sword. He totally destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. Joshua 11:10-12 (NIV)