

STUDY GUIDE 11

Joshua 11

Study warm-up: If you look back over the past seven years, how have you seen God at work in your life?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read Joshua 11:1-5, noticing the word *heard*.

1. Let's briefly review some of the times we have read of other Canaanites having *heard* of the Israelites and their God. From what you have studied, what was the ultimate outcome for those that *heard*?

Reference	Hearer's Outcome
<p>a. Joshua 2:10, 11 (Rahab speaking)</p> <p>¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.</p> <p>¹¹ When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.</p>	(Joshua 6)
<p>b. Joshua 5:1</p> <p>Now it came about when all the kings of the Amorites who <i>were</i> beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who <i>were</i> by the sea, heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel until they had crossed, that their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the sons of Israel.</p>	(Joshua 6)

<p>c. Joshua 9:3-5 ³ When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, ⁴ they also acted craftily and set out as envoys, and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys, and wineskins worn-out and torn and mended, ⁵ and worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry <i>and</i> had become crumbled.</p>	<p>(Joshua 9, 10:5-11)</p>
<p>d. Joshua 10:1 Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land, ² that he feared greatly, because Gibeon <i>was</i> a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men <i>were</i> mighty.</p>	<p>(Joshua 10)</p>

Read Joshua 11, this time watching for the occurrences of the word, *all*, and the phrase, *utterly destroyed*, which will highlight the decisiveness of the northern conquest.

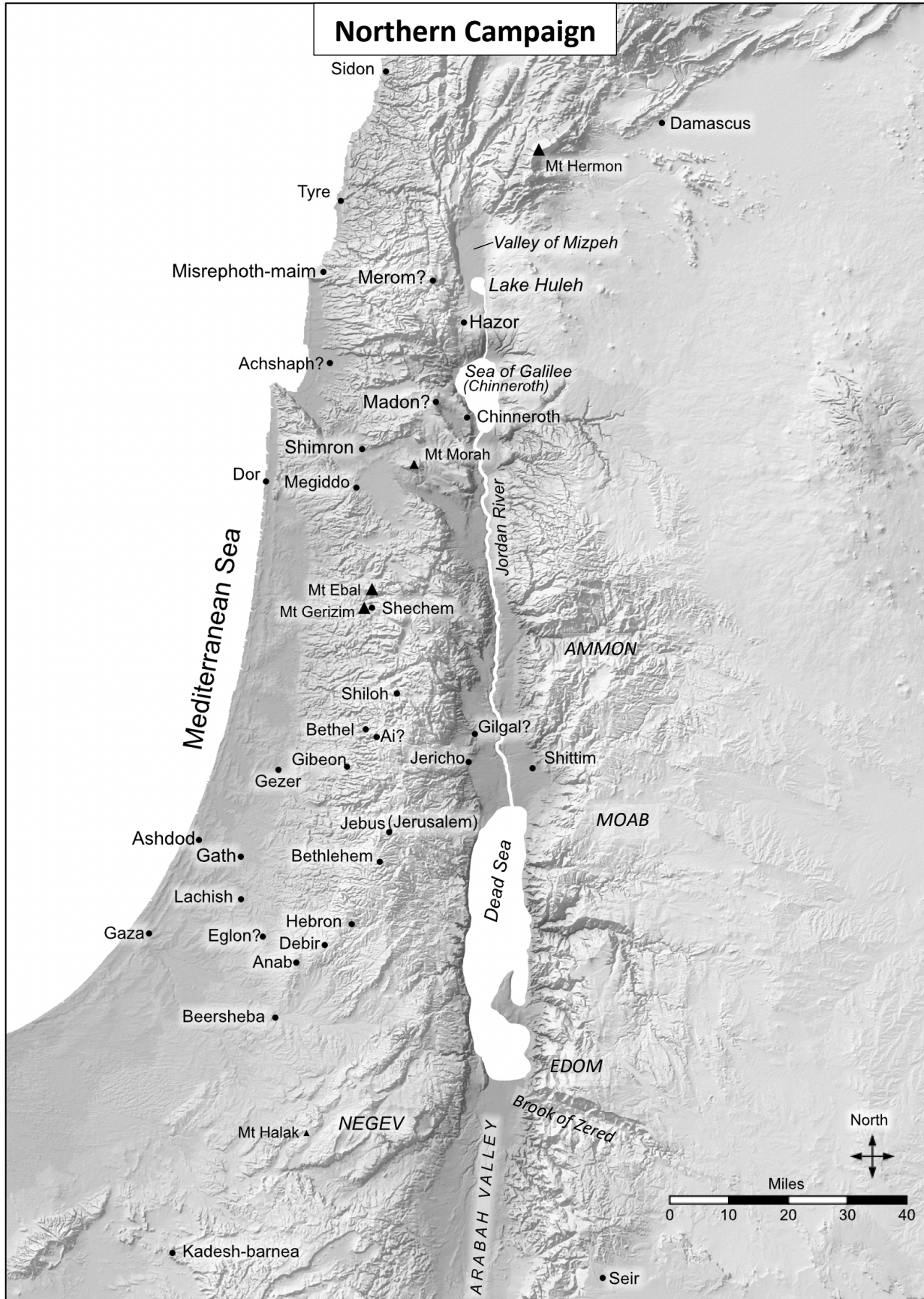


Figure 11-1

2. Identify the following locations from Joshua 11:1-5 on the map in *Figure 11-1*.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazor | <input type="checkbox"/> Shimron | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinneroth | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt Hermon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Madon | <input type="checkbox"/> Achshaph | <input type="checkbox"/> Dor | <input type="checkbox"/> Merom |

3. What do you observe about the coalition gathering against the sons of Israel in Joshua 11:1-5?

4. What does God do in Joshua 11:6-9?

5. Find the following locations from Joshua 11:6-9 on the map in *Figure 11-1*.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sidon | <input type="checkbox"/> Misrephoth-
maim | <input type="checkbox"/> Valley of
Mizpeh |
|--------------------------------|--|--|

6. What is noteworthy about Joshua's actions in Joshua 11:6-9?
7. What happens in Joshua 11:10-15?
8. Note the following locations from Joshua 11:16-20 on the map in *Figure 11-1*. (The Goshen mentioned is a city that becomes part of the territory belonging to the tribe of Judah; it is in the vicinity of Debir, but its exact location is unknown. *Arabah* means desert plain; this is a general term applied to the flat lands, in contrast to the hill country.)
- Negev Mt Halak Mt Hermon Seir
9. Make note of anything you find especially interesting in the summary of Joshua 11:16-20.

Read Joshua 11:21-23 once more.

10. We will refresh our memories about the Anakim a little later in this study guide, but for now find the locations where the Anakim remained on the map of *Figure 11-1*.

Gaza

Gath


Ashdod

11. What is mentioned about the land in verse 23?

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

12. Let's consider how long the conquest of the Promised Land took. It is said to have taken a *long time* as mentioned in Joshua 11:18. How long is a *long time*? Read ahead to Caleb's request of Joshua in Joshua 14:6-12.

a. How old was Caleb when he made his request for his inheritance?		
b. How old was Caleb when Moses sent him from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land of Canaan?	+	
c. From Deuteronomy 1:1-5 and 2:14, how many years passed from the time the Israelites were in Kadesh-barnea to the crossing of the brook of Zered? (Please note Moses is speaking from Moab, across the Jordan.)	==	
d. How old was Caleb when he entered the land of Canaan? (Enter this number in both boxes.)		
e. How many years passed from the initial crossing of the Jordan until the end of the conquest?		==



13. Review what Caleb said about the Anakim in Joshua 14:12, and then note what Caleb does in Joshua 15:13, 14.

14. Read Numbers 13:25-33 and make note of anything you learn about the sons of Anak (or Anakim, per Deuteronomy 1:28.)

15. From Numbers 13:33 we find that the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim. What do you discover about the Nephilim from Genesis 6:1-8?

16. List the three cities from Joshua 11:21, 22 where the Anakim remained:

17. Finally from 1 Samuel 17:4 (approximately 400 years later,) we encounter a character that most Bible scholars contend is a descendant of the Anakim. What correlations do you see?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

18. From what we have studied in chapter 11, it seems the Anakim were the last people group with whom Joshua dealt. Reflect on the sequence of the battles (and their respective difficulty levels) that we have studied thus far. The battles the Israelites faced became more difficult as their conquest of the Promised Land progressed. Might believers experience a similar increase in their [spiritual] battle difficulties as they mature in Christ? How have God's actions in Joshua thus far encouraged you in facing your challenges?
19. Once again, God's judgment on the wicked as we studied chapter 11 may unsettle us. At the same time we know there is a future and final judgment coming on the world, and only those under the blood of the Lamb will be spared. How might the bloodshed and warfare in Joshua motivate us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) What purpose did it serve for the Israelites to burn the Canaanite chariots and maim the horses? What does this mean for the believer's spiritual battles?
- II) How might the DNA of the Nephilim have survived the flood of Noah's day?

 *Cole Women's Bible Study Writing Team, 2025*

Additional Scripture for Study Guide 11

□ Deuteronomy 1:1-5

These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazereth and Dizahab. ² It is eleven days' *journey* from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. ³ In the fortieth year, on the first *day* of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that the LORD had commanded him *to give* to them, ⁴ after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei. ⁵ Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to expound this law, saying,

□ Deuteronomy 2: 14 (Moses speaking)

¹⁴“Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, until all

the generation of the men of war perished from within the camp, as the Lord had sworn to them.

□ **Numbers 13:25-33**

When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days, ²⁶ they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ Thus they told him, and said, “We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan.”

□ **Deuteronomy 1:28**

Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying, “The people are bigger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified to heaven. And besides, we saw the sons of the Anakim there.”

□ **Genesis 6:1-8**

Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw

that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.



STUDY GUIDE 12

Joshua 12

Study warm-up: If you have ever used the idiom, “I know it like I know the back of my hand,” try describing the back of your hand right now; no peeking! How much detail did you capture?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read Joshua 12:1-6. The map in *Figure 12-1* may be helpful.

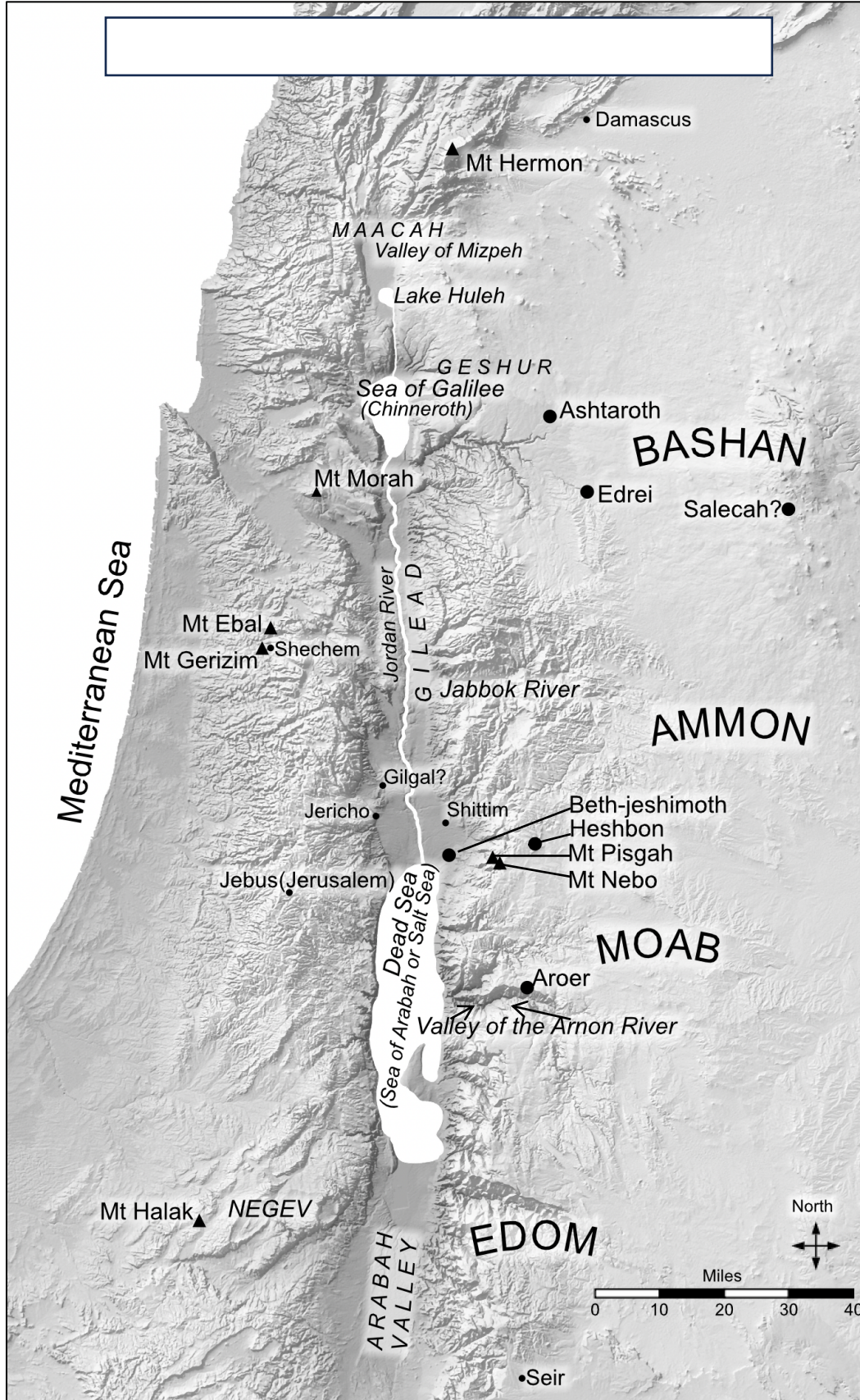


Figure 12-1

3. Add a title to *Figure 12-1* that describes the map's contents.
Read Joshua 12:7-24. The map in *Figure 12-2* may be helpful.

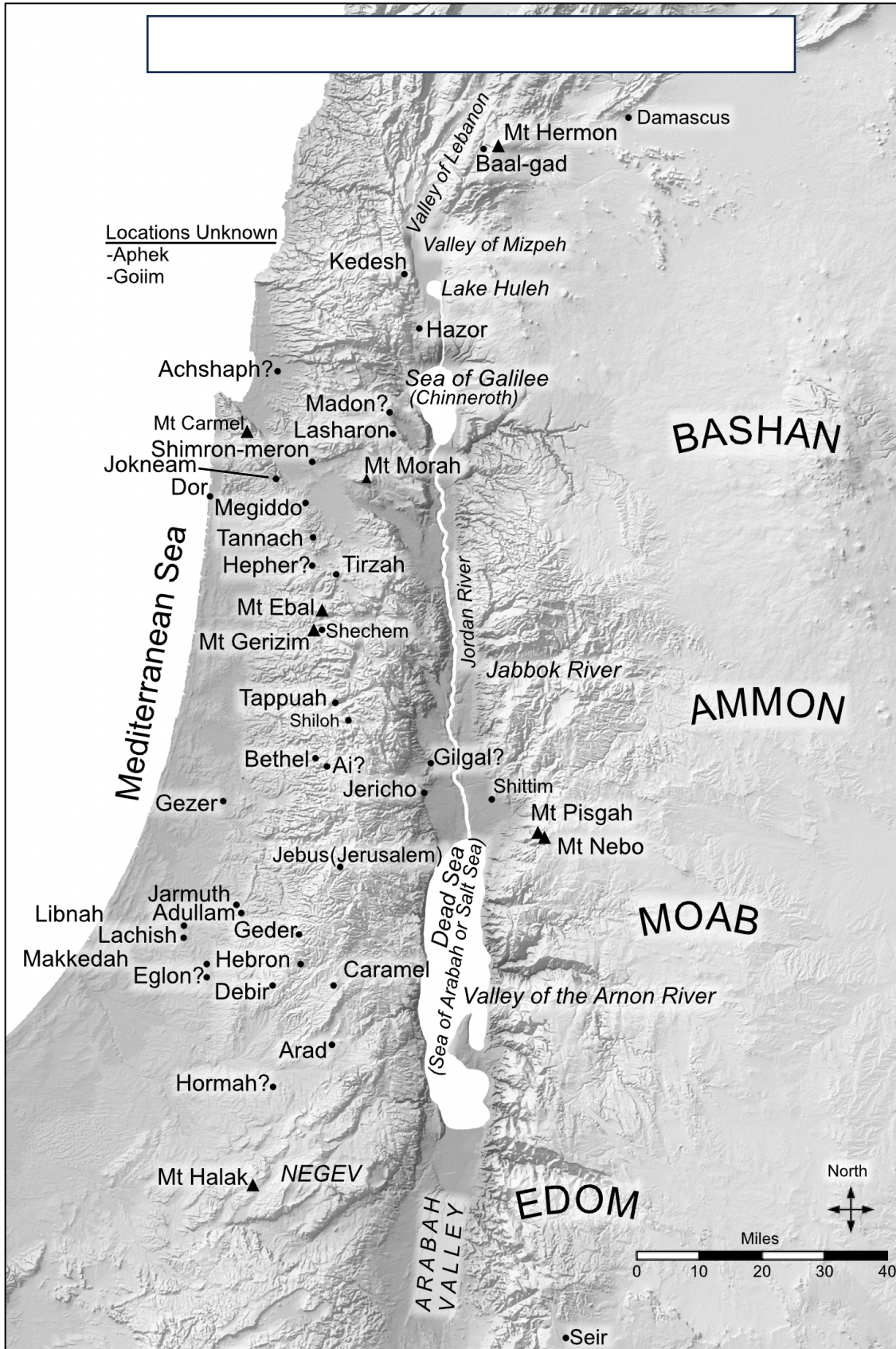


Figure 12-2

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

The word *Arabah* [verses 12:1, 3, and 8], is Strong's H6160, עֲרָבָה 'ārāb, which means a desert plain. It does not usually refer to a specifically named location. (It is a bit like saying, "I'm headed *downtown*." If you know in which city I am located, you know which area I mean.)

6. In the bulleted list between questions 6 and 7 of Study Guide 1, we were introduced to King Sihon of the Amorites and King Og of Bashan. Why are these early conquests included in the overview summary that Joshua 12 provides?

7. There is information about King Og that relates to something we learned about in Joshua 11. Note how Og is described in Joshua 12:4. Now read Deuteronomy 2:9-11 (from Moses describing the Israelites' time in the wilderness) and Deuteronomy 3:8-11. What do you discover about King Og? (A cubit is 18 inches.)

8. The information contained in Joshua 12 is extremely detailed. Why is that? (What purpose does it serve? What does it indicate about God?)



Archaeological Find

The Amarna tablets (or Amarna letters) were first discovered in 1887 in Egypt. Three hundred and eighty-two clay tablets (and/or fragments) are known to have been found. The tablets are about 3 inches wide and 2.5 to 9 inches in length and contain mostly diplomatic correspondence (written in cuneiform) between Egypt and Canaan (and people groups farther north.) Many of the cities named in the book of Joshua are referred to on the tablets.



Photo from
Wikimedia Commons

The tablets are dated to the early to mid-14th century BC, which would place them in the timeframe after Joshua's initial conquest of the land. (We will see later in Joshua that the tribes of Israel were instructed to purge the remaining Canaanites from their allotted territories.)

A web article from the Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology (link provided in the References section) highlights some interesting mentions of the Canaanites seeking help from Egypt concerning a people they refer to as the *Habiru*. The article includes the following quotes from Canaanite officials in their correspondence:

- “*All* the lands of the king, my lord, have deserted.”
- “*Lost* are *all* the mayors.”
- “The king has *no lands*.”
- “The Habiru have plundered *all the lands* of the king.”

- “The Habiru are *stronger than we*.”
- “Lest the Habiru *destroy us*.”
- “The land of the king is lost.”
- “The Habiru have taken the very cities of the [pharaoh].”
- “*All are lost*.”

Was *Habiru* the term the Canaanites used for the Hebrews? The Armstrong Institute believes it was. The quotes offered in the article seem reasonable in light of the cataclysmic destruction the God and the Israelites brought to the Canaanites.

9. If God inspired Joshua to include the minutiae in the record, what might this mean with respect to what God knows about you? Read the following cross references and record what you find.

a. Luke 12:6, 7

b. John 10:14, 15

c. Psalm 139:1-6

d. Psalm 139:13-16

e. Matthew 6:7, 8

f. Acts 15:8

g. Jeremiah 17:10

h. 1 John 3:18-20

i. 1 Peter 5:6, 7

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

10. Think for a moment about God's past victories in your own life. Consider what He knows about you as stated in His Word. How does this affect your faith going forward?

11. God cleared the way for the Israelites to possess the inheritance that He was giving them. God has cleared a way for all those who belong to Christ to possess every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3) He has provided His Spirit as a downpayment on that promise and also to produce fruit in believers' lives. This is your reality if you belong to Him. If anything is holding you back from possessing all that is [already] yours, spend some time identifying the obstacles. (Are you listening to the enemy? He doesn't deserve a seat at your table!)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) How does the pointed reference to the tribes that settled east of the Jordan reflect God's desire for unity among His people?
- II) You may recall from chapter 2 that Rahab cited the defeats of Sihon and Og as some of the reasons that the people of Jericho feared the Israelites. Do you think that the Israelites had valued those battles as any kind of precursors to what they would face in Canaan? (Are we attune to how God uses all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose? (Romans 8:28))

REFERENCES

<https://armstronginstitute.org/881-the-amarna-letters-proof-of-israels-invasion-of-canaan>

 *Cole Women's Bible Study Writing Team, 2025*

Additional Scripture for Study Guide 12

□ Deuteronomy 2:9-11

⁹ Then the Lord said to me, 'Do not attack Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.'¹⁰ (The Emim lived there previously, a people as great, numerous, and tall as the Anakim. ¹¹ Like the Anakim, they too are regarded as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

□ **Deuteronomy 3:8-11**

⁸“So at that time we took the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, from the Valley of Arnon to Mount Hermon ⁹ (Sidonians call Hermon Sirion, and the Amorites call it Senir): ¹⁰ all the cities of the plateau, all Gilead, and all Bashan, as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ¹¹ (For only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits, and its width four cubits by the usual cubit.)

□ **Luke 12:6-7**

⁶ Are five sparrows not sold for two assaria? And *yet* not one of them has gone unnoticed in the sight of God. ⁷ But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not fear; you are more valuable than a great number of sparrows.

□ **John 10:14-15**

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

□ **Psalm 139:1-6**

LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.
² You know when I sit down and when I get up;
You understand my thought from far away.
³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, LORD, You know it all.

⁵ You have encircled me behind and in front,
And placed Your hand upon me.
⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is *too* high, I cannot comprehend it.

□ **Psalm 139:13-16**

¹³ For You created my innermost parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, because I am
awesomely and wonderfully *made*;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully formed in the depths of the earth;
¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my formless substance;
And in Your book were written
All the days that were ordained *for me*,
When as yet there was not one of them.

□ **Matthew 6:7-8**

⁷ "And when you are praying, do not use
thoughtless repetition as the Gentiles do, for
they think that they will be heard because of
their many words. ⁸ So do not be like them;
for your Father knows what you need before
you ask Him.

□ **Acts 15:8**

⁸ And God, who knows the heart, testified to
them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He
also did to us;

□ **Jeremiah 17:10**

¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
To give to each person according to his ways,
According to the results of his deeds.

□ **1 John 3:18-20**

¹⁸ Little children, let's not love with word or
with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ We will
know by this that we are of the truth, and will
set our heart at ease before Him, ²⁰ that if our
heart condemns us, that God is greater than our
heart, and He knows all things.

□ **1 Peter 5:6-7**

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the
mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you
at the proper time, ⁷ having cast all your anxiety
on Him, because He cares about you.



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