

“STRUGGLES”
Joshua 11:16-23

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July 7-8, 2018

Reminder #1: IN OUR MOST IMPORTANT STRUGGLES, GOD SOMETIMES ASKS FOR A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills, from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death. Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. Joshua 11:16-18 (New International Version)

Application Questions: What does obedience look like for me in the struggle I’m dealing with today? What heart work does God want to do in me in the midst of my current struggle?

Reminder #2: IN THE MIDST OF LIFE’S STRUGGLES, WE TRUST THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGNLY AT WORK.

Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses. Joshua 11:19-20 (NIV)

Application Questions: What might God be doing in the midst of my struggle that I’m not seeing? Am I willing to express trust in Him for the struggle ahead?

Reminder #3: IN LIFE STRUGGLES, GOD’S POWER AND PRESENCE WILL BE ADEQUATE TO ALLAY OUR FEARS.

And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities. There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain. So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war. Joshua 11:21-23 (ESV)

But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” . . . They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” Numbers 13:31-33 (NIV)

Application Question: What fears are keeping me from experiencing God’s best in the midst of my current struggle? As you can identify them, take them to the Lord this week in prayer.

TAKE-HOME TRUTH for Joshua 11:16-23: God is at work in the journey through each of our struggles.