

## Lesson 6 – Invasion and Conquest of Canaan

Text: Joshua 6 – Joshua 24

Main Characters: God, Joshua

### Key Verses

- Joshua 7:11-12 – When there was sin, the Lord was not on Israel's side, and they could not win.
- Joshua 10:7-11 – When they trusted God, the Lord was on Israel's side, and they could not lose.
- Joshua 23:11-13 – As part of his last advice, Joshua urges the people to continue loving the Lord or He would no longer fight for the people.

### List

#### Order of the Invasion and Conquest of Canaan

- Central Campaign
- Southern Campaign
- Northern Campaign
- Land Distributed Among the Tribes

Song: *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* (Verse 1 and Chorus)

### Transition from Wandering in the Wilderness

Recall that in the previous time period, the unfaithful Israelites died while they wandered around in the wilderness for forty years because of their rebellion as they were about to enter Canaan. At the end of those years, Moses died and Joshua became the new leader of the people. God then instructed Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan River and into Canaan to take the land from the wicked people there, beginning with Jericho, a well-fortified city in the land.

### Main Storyline

In great contrast with the rebellious generation who died in the wilderness, the Israelites that entered Canaan were one of the most faithful generations of God's people ever. Joshua led the people to conquer numerous cities and kings in Canaan (a total of thirty-one kings, Joshua 12:24). However, they had success solely because God was fighting for His people while they were faithful. God helped Israel in numerous ways: by destroying the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6), by telling the people how to win battles (Joshua 8 and 12), and by raining hailstones on their enemies (Joshua 10), among others.

This generation was not without problems, however. They sometimes forgot to rely on God for their victories and trusted in themselves. One time, they did not ask God before attacking a small city, and many people were killed because there was sin in the camp (Joshua 7). Another time, Israel allied with a foreign nation because they did not ask God if that was the right thing to do (Joshua 9). Later in the time period, the nation refused to drive out the rest of the wicked people in Canaan because they were not fully devoted to God.

### Transition to Judges

At the end of Joshua's life, he urged the people to remember that they were only successful when the Lord was with them, and that the Lord would only be with them if they obeyed and loved Him. Until Joshua and the other leaders from his generation died, the people remembered God and the things which He had done for Israel. However, after they died, the people forgot about God and rebelled against Him. God then began to raise judges to help guide and lead His people.