

# A DEEPER DIVE

August 2, 2026

Joshua 11:16-23

**Prayer Focus**— Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

**Monday: Reading** – Joshua 11:16-17

Consider this— The summary.

Verse 16-17 summarize a lot of the action in the previous sections. Here's an interesting overview of it.  
<https://crossroadsbible.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Joshua-11-2-Handout.pdf>

**Tuesday: Reading**— Joshua 11:18; 14:7; Deuteronomy 2:14.

Consider this— How long is a long time?

The NIV study Bible notes provide some interesting detail here. Read Joshua 14:7 and then go back to Deuteronomy 2:14 and read that. How old is Caleb? The notes say that seven years elapsed from the beginning of the conquest until Hebron was taken. They can estimate that because of what the other verses say about Caleb's age. Do minor details like this, which are specific, make you trust what you read in the Bible more? If so, why?

**Wednesday: Reading**— Joshua 11:19-20; Exodus 7:3; 9:12; 10:27

**Consider this**— No peace—hard heart

The Gibeonites made a deal with Joshua, but apparently no one else did. If you read the first few verses of Chapter 10, it makes it plain that the other kings who warred against Israel had heard of the Gibeonite treaty. They had also heard about Ai and Jericho. So why did this knowledge move them to seek war and not peace? Many of us know people who we have shared testimony with who, after hearing what we say, or seeing the results of God's work, still reject him. It is even more difficult when these people are our friends, or family members. Were you ever like that? What caused you to change? Pray especially for those people you know who are constantly resisting the Lord.

**Thursday: Reading**— Joshua 11:21-22; Numbers 13

**Consider this**— There be giants!

Remember in the first go-round that Joshua and Caleb did not fear the giants, but the other spies did. Reread Numbers 13 to remind yourself of what was said and done. Joshua and Caleb did not deny that there were giants in the land. What made them unafraid? Here, in Joshua 11, we find the giants again. Some versions call these big boys Anakim, and some Anakites. But it's the same word for these people. They are apparently descended from a guy named Anak, which means "long-necked" or "giant." Some commentators say that this group of giants are descended from the Nephilim of Genesis 6. There is one BIG (see what I did there) problem with this view—what is it? It would be worth some time to do some research into this issue and find the varying theories about who these giants were.

**Friday: Reading**– Joshua 11:23; 1 Samuel 17

**Consider this**– A first glimpse of Goliath?

What are the three place-names that are mentioned in verse 22? What do those three places have in common? Keeping those places in mind, read the account of Goliath in 1 Samuel 17.

Here is an interactive map of the area. <https://ibiblemaps.com/philistine-threat/#open-overlay>

**Saturday: Reading**– Joshua 11:16-23

**Consider this**– What were we afraid of?

In Numbers we see the effect fear has when it grips people, even believers. In Joshua we see the effect of faith. The promised land that the Lord had talked to Moses about is finally in the hands of Israel. Davis says, "God exposes the groundlessness of the fear and unbelief of the Numbers 13 generation. Our most dreadful fears are subject to Yahweh's power... This text at least means to assure us that Yahweh's power is adequate to meet our most dreadful fears. Our situation is both different from and similar to Israel's. The form of our fears is different; the adequacy of our God is the same." Do you look at the stories in Joshua as just some stories from long ago, or do you take heart from these stories, and understand what Davis is saying? Do these stories embolden you to live even more boldly for Christ?

**From the Henri Nouwen Society**–

*The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection. This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression, or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated*

**Sunday** - Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at [stvc13@gmail.com](mailto:stvc13@gmail.com).