

# Becoming God's People Means Persistence In Our Faith

Joshua 11



# How should we understand warfare in Joshua 11?

The Conquest of Canaan took place between **1400-1200 BC**

- 3,500 years ago
- 1,400 years before Christ
- 600 years before Rome was founded (753 BC)
- 1000 years before burial of Qin Shi Huang and his Terracotta Army (200 BC)

Warfare in those times was understood very differently

- Cannot be used as justifications or models for modern conflicts
- Cannot be used to justify 'scorched earth' total destruction today

**Understand the spiritual and social context for God's justice, promises and lessons for our faith**

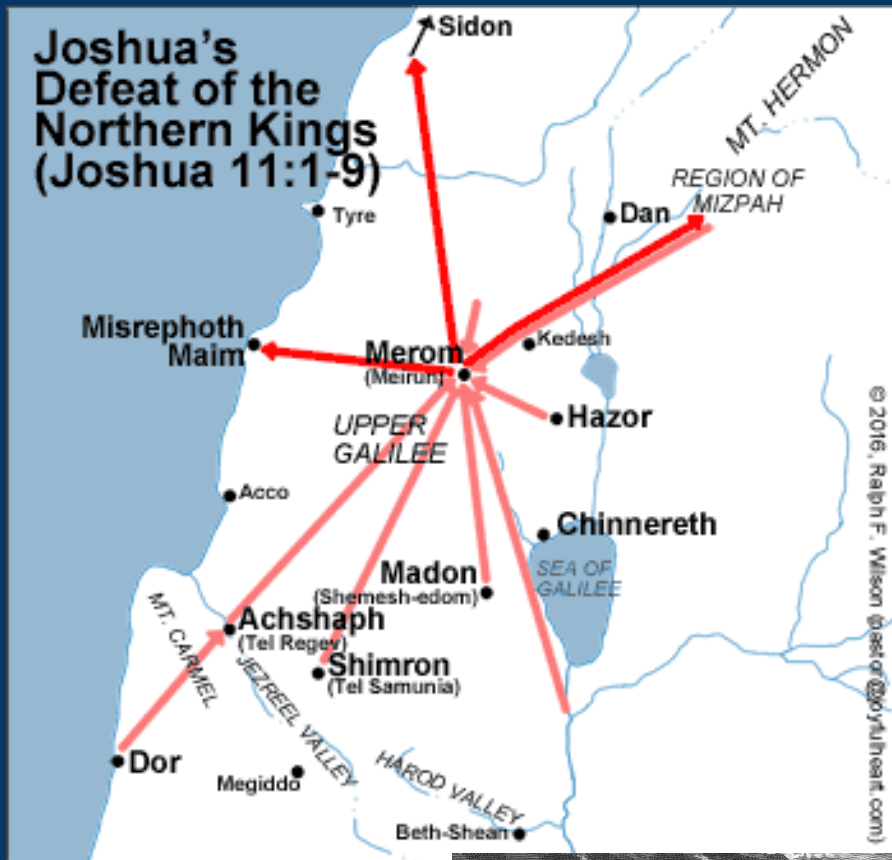
- Symbols of challenges in our life and faith
- Help us find spiritual inspiration



# The Conquest of Canaan



## Northern Campaign



- Jabin king of Hazor
- Jobab king of Madon, king of Shimron, king of Achshaph
- Kings from northern hill country, plains south of Chinneroth & Dor valley to the west
- Canaanites in east and west
- Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Hivvites



A great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots

*Joshua 11:4*





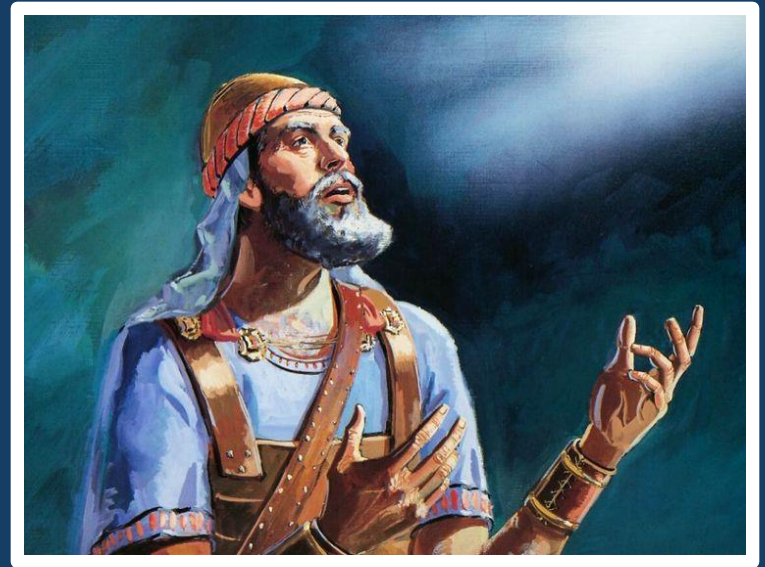
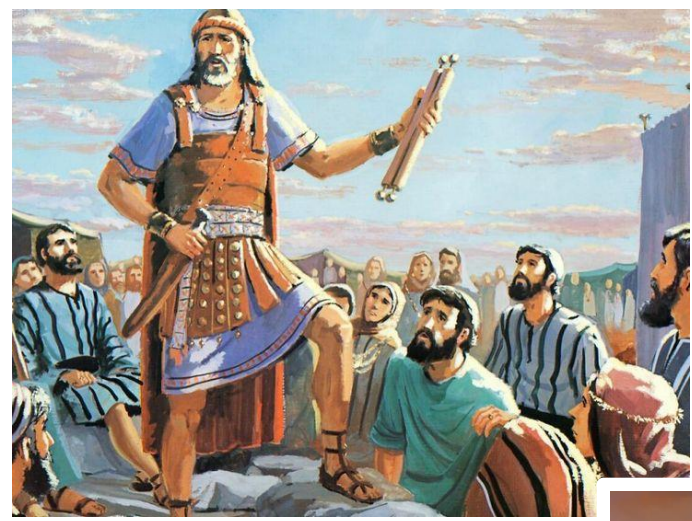
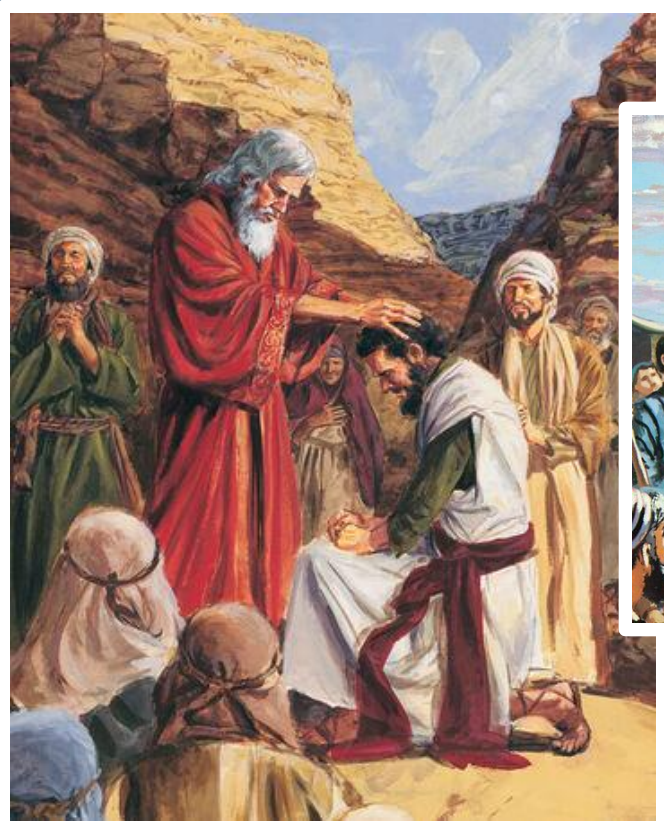
And the land had rest from war  
*Josh 11:23*

# PERSISTENCE IN FAITH

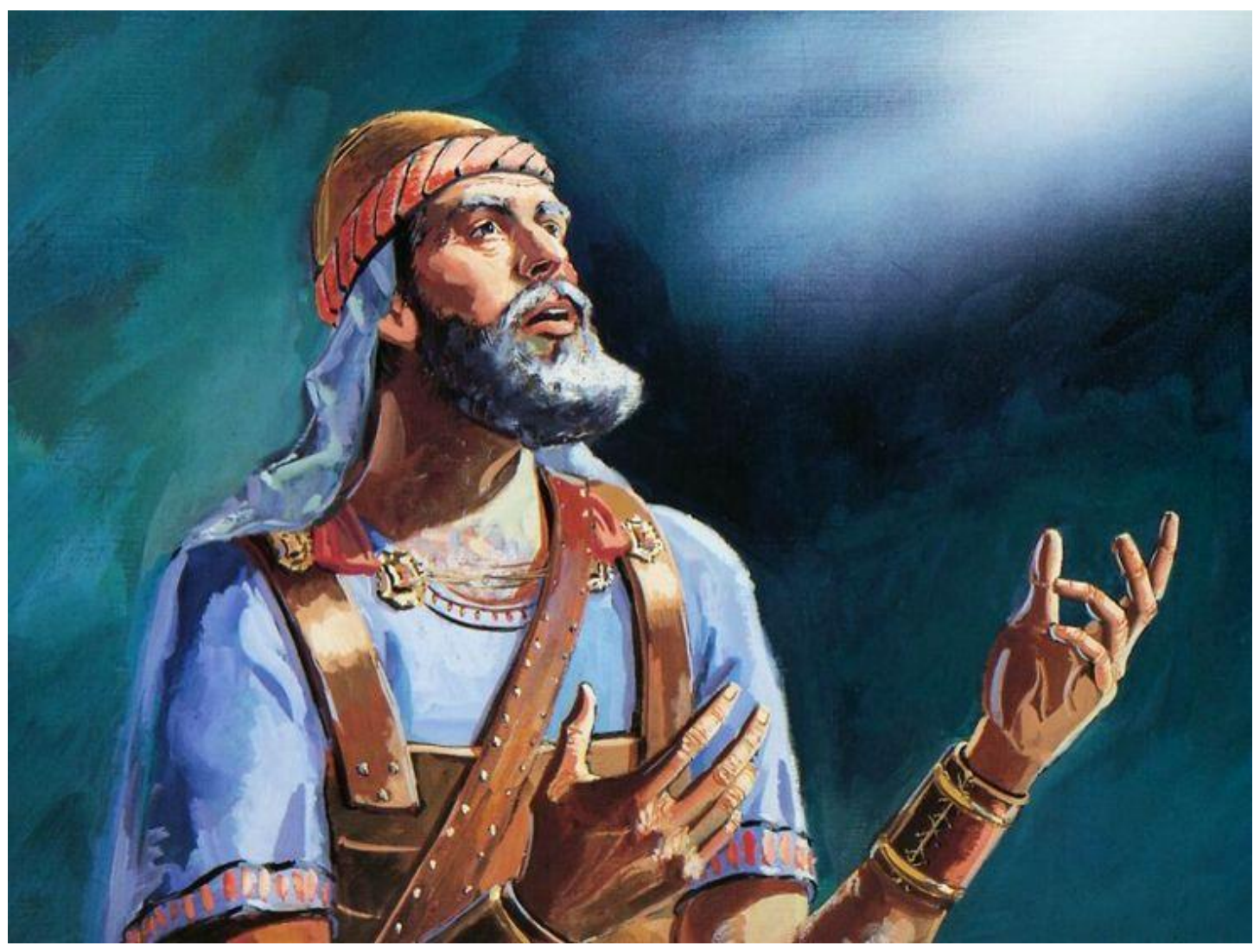
1. Like Joshua, we are called to persist in faith throughout our lives
2. Like Joshua, we must persist in faith with obedience and without compromising (*Joshua 11:7-15*)
3. Persisting in faith is grounded in God's faithfulness to us  
- in the faithfulness of Christ we find our identity as his people (*Galatians 2:20*)



# Joshua persisted in faith throughout his life











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Joshua made war a long time with all those kings (*Josh 11:18*)



And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel”  
(*Josh 11:6b*)

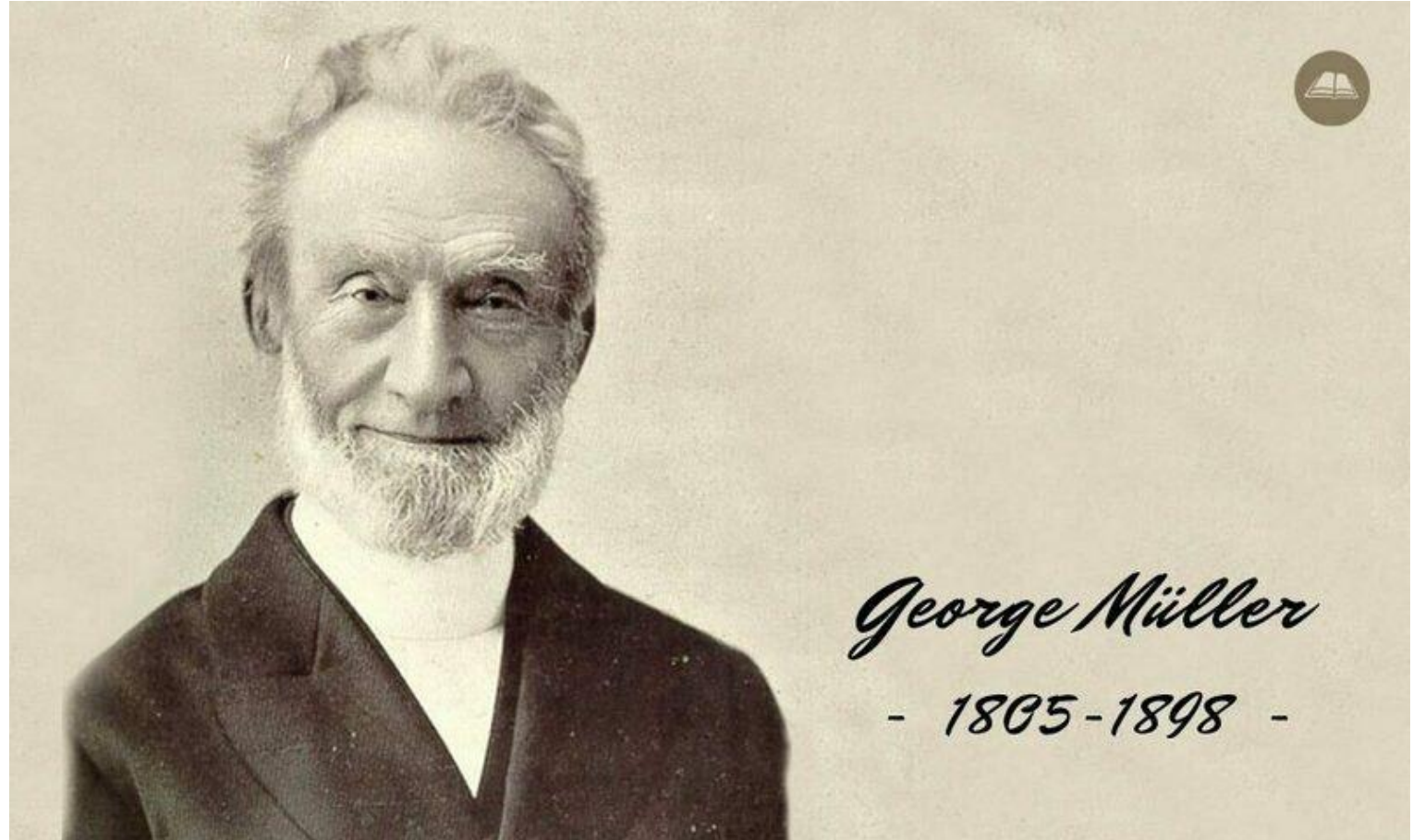






Though our  
outer self is  
wasting away,  
our inner self is  
being renewed  
day by day

*2 Cor 4:16*





God is calling us across the generations to persist  
in faith, prayer and ministry to build his kingdom



And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in  
you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

*Phil 1:6*

# Joshua persisted in faith in obedience, without compromise



You shall hamstring their horses and  
burn their chariots with fire

*Josh 11:6b*

Put on the whole armour of God... For we do not wrestle against flesh and  
blood, but against... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

*Eph 6:10-11*







# Persistent FAITH

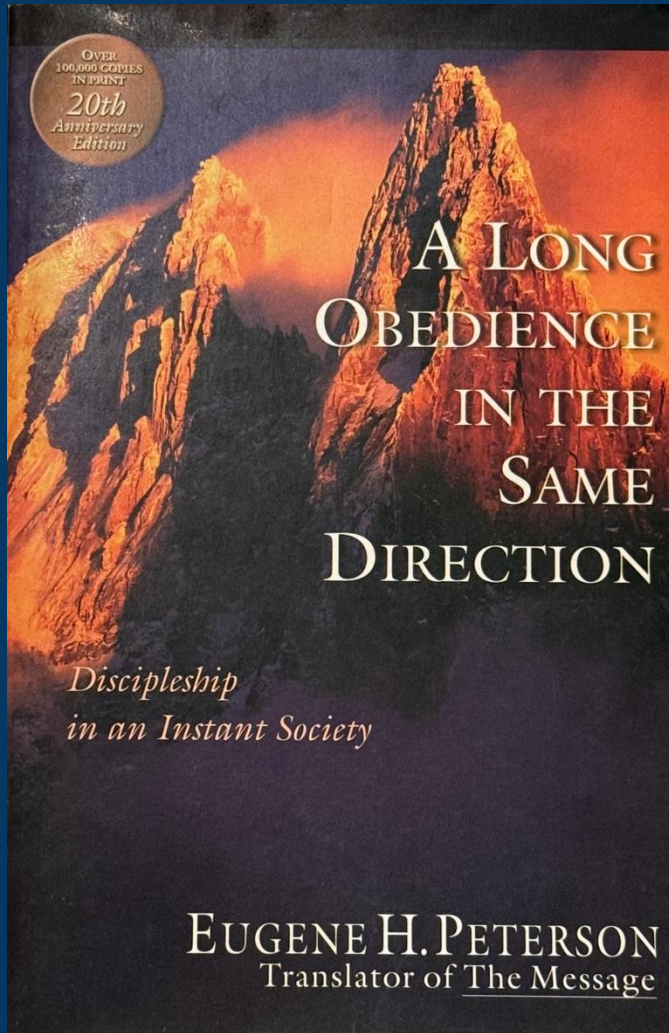


Faith characterised by

- ❖ Obedience that resists short cuts and compromises
- ❖ Honouring God in all areas of our lives even when it is costly

Each act of persistent faith and obedience shapes us  
more and more into the image of Christ

## Faith is not a quick fix but a lifelong commitment to follow Jesus



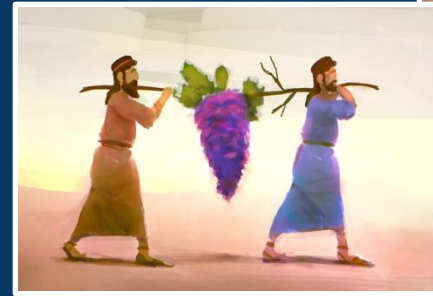
- ❖ Our Christian life should be rooted in depth and steadfastness
- ❖ We follow God's commands even when He does not give us what we desire because our deep contentment is in Him
- ❖ We embrace the long journey of following Jesus by finding meaning and transformation through consistent obedience and spiritual growth

**We journey within the supportive and loving community of SJSM**

Persisting in faith is grounded in God's faithfulness to us;  
In the faithfulness of Christ we find our identity as his people

God was faithful to Joshua throughout his life

So Joshua took the whole land  
according to all that the Lord had  
spoken to Moses (*Josh 11:23*)



31 kings defeated in conquest of Canaan

Great things for God are possible as we persist in a faith  
grounded in God's faithfulness to us



Our identity as God's people rests in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

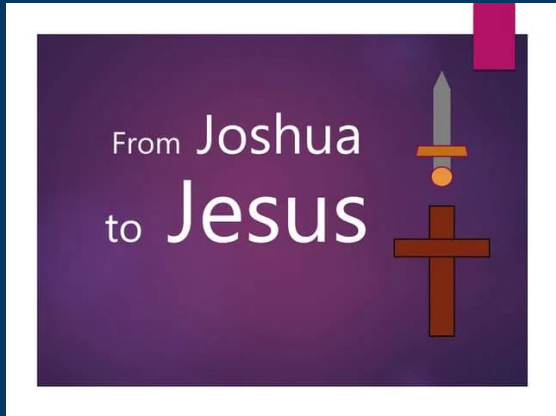
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me  
*Galatians 2:20 (ESV)*

# Our identity as God's people rests in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,  
but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live in my body,  
I live by faith, indeed, by the faithfulness of God's Son,  
who loved me and gave himself for me

*Galatians 2:20 (NT Wright)*

- ❖ Our lives are shaped and sustained by Christ living in us through the Spirit
- ❖ Our true identity is found in God's love shown through Jesus' sacrifice  
'I **think**, therefore I am' (Descartes) → 'I **am loved**, therefore I am' (Paul)
- ❖ The love from the cross defines us and draws out an answering response of love from us, which is **faith**
- ❖ In this love we discover who we truly are in Christ and find real life in Him



Joshua fought many hard battles to conquer Canaan

**Jesus** fought the most important battle at the Cross to conquer death and offer us eternal life

- ❖ Persisting in faith is our deeply joyful response to Jesus embracing us with His love shown at Calvary
- ❖ We are the **Community of the Cross** – forgiven, adopted, united by faith, and called to live out this identity in love and holiness



## As we become His People and persist in faith

- ❖ May our trust in the faithfulness of Christ keep growing
- ❖ May we increasingly and joyfully know how much we are loved individually and as a community
- ❖ May this love be shown in transformative relations as we journey together, bless one another and welcome others into our Village
- ❖ May the Lord give us strong, Spirit-empowered faith across the generations to obey and serve Him all the days of our lives for His glory and Kingdom





