

What Happens Next? Joshua 6-10



Last time on What Happens Next? Joshua 1-5: Israel Enters the Promised Land

Chapter 1 begins with Moses' death and the appointment of Joshua as the new leader of Israel. The author intentionally presents Joshua as a new Moses. Like his predecessor, Joshua calls on the people to obey the terms of the covenant given to Israel at Mount Sinai that are found in the Torah. In chapter 2, Joshua sends spies into the land, just as Moses had in Numbers 13-14. Things go much better this time, and even some Canaanites, such as Rahab the prostitute, turn to follow the God of Israel. Joshua then leads all of Israel across the Jordan River and into the land. Just as the sea parted for Moses in Exodus, so here the river parts as priests carrying the ark of the covenant lead the Israelites across to the land.

The story transitions in chapter 5 as the Israelites look back to their roots as God's covenant people. They have the new generation circumcised to honor that covenant, and they celebrate their first Passover in the new land. Just as they prepare to go forward, Joshua has an encounter with a mysterious warrior who, it turns out, is the angelic commander of God's army. Joshua asks, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" The warrior responds, "Neither," which shows that the real question is whether Joshua is on God's side. Chapter 5 makes clear that this story will not be about the Israelites versus the Canaanites. Rather, it is God's battle. Israel will play the role of spectators and only sometimes act as supporters in his purposes.

Joshua 6

יהושע ו'

(1) (Now Jericho was shut up tight because of the Israelites; no one could leave or enter.) (2) GOD said to Joshua, "See, I will deliver Jericho into your hands—its king and warriors. (3) Let all your troops march around the city and complete one circuit of the city. Do this six days, (4) with seven priests carrying seven ram's horns preceding the Ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. (5) And when a long blast is sounded on the horn—as soon as you hear that sound of the horn—all the troops shall give a mighty shout. Thereupon the city wall will collapse, and the troops shall advance, every man straight ahead." (6) Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, "Take up the Ark of the Covenant, and let seven priests carrying seven ram's

(א) ויריחוֹ סָגְרָת וּמִסְגָּרָת מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵין יוֹצֵא וְאֵין בָּא: {ס} (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ רְאֵה נָתַתִּי בְיָדְךָ אֶת־ יְרִיחוֹ וְאֶת־מַלְכָּהּ גְבוּרֵי הַחֵיל: (ג) וְסַבְּתֶם אֶת־הָעִיר בְּלֹא אֲנֹשִׁי הַמְּלָחָמָה הַקִּיף אֶת־ הָעִיר פַּעַם אַחַת כֹּה תַעֲשֶׂה שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים: (ד) וְשִׁבְעָה כְהֹנִים יִשְׂאוּ שִׁבְעָה שׁוֹפָרוֹת הַיּוֹבְלִים לִפְנֵי הָאָרוֹן וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי תִסָּבּוּ אֶת־הָעִיר שִׁבְעַת פַּעֲמִים וְהִפְּהִיִּם יִתְקְעוּ בַשׁוֹפָרוֹת: (ה) וְהָיָה בְּמִשְׁךָ אֶבְרָתָהּ הַיּוֹבֵל (בַּשְּׁמַעְכֶם) [כְּשִׁמְעֶכֶם] אֶת־קוֹל הַשׁוֹפָר יָרִיעוּ כָּל־הָעָם תְּרוּעָה גְדוֹלָה וְנָפְלָה חוֹמַת הָעִיר תַּחְתֵּיהָ וְעָלוּ הָעָם אִישׁ נֶגְדּוֹ: (ו) וַיִּקְרָא יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּרוּן־אֶל־הַכְּהֹנִים וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם שְׂאוּ אֶת־אָרוֹן הַבְּרִית וְשִׁבְעָה

horns precede the Ark of GOD.” (7) And he instructed the troops, “Go forward, march around the city, with the vanguard marching in front of the Ark of GOD.” (8) When Joshua had instructed the troops, the seven priests carrying seven ram’s horns advanced before GOD, blowing their horns; and the Ark of GOD’s Covenant followed them. (9) The vanguard marched in front of the priests who were blowing the horns, and the rear guard marched behind the Ark, with the horns sounding all the time. (10) But Joshua’s orders to the rest of the troops were, “Do not shout, do not let your voices be heard, and do not let a sound issue from your lips until the moment that I command you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout.” (11) So he had the Ark of GOD go around the city and complete one circuit; then they returned to camp and spent the night in camp. (12) Joshua rose early the next day; and the priests took up the Ark of GOD, (13) while the seven priests bearing the seven ram’s horns marched in front of the Ark of GOD, blowing the horns as they marched. The vanguard marched in front of them, and the rear guard marched behind the Ark of GOD, with the horns sounding all the time. (14) And so they marched around the city once on the second day and returned to the camp. They did this six days. (15) On the seventh day, they rose at daybreak and marched around the city, in the same manner, seven times; that was the only day that they marched around the city seven times. (16) On the seventh round, as the priests blew the horns, Joshua commanded the troops, “Shout! For GOD has given you the city. (17) The city and everything in it are to be proscribed for GOD; only Rahab the prostitute is to be spared, and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers we sent. (18) But you must beware of that which is proscribed, or else you will be proscribed: if you take anything from that which is proscribed, you will cause the camp of Israel to be proscribed; you will bring calamity upon it. (19) All the silver and gold and objects of copper and iron are consecrated to GOD; they must go into the treasury of GOD.” (20) So the troops shouted when the horns were

כִּהְיִים יִשְׂאוּ שִׁבְעָה שׁוֹפְרוֹת יוֹבְלִים לִפְנֵי אֲרוֹן יְהוָה: (ז) (וַיֹּאמְרוּ) [וַיֹּאמְרוּ] אֶל־הָעָם עֲבְרוּ וְסָבּוּ אֶת־הָעִיר וְהַחֲלוּץ יַעֲבֹר לִפְנֵי אֲרוֹן יְהוָה: (ח) וַיְהִי כַּאֲמַר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־הָעָם וְשִׁבְעָה הַכֹּהֲנִים נִשְׂאִים שִׁבְעָה שׁוֹפְרוֹת הַיּוֹבְלִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה עֲבְרוּ וְתִקְעוּ בַשׁוֹפְרוֹת וְאֲרוֹן בְּרִית יְהוָה הֵלֵךְ אַחֲרֵיהֶם: (ט) וְהַחֲלוּץ הֵלֵךְ לִפְנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים (תִּקְעוּ) [תִּקְעוּ] הַשׁוֹפְרוֹת וְהַמְּאֹסָף הֵלֵךְ אַחֲרֵי הָאֲרוֹן הֵלֹךְ וְתִקְוַע בַּשׁוֹפְרוֹת: (י) וְאֶת־הָעָם צָוָה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לֵאמֹר לֹא תִרְעוּ וְלֹא־תִשְׁמִיעוּ אֶת־קוֹלְכֶם וְלֹא־יֵצֵא מִפִּיכֶם דְּבַר עַד יוֹם אֲמַרְי אֶלֵיכֶם הָרִיעוּ וְהִרְיעַתֶּם: (יא) וַיִּסַּב אֲרוֹן־יְהוָה אֶת־הָעִיר הֵקֵף פַּעַם אַחַת וַיָּבֵאוּ הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיְלִינוּ בַּמַּחֲנֶה: {פ} {יב} וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּבֹקֵר וַיִּשְׂאוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים אֶת־אֲרוֹן יְהוָה: (יג) וְשִׁבְעָה הַכֹּהֲנִים נִשְׂאִים שִׁבְעָה שׁוֹפְרוֹת הַיּוֹבְלִים לִפְנֵי אֲרוֹן יְהוָה הַלְכִים הֵלֹךְ וְתִקְעוּ בַשׁוֹפְרוֹת וְהַחֲלוּץ הֵלֵךְ לִפְנֵיהֶם וְהַמְּאֹסָף הֵלֵךְ אַחֲרֵי אֲרוֹן יְהוָה (הוֹלֵךְ) [הֵלֹךְ] וְתִקְוַע בַּשׁוֹפְרוֹת: (יד) וַיִּסָּבּוּ אֶת־הָעִיר בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁנִי פַעַם אַחַת וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ הַמַּחֲנֶה כִּה עֵשׂוּ שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים: (טו) וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ לַעֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר וַיִּסָּבּוּ אֶת־הָעִיר כַּמִּשְׁפָּט הַזֶּה שִׁבְעַת פַּעֲמִים רַק בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא סָבְבוּ אֶת־הָעִיר שִׁבְעַת פַּעֲמִים: (טז) וַיְהִי בַּפַּעַם הַשְּׁבִיעִית תִּקְעוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים בַּשׁוֹפְרוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־הָעָם הָרִיעוּ כִּי־נָתַן יְהוָה לָכֶם אֶת־הָעִיר: (יז) וְהִיתָה הָעִיר חֵרֶם הַיָּא וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ לַיהוָה רַק רַחֵב הַזּוֹנָה תַחֲוֶה הִיא וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר אִתָּה בְּבַיִת כִּי הִחַבְּאֲתָה אֶת־הַמְּלָאכִים אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַחְנוּ: (יח) וְרַק־אֲתֶם שִׁמְרוּ מִן־הַחֵרֶם מִן־תַּחֲרִימוּ וְלִקְחֶתֶם מִן־הַחֵרֶם וְשִׁמְתֶם אֶת־מַחֲנֶה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְחֵרֶם וְעַכְרֶתֶם אוֹתוֹ: (יט) וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר יִצְדָּק וְזָהָב וְכָל־נְחֹשֶׁת וְבַרְזֶל קֹדֶשׁ הוּא לַיהוָה אוֹצֵר יְהוָה יָבֹוא: (כ) וַיִּרַע הָעָם וַיִּתְקְעוּ בַשׁפְּרוֹת וַיְהִי כַשִּׁמְעַת הָעָם אֶת־קוֹל הַשׁוֹפָר וַיִּרְעוּ הָעָם תָּרוּעָה גְדוֹלָה וַתִּפֹּל הַחוֹמָה תַחֲתֶיהָ וַיַּעַל

sounded. When the troops heard the sound of the horns, they raised a mighty shout and the wall collapsed. The troops rushed into the city, every man straight in front of him, and they captured the city. (21) They exterminated everything in the city with the sword: man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey. (22) But Joshua bade the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into that prostitute’s house and bring out the woman and all that belong to her, as you swore to her.” (23) So the young spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father and her mother, her brothers and all that belonged to her—they brought out her whole family and left them outside the camp of Israel. (24) They burned down the city and everything in it. But the silver and gold and the objects of copper and iron were deposited in the treasury of the House of GOD. (25) Only Rahab the prostitute and her family were spared by Joshua, along with all that belonged to her, and she dwelt among the Israelites—as is still the case. For she had hidden the messengers that Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. (26) At that time Joshua pronounced this oath: “Anyone who undertakes to fortify this city of Jericho is hereby under GOD’s curse: its foundations shall be laid at the cost of their first-born, and its gates set up at the cost of their youngest.” (27) GOD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

Joshua 7

(1) The Israelites, however, violated the proscription: Achan son of Carmi son of Zabdi son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of that which was proscribed, and GOD was incensed with the Israelites. (2) Joshua sent some men from Jericho to Ai, which lies close to Beth-aven—east of Bethel—with orders to go up and spy out the country. So the men went up and spied out Ai. (3) They returned to Joshua and reported to him, “Not all the troops need go up. Let two or three thousand men go and attack Ai; do not trouble all the troops to go up there, for [the people] there are few.” (4) So about three thousand of the troops

הָעָם הָעִירָה אִישׁ נִגְדּוּ וַיִּלְבְּדוּ אֶת־הָעִיר: (כא) וַיִּחְרְמוּ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר בְּעִיר מֵאִשׁ וְעַד־אִשָּׁה מִנְעַר וְעַד־זָקֵן וְעַד שְׂוֹר וְשֵׂה וְחִמּוֹר לְפִי־חָרֵב: (כב) וְלִשְׁנַיִם הָאֲנָשִׁים הַמְרַגְלִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אָמַר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בָּאוּ בֵּית־הָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת וְהוֹצִיאוּ מִשָּׁם אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לָהּ כַּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתֶּם לָהּ: (כג) וַיָּבֵאוּ הַנְּעָרִים הַמְרַגְלִים וַיֹּצִיאוּ אֶת־דָּרְחָב וְאֶת־אָבִיהָ וְאֶת־אִמָּהּ וְאֶת־אֲחֵיהָ וְאֶת־כָּל־מִשְׁפַּחַתֶּיהָ הַזֹּאת וַיֹּצִיאוּ וַיְנַיְחוּם מִחוּץ לַמַּחֲנֶה יִשְׂרָאֵל: (כד) וְהָעִיר שָׂרְפוּ בְּאֵשׁ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ כָּקוֹ הַבְּסֹף וְהַזֶּהָב וְכָל־הַנְּחֹשֶׁת וְהַבְּרָזֶל נָתַנוּ אוֹצָר בֵּית־יְהוָה: (כה) וְאֶת־דָּרְחָב הַזֹּאת וְאֶת־בֵּית אָבִיהָ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לָהּ הִחְיָה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַתֵּשֶׁב בְּקֶרֶב יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי הִחְבִּיֵּאתָ אֶת־הַמְלָאכִים אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לְרַגֵּל אֶת־יְרִיחוֹ: {פ} (כו) וַיִּשְׁבַּע יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּעֵת הַהִיא לֵאמֹר אֲרוּר הָאִישׁ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר יִקְוֶם וּבָנָה אֶת־הָעִיר הַזֹּאת אֶת־יְרִיחוֹ בְּבָכְרוֹ וַיִּסְדֹּנָה וּבְצַעְרֹהּ וַיִּצִיב דָּלְתֶיהָ: {ס} (כז) וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיְהִי שִׁמְעוֹ בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ:

יהושע ז'

(א) וַיִּמְעְלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעַל בְּחֻרָם וַיִּקַּח עִבּוֹ בֶן־כְּרֵמִי בֶן־זַבְדִּי בֶן־זֶרַח לַמַּטֵּה יְהוּדָה מִן־הַחֹרֵם וַיִּחְרַף יְהוָה בְּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: {ס} (ב) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֲנָשִׁים מִיְרִיחוֹ הָעִי אֲשֶׁר עַם־בֵּית אֹנָן מִקֶּדֶם לְבֵית־אֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם לֵאמֹר עָלוּ וְרַגְלוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וַיַּעֲלוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּרְגְּלוּ אֶת־הָעֵי: (ג) וַיִּשְׁבוּ אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אֲלֵי־יַעַל כָּל־הָעָם כְּאֲלֻפִּים אִישׁ אֶזְרוֹ כִּשְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלֻפִּים אִישׁ יַעֲלוּ וַיִּבּוּ אֶת־הָעֵי אֶל־תִּיגַע־שָׁמָּה אֶת־כָּל־הָעָם כִּי

marched up there; but they were routed by the men of Ai. (5) The men of Ai killed about thirty-six of them, pursuing them outside the gate as far as Shebarim, and cutting them down along the descent. And the heart of the troops sank in utter dismay (*Lit. "melted and turned to water."*) (6) Joshua thereupon rent his clothes. He and the elders of Israel lay until evening with their faces to the ground in front of the Ark of GOD; and they strewed earth on their heads. (7) "Ah, my Sovereign GOD !" cried Joshua. "Why did You lead this people across the Jordan only to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites, to be destroyed by them? If only we had been content to remain on the other side of the Jordan! (8) O my Sovereign, what can I say after Israel has turned tail before its enemies? (9) When the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land hear of this, they will turn upon us and wipe out our very name from the earth. And what will You do about Your great name?" (10) But GOD answered Joshua: "Arise! Why do you lie prostrate? (11) Israel has sinned! They have broken the covenant by which I bound them. They have taken of the proscribed and put it in their vessels; they have stolen; they have broken faith! (12) Therefore, the Israelites will not be able to hold their ground against their enemies; they will have to turn tail before their enemies, for they have become proscribed. I will not be with you anymore unless you root out from among you what is proscribed. (13) Go and purify the people. Order them: Purify yourselves for tomorrow. For thus says the ETERNAL, the God of Israel: Something proscribed is in your midst, O Israel, and you will not be able to stand up to your enemies until you have purged the proscribed from among you. (14) Tomorrow morning you shall present yourselves by tribes. Whichever tribe GOD indicates shall come forward by clans; the clan that GOD indicates shall come forward by ancestral houses, and the ancestral house that GOD indicates shall come forward man by man. (15) Then he who is indicated for proscription, and all that is his, shall be put to the fire, because he broke the Covenant of GOD and because he committed an outrage in Israel." (16) Early next morning, Joshua had Israel come forward by

מַעַט הָמָה: (ד) וַיַּעֲלוּ מִן־הָעַם שְׁמָה
בְּשִׁלְשֵׁת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ וַיַּיָּסֹוּ לִפְנֵי אֲנָשֵׁי
הָעִי: (ה) וַיִּבּוּ מֵהֶם אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִי בְּשִׁלְשֵׁים
וּשְׁשָׁה אִישׁ וַיִּרְדְּפוּם לִפְנֵי הַשַּׁעַר עַד־
הַשְּׂבָרִים וַיִּכּוּם בַּמּוֹרָד וַיִּמָּס לִבְב־הָעַם
וַיִּהְיֶה לַלַּיְלָה: (ו) וַיִּקְרַע יְהוֹשֻׁעַ שִׁמְלֹתָיו
וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו אַרְצָה לִפְנֵי אָרוֹן יְהוָה עַד־
הָעֶרֶב הוּא וְזִקְנָיו יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹפֵר עַל־
רֵאשָׁם: (ז) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֵלֶּהָ אֲדֹנָי
יְהוָה לָמָּה הֵעֲבַרְתָּ הַעֲבִיר אֶת־הָעַם
הַזֶּה אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן לְתַת אֶתְנוּ בְיַד הָאֹמְרִי
לְהֵאבִידֵנוּ וְלוֹ הוֹאֲלֵנוּ וַנִּשָּׁב בְּעֶבֶר
הַיַּרְדֵּן: (ח) בִּי אֲדֹנָי מָה אֹמֵר אַחֲרַי אֲשֶׁר
הִפְּרָו יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרַף לִפְנֵי אִיבֵיו: (ט)
וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ וְנִסְבּוּ־
עֲלֵינוּ וְהִכְרִיתוּ אֶת־שִׁמְנוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ
וַיִּמָּה־תַּעֲשֶׂה לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ קִם לְךָ לָמָּה זֶה אַתָּה
נִפֹּל עַל־פָּנֶיךָ: (יא) חָטָא יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגַם
עֲבָרוּ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי אוֹתָם וְגַם
לָקְחוּ מִן־הַחֶרֶם וְגַם גָּנְבוּ וְגַם בָּחֲשׂוּ וְגַם
שָׂמוּ בְכֵלֵיהֶם: (יב) וְלֹא יָכֹלוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
לָקוּם לִפְנֵי אִיבֵיהֶם עֲרַף יַפְנוּ לִפְנֵי
אִיבֵיהֶם כִּי הָיוּ לַחֶרֶם לֹא אוֹסִיף לְהֵיוֹת
עִמָּכֶם אִם־לֹא תִשְׁמִידוּ הַחֶרֶם
מִקֶּרְבְּכֶם: (יג) קִם קַדַּשׁ אֶת־הָעַם
וְאִמְרַת הַתְּקַדְּשׁוּ לַמָּחָר כִּי כֹה אָמַר
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל חֶרֶם בְּקִרְבְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
לֹא תוּכַל לָקוּם לִפְנֵי אִיבֶיךָ עַד־הַסִּירְכֶם
הַחֶרֶם מִקֶּרְבְּכֶם: (יד) וְנִקְרַבְתֶּם בְּבִקֵּר
לְשִׁבְטֵיכֶם וְהָיָה הַשֹּׁבֵט אֲשֶׁר־יִלְכְּדֵנוּ
יְהוָה יִקְרַב לַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת וְהַמִּשְׁפָּחָה אֲשֶׁר־
יִלְכְּדֵנָה יְהוָה תִּקְרַב לְבָתָיִם וְהַבַּיִת אֲשֶׁר
יִלְכְּדֵנוּ יְהוָה יִקְרַב לַגְּבָרִים: (טו) וְהָיָה
הַנִּלְכָּד בַּחֶרֶם יִשְׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־
אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ כִּי עִבֵר אֶת־בְּרִית יְהוָה וְכִי־
עָשָׂה נִבְלָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: (טז) וַיִּשְׁכֹּם
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּבִקֵּר וַיִּקְרַב אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְשִׁבְטָיו
וַיִּלְכַּד שֹׁבֵט יְהוּדָה: (יז) וַיִּקְרַב אֶת־
מִשְׁפַּחַת יְהוּדָה וַיִּלְכַּד אֶת מִשְׁפַּחַת

tribes; and the tribe of Judah was indicated. (17) He then had the clans of Judah come forward, and the clan of Zerah was indicated. Then he had the clan of Zerah come forward by ancestral houses, and Zabdi was indicated. (18) Finally he had his ancestral house come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was indicated. (19) Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, pay honor to the ETERNAL, the God of Israel, by making confession. Tell me what you have done; do not hold anything back from me.” (20) Achan answered Joshua, “It is true, I have sinned against the ETERNAL, the God of Israel. This is what I did: (21) I saw among the spoil a fine Shinar mantle, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, and I coveted them and took them. They are buried in the ground in my tent, with the silver under the mantle.” (22) Joshua sent messengers, who hurried to the tent; and there was the mantle, buried in his tent, with the silver underneath. (23) They took them from the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and displayed them before GOD. (24) Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan son of Zerah—and the silver, the mantle, and the wedge of gold—his sons and daughters, and his ox, his donkey, and his flock, and his tent, and all his belongings, and brought them up to the Valley of Achor. (25) And Joshua said, “What calamity you have brought upon us! GOD will bring calamity upon you this day.” And all Israel pelted him with stones. They put them to the fire and stoned them. (26) They raised a huge mound of stones over him, which is still there. Then GOD’s anger subsided. That is why that place was named the Valley of Achor as is still the case.

הַזְרָחִי וַיִּקְרָב אֶת־מִשְׁפַּחַת הַזְרָחִי
לְגִבְרִים וַיִּלְכַּד זַבְדִּי: (יח) וַיִּקְרַב אֶת־בֵּיתוֹ
לְגִבְרִים וַיִּלְכַּד עֶכָן בֶּן־פְּרִמִּי בֶן־זַבְדִּי בֶן־
זֶרַח לַמִּטָּה יְהוּדָה: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
אֶל־עֶכָן בְּנִי־שִׁים־נָא כְבוֹד לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְתָנוּלוּ תוֹדָה וְהִגַּדְנָא לִי מָה
עָשִׂיתָ אֶל־תַּכְחֵד מִמֶּנִּי: (כ) וַיַּעַן עֶכָן
אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיֹּאמֶר אָמְנָה אָנֹכִי חָטָאתִי
לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָזַאת וְכָזַאת
עָשִׂיתִי: (כא) (ואראה) [וְאָרָא] בַּשָּׁלַל
אֲדָרַת שְׁנַעַר אַחַת טוֹבָה וּמֵאֲתָיִם
שְׁקָלִים כֶּסֶף וּלְשׁוֹן זָהָב אַחַד חֲמִשִּׁים
שְׁקָלִים מִשְׁקָלוֹ וְאַחַמְדָּם וְאַקְחָם וְהִנֵּם
טְמוּנִים בְּאָרֶץ בְּתוֹךְ הָאֲהָלִי וְהִכְסֹף
תַּחְתֵּיהָ: (כב) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מַלְאָכִים
וַיִּרְצוּ הָאֲהָלָה וְהִנֵּה טְמוּנָה בְּאֲהָלוֹ
וְהִכְסֹף תַּחְתֵּיהָ: (כג) וַיִּקְחוּם מִתּוֹךְ
הָאֲהָל וַיָּבֹאוּם אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְאֵל כָּל־בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּצְקוּם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: (כד) וַיִּקַּח
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת־עֶכָן בֶּן־זֶרַח וְאֶת־הַכְּסֹף וְאֶת־
הָאֲדָרַת וְאֶת־לְשׁוֹן הַזָּהָב וְאֶת־בְּנָיו וְאֶת־
בְּנֹתָיו וְאֶת־שׁוֹרוֹ וְאֶת־חֲמֹרוֹ וְאֶת־צֹאֲנוֹ
וְאֶת־אֲהָלוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל
עָמְדוּ וַיַּעַלּוּ אֹתָם עֵמֶק עָכוֹר: (כה) וַיֹּאמֶר
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מִה עֲבַרְתֶּנוּ וַעֲבַרְךָ יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם
הַזֶּה וַיִּרְגְּמוּ אֹתוֹ כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶבֶן וַיִּשְׂרְפוּ
אֹתָם בָּאֵשׁ וַיִּסְקְלוּ אֹתָם בְּאֲבָבִים: (כו)
וַיִּקְיֵמוּ עָלָיו גִּלְגַּבִּים גְּדוֹל עַד הַיּוֹם
הַזֶּה וַיָּשֵׁב יְהוָה מִחֲרוֹן אַפָּו עַל־כֵּן קָרָא
שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא עֵמֶק עָכוֹר עַד הַיּוֹם
הַזֶּה: {פ}

Joshua 8

(1) GOD said to Joshua, “Do not be frightened or dismayed. Take all the combat troops with you, go and march against Ai. See, I will deliver the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land into your hands. (2) You shall treat Ai and its king as you treated Jericho and its king;

יהושע ח'

(א) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־תִּירָא
וְאֶל־תַּחַת קַח עִמָּךְ אֶת כָּל־עַם
הַמִּלְחָמָה וְקוּם עֲלֵה הָעִיר רָאֵה א נְתַתִּי
בְיָדְךָ אֶת־מֶלֶךְ הָעִיר וְאֶת־עַמּוֹ וְאֶת־עִירָהּ
וְאֶת־אֲרָצוֹ: (ב) וַעֲשִׂיתָ לָעִי וּלְמֶלְכָהּ

however, you may take the spoil and the cattle as booty for yourselves. Now set an ambush against the city behind it.” (3) So Joshua and all the combat troops prepared for the march on Ai. Joshua chose thirty thousand men, valiant warriors, and sent them ahead by night. (4) He instructed them as follows: “Mind, you are to lie in ambush behind the city; don’t stay too far from the city, and all of you be on the alert. (5) I and all the troops with me will approach the city; and when they come out against us, as they did the first time, we will flee from them. (6) They will come rushing after us until we have drawn them away from the city. They will think, ‘They are fleeing from us the same as last time’; but while we are fleeing before them, (7) you will dash out from your ambush and seize the city, and the ETERNAL your God will deliver it into your hands. (8) And when you take the city, set it on fire. Do as GOD has commanded. Mind, I have given you your orders.” (9) Joshua then sent them off, and they proceeded to the ambush; they took up a position between Ai and Bethel—west of Ai—while Joshua spent the night with the rest of the troops. (10) Early in the morning, Joshua mustered the troops; then he and the elders of Israel marched upon Ai at the head of the troops. (11) All the combat troops that were with him advanced near the city and encamped to the north of Ai, with a hollow between them and Ai.— (12) He selected about five thousand men and stationed them as an ambush between Bethel and Ai, west of the city. (13) Thus the main body of the army was disposed on the north of the city, but the far end of it was on the west. (This was after Joshua had spent the night) (14) When the king of Ai saw them, he and all his troops, the townsmen, rushed out in the early morning to the meeting place, facing the Arabah, to engage the Israelites in battle; for he was unaware that a force was lying in ambush behind the city. (15) Joshua and all Israel fled in the direction of the wilderness, as though routed by them. (16) All the troops in the city gathered to pursue them; pursuing Joshua, they were drawn out of the city. (17) Not a man was left in Ai or in Bethel who did not go out after Israel; they left the city

בְּאִשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ לִירִיחוֹ וּלְמִלְחָה רַק־שָׁלַלְהָ וּבְהַמָּתָה תִּבְדּוּ לָכֶם שִׁים לָךְ אַרְבַּ לְעִיר מֵאַחֲרֶיהָ: (ג) וַיָּקָם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־עַם הַמִּלְחָמָה לַעֲלוֹת הָעֵי וַיִּבְחַר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ שְׁלֹשִׁים אָלֶף אִישׁ גִּבּוֹרֵי הַחַיִל וַיִּשְׁלַחֵם לְיָלָה: (ד) וַיֵּצְאוּ אֹתָם לֵאמֹר רְאוּ אֹתָם אַרְבָּעִים לְעִיר מֵאַחֲרַי הָעִיר אֶל־תִּרְחִיקוּ מִן־הָעִיר מֵאֲדָ וְהִייתֶם בְּלָכֶם נֹכְחִים: (ה) וְאֲנִי וְכָל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתִּי נִקְרַב אֶל־הָעִיר וְהָיָה כִּי־יֵצְאוּ לִקְרַאתֵנוּ בְּאִשֶׁר בְּרָאשֵׁיָהּ וַנִּסְנוּ לִפְנֵיהֶם: (ו) וַיֵּצְאוּ אַחֲרֵינוּ עַד הַתִּיקְנוּ אוֹתָם מִן־הָעִיר כִּי וְאִמְרוּ נָסִים לִפְנֵינוּ בְּאִשֶׁר בְּרָאשֵׁיָהּ וַנִּסְנוּ לִפְנֵיהֶם: (ז) וְאַתֶּם תִּקְמוּ מֵהָאוֹרֵב וְהוֹרֵשְׁתֶּם אֶת־הָעִיר וּנְתַנְהָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּיַדְכֶם: (ח) וְהָיָה כִּתְּפֹשְׁכֶם אֶת־הָעִיר תִּצִּיתוּ אֶת־הָעִיר בְּאֵשׁ כַּדָּבָר יְהוָה תַּעֲשׂוּ רְאוּ צִוִּיתִי אֶתְכֶם: (ט) וַיִּשְׁלַחֵם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיִּלְכוּ אֶל־הַמְּאָרֵב וַיִּשְׁבוּ בַּיּוֹם בֵּית־אֵל וַיִּבִּין הָעַי מַיִם לָעַי וַיִּלֵּן יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּלִילָה הַהוּא בְּתוֹךְ הָעָם: (י) וַיִּשְׁבֹּם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּבֹקֶר וַיִּפְקֹד אֶת־הָעָם וַיַּעַל הוּא וְזִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵי הָעָם הָעַי: (יא) וְכָל־הָעָם הַמִּלְחָמָה אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ עָלוּ וַיִּגְשׂוּ וַיִּבְאוּ נֶגֶד הָעִיר וַיַּחֲנוּ מִצְּפוֹן לָעַי וְהָגִי בֵּינוּ וּבֵין־הָעַי: (יב) וַיִּלָּח כַּחֲמִשָּׁת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ וַיִּשֹׁם אוֹתָם אַרְבַּ בַּיּוֹם בֵּית־אֵל וַיִּבִּין הָעַי מַיִם לָעִיר: (יג) וַיִּשְׁיִמוּ הָעָם אֶת־כָּל־הַמַּחֲנֶה אֲשֶׁר מִצְּפוֹן לָעִיר וְאֶת־עֻקְבוֹ מַיִם לָעִיר וַיִּלָּךְ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּלִילָה הַהוּא בְּתוֹךְ הָעֻמָּק: (יד) וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹת מִלֶּךְ־הָעַי וַיִּמְהָרוּ וַיִּשְׁכְּיִמוּ וַיֵּצְאוּ אַנְשֵׁי־הָעִיר לִקְרַאת־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִלְחָמָה הוּא וְכָל־עַמּוֹ לְמוֹעֵד לִפְנֵי הָעֲרָבָה וְהוּא לֹא יָדַע כִּי־אַרְבַּ לוֹ מֵאַחֲרַי הָעִיר: (טו) וַיִּגְּעוּ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵיהֶם וַיִּנְסוּ דֶרֶךְ הַמִּדְבָּר: (טז) וַיִּזְעֲקוּ כָל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר (בְּעִיר) לְרֹדֶף אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּרְדְּפוּ אַחֲרָי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיִּנְתְּקוּ מִן־הָעִיר: (יז) וְלֹא־נִשְׁאַר אִישׁ בְּעִי וּבֵית אֵל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יֵצְאוּ אַחֲרָי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲזְבוּ

open while they pursued Israel. (18) GOD then said to Joshua, “Hold out the javelin in your hand toward Ai, for I will deliver it into your hands.” So Joshua held out the javelin in his hand toward the city. (19) As soon as he held out his hand, the ambush came rushing out of their station. They entered the city and captured it; and they swiftly set fire to the city. (20) The men of Ai looked back and saw the smoke of the city rising to the sky; they had no room for flight in any direction.

The people who had been fleeing to the wilderness now became the pursuers. (21) For when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that smoke was rising from the city, they turned around and attacked the men of Ai. (22) Now the other [Israelites] were coming out of the city against them, so that they were between two bodies of Israelites, one on each side of them. They were slaughtered, so that no one escaped or got away. (23) The king of Ai was taken alive and brought to Joshua. (24) When Israel had killed all the inhabitants of Ai who had pursued them into the open wilderness, and all of them, to the last man, had fallen by the sword, all the Israelites turned back to Ai and put it to the sword. (25) The total of those who fell that day, men and women, the entire population of Ai, came to twelve thousand. (26) Joshua did not draw back the hand with which he held out his javelin until all the inhabitants of Ai had been exterminated. (27) However, the Israelites took the cattle and the spoil of the city as their booty, in accordance with the instructions that GOD had given to Joshua. (28) Then Joshua burned down Ai, and turned it into a mound of ruins for all time, a desolation to this day. (29) And the king of Ai was impaled on a stake until the evening. At sunset, Joshua had the corpse taken down from the stake and it was left lying at the entrance to the city gate. They raised a great heap of stones over it, which is there to this day. (30) At that time Joshua built an altar to the ETERNAL, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, (31) as Moses, the servant of GOD, had commanded the Israelites—as is written in the Book of the Teaching of Moses an altar of unhewn stone upon which no iron had been wielded. They

אֶת־הָעֵיר פָּתוּחָהּ וַיִּרְדְּפוּ אַחֲרָי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 {פ} {יח} וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ נֹטֵה
 בְּכַיִּדּוֹן אֶשְׁר־בְּיָדְךָ אֶל־הָעִי כִּי בְיָדְךָ
 אֶתְנַנֶּנָּה וַיִּטּ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּכַיִּדּוֹן אֶשְׁר־בְּיָדוֹ אֶל־
 הָעִיר: (יט) וְהָאוֹרֵב קָם מִהֶרֶה מִמְּקוֹמוֹ
 וַיִּרְוּצוּ כְּנֹטוֹת יָדוֹ וַיִּבְאוּ הָעִיר וַיִּלְבְּדוּהָ
 וַיִּמְהָרוּ וַיִּצְיִתוּ אֶת־הָעִיר בְּאֵשׁ: (כ) וַיִּפְּנוּ
 אַנְשֵׁי הָעִי אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּראוּ וְהִנֵּה עֹלָה
 עֲשֵׂן הָעִיר הַשְּׁמַיְמָה וְלֹא־הָיָה בֵּהֶם יָדַיִם
 לָנוּס הִנֵּה וְהִנֵּה וְהָעֵם הִנְסָה הַמַּדְבָּר
 נִהְפָּךְ אֶל־הָרוּדִף: (כא) וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־
 יִשְׂרָאֵל רָאוּ כִּי־לָכַד הָאֹרֵב אֶת־הָעִיר וְכִי־
 עָלָה עֲשֵׂן הָעִיר וַיָּשָׁבוּ וַיִּכּוּ אֶת־אֲנָשָׁי
 הָעִי: (כב) וְאֵלֶּה יָצְאוּ מִן־הָעִיר לַקְּרֹאתָם
 וַיְהִיוּ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ אֵלֶּה מִזֶּה וְאֵלֶּה
 מִזֶּה וַיִּכּוּ אוֹתָם עַד־בִּלְתֵּי הַשָּׂאִיר־לוֹ
 שָׂרִיד וּפְלִיט: (כג) וְאֶת־מֶלֶךְ הָעִי תָּפְשׂוּ
 חַי וַיִּקְרְבוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ: (כד) וַיְהִי
 כְּכֹלֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַרְגֹת אֶת־כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי הָעִי
 בַשָּׂדֶה בַּמַּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר רָדְפוּם בּוֹ וַיִּפְּלוּ
 כָּלָם לְפִי־חֶרֶב עַד־תָּמָם וַיָּשָׁבוּ כָל־
 יִשְׂרָאֵל הָעִי וַיִּכּוּ אֹתָהּ לְפִי־חֶרֶב: (כה)
 וַיְהִי כָל־הַנִּפְּלִים בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא מֵאִישׁ וְעַד־
 אִשָּׁה שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר אֶלֶף כָּל אַנְשֵׁי הָעִי:
 (כו) וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ לֹא־הֵשִׁיב יָדוֹ אֲשֶׁר נָטָה
 בְּכַיִּדּוֹן עַד אֲשֶׁר הִחְרִים אֶת כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי
 הָעִי: (כז) בַּךְ הַבְּהֵמָה וּשְׁלַל הָעִיר הַהִיא
 בָּזְזוּ לָהֶם יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּדָּבָר יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה
 אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ: (כח) וַיִּשְׂרֹף יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת־
 הָעִי וַיְשִׂימָהּ תַלְעוּלָם שְׂמָמָה עַד הַיּוֹם
 הַזֶּה: (כט) וְאֶת־מֶלֶךְ הָעִי תָּלָה עַל־הָעֵץ
 עַד־עֵת הָעֶרֶב וַיָּבֹאוּ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ צִוָּה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
 וַיִּרְדּוּ אֶת־נַבְלָתוֹ מִן־הָעֵץ וַיִּשְׁלִיכוּ אוֹתָהּ
 אֶל־פְּתַח שַׁעַר הָעִיר וַיִּקְיִמוּ עָלָיו גֹּל־
 אֲבָנִים גָּדוֹל עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: {פ}
 (ל) אֲזַ וַיִּבְנֶה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
 יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּהַר עֵיבָל: (לא) כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה
 מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד־יְהוָה אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּכְּתוּב
 בְּסֵפֶר תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה מִזְבֵּחַ אֲבָנִים שְׁלֵמוֹת
 אֲשֶׁר לֹא־הֵנִיף עֲלֵיהֶן בְּרָזָל וַיַּעֲלוּ עָלָיו

offered on it burnt offerings to GOD, and brought sacrifices of well-being. (32) And there, on the stones, he inscribed a copy of the Teaching that Moses had written for the Israelites. (33) All Israel—stranger and citizen alike—with their elders, officials, and magistrates, stood on either side of the Ark, facing the levitical priests who carried the Ark of GOD’s Covenant. Half of them faced Mount Gerizim and half of them faced Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of GOD had commanded them of old, in order to bless the people of Israel. (34) After that, he read all the words of the Teaching, the blessing and the curse, just as is written in the Book of the Teaching. (35) There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua failed to read in the presence of the whole congregation of Israel, including the women and children and the strangers who accompanied them.

עלות ליהוה ויזבחו שלמים: (לב)
 וכתב־שם על־האבנים את מִשְׁנֵה
 תורת מִשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר כָּתַב לִפְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 (לג) וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְזָקֵנָיו וְשֹׁטְרִים וְשֹׁפְטָיו
 עֹמְדִים מִזֶּה וּמִזֶּה | לְאֲרוֹן הַבְּרִית
 הַלְוִיִּם נֹשְׂאֵי | אֲרוֹן בְּרִית־יְהוָה כִּגְר
 כְּאֲזָרַח חֲצִיֹּן אֶל־מֹל ה־רַגְרָזִים וְהַחֲצִי
 אֶל־מֹל ה־רַעִיבֵל כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה מִשֶׁה
 עֲבַד־יְהוָה לְבַרֵךְ אֶת־הָעָם יִשְׂרָאֵל
 בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה: (לד) וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן קָרָא אֶת־כָּל־
 דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה כְּכָל־
 הַכְּתוּב בְּסֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה: (לה) לֹא־הָיָה
 דָּבָר מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה מִשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר לֹא־קָרָא
 יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּגַד כָּל־קְהַל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַנָּשִׁים
 וְהַטָּף וְהַגֵּר הַהֹלֵךְ בְּקִרְבָּם:

Joshua 9

(1) When all the kings west of the Jordan—in the hill country, in the Shephelah, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea up to the vicinity of Lebanon, the [land of the] Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—learned of this, (2) they gathered with one accord to fight against Joshua and Israel. (3) But when the inhabitants of Gibeon learned how Joshua had treated Jericho and Ai, (4) they for their part resorted to cunning. They set out in disguise they took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and worn-out waterskins that were cracked and patched; (5) they had worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and threadbare clothes on their bodies; and all the bread they took as provision was dry and crumbly. (6) And so they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to Israel’s side [in the negotiation], “We come from a distant land; we propose that you make a pact with us.” (7) Israel’s side replied to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live among us; how then can we make a pact with you?” (8) They said to Joshua, “We will be your subjects.” But Joshua asked them, “Who are you and where do you come from?” (9) They replied, “Your servants have come

יהושע ט'

(א) וַיְהִי כִשְׁמַע כָּל־הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר
 בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן בְּהַר וּבַשְּׁפֵלָה וּבְכָל־חֹף
 הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל אֶל־מֹל הַלְּבָנוֹן הַחֲתִי
 וְהָאֱמֹרִי הַכְּנַעֲנִי הַפְּרִזִּי הַחִי וְהַיְבוּסִי:
 (ב) וַיִּתְקַבְּצוּ יַחְדָּו לְהִלָּחֵם עִם־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
 וְעִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל פֶּה אֶחָד: {פ} (ג) וַיִּשְׁבִּי
 גִבְעוֹן שָׁמְעוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
 לִירִיחוֹ וְלַעִי: (ד) וַיַּעֲשׂוּ גַם־הֵמָּה
 בְּעֶרְמָה וַיִּלְכוּ וַיַּצְטִיחוּ וַיִּקְחוּ שְׂקִים
 בָּלִים לַחֲמוּרֵיהֶם וְנֹאדוֹת יַיִן בָּלִים
 וּמִבְּקָעִים וּמִצְרָרִים: (ה) וַיַּעֲלוּ בָלוֹת
 וּמִטְלָאוֹת בְּרַגְלֵיהֶם וּשְׁלֵמוֹת בָּלוֹת
 עֲלֵיהֶם וְכָל־לֶחֶם צִידָם יָבֵשׁ הָיָה
 נֶקְדָּים: (ו) וַיִּלְכוּ אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה
 הַגִּלְגָּל וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו וְאֶל־אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל
 מֵאֶרֶץ רְחוֹקָה בָּאנוּ וְעַתָּה כְּרַתוּ־לָנוּ
 בְּרִית: (ז) (וַיֹּאמְרוּ) [וַיֹּאמֶר] אִישׁ־
 יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַחִי אֹלֵי בְּקִרְבֵי אֲתָה
 יוֹשֵׁב וְאֵיךְ (אֲכַרְתָּ־) לָךְ בְּרִית:
 (ח) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ עֲבָדֶיךָ אֲנַחְנוּ
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מִי אַתֶּם וּמֵאֵין

from a very distant country, because of the fame of the ETERNAL your God. For we heard the report of all that [your God] did in Egypt, (10) and of all that [your God] did to the two Amorite kings on the other side of the Jordan, King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan who lived in Ashtaroth. (11) So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country instructed us as follows, 'Take along provisions for a trip, and go to them and say: We will be your subjects; come make a pact with us.' (12) This bread of ours, which we took from our houses as provision, was still hot when we set out to come to you; and see how dry and crumbly it has become. (13) These wineskins were new when we filled them, and see how they have cracked. These clothes and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey." (14) Those involved took [their word] because of their provisions, and did not inquire of GOD. (15) Joshua established friendship with them; he made a pact with them to spare their lives, and the chieftains of the community gave them their oath. (16) But when three days had passed after they made this pact with them, they learned that they were neighbors, living among them. (17) So the Israelites set out, and on the third day they came to their towns; these towns were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. (18) But the Israelites did not attack them, since the chieftains of the community had sworn to them by the ETERNAL, the God of Israel. The whole community muttered against the chieftains, (19) but all the chieftains answered the whole community, "We swore to them by the ETERNAL, the God of Israel; therefore we cannot touch them. (20) This is what we will do to them: We will spare their lives, so that there may be no wrath against us because of the oath that we swore to them." (21) And the chieftains declared concerning them, "They shall live!" And they became hewers of wood and drawers of water for the whole community, as the chieftains had decreed concerning them. (22) Joshua summoned them and spoke to them thus: "Why did you deceive us and tell us you lived very far from us, when in fact you live among us? (23) Therefore, be accursed! Never shall your descendants cease to be slaves: hewers of wood and

תָּבֹאוּ: (ט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מֵאֶרֶץ רְחוֹקָה
מֵאֵד בָּאוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ לְשֵׁם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי־
שָׁמַעְנוּ שְׁמִעוּ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה
בְּמִצְרַיִם: (י) וְאֵת א כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְשִׁנֵּי
מַלְכֵי הָאֱמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן לְסִיחֹן
מֶלֶךְ חֶשְׁבֹן וְלִעֹג מֶלֶךְ־הַבָּשָׁן אֲשֶׁר
בְּעִשְׁתָּרוֹת: (יא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָינוּ זְקִינֵינוּ
וְכָל־יֹשְׁבֵי אֶרְצֵנוּ לֵאמֹר קְחוּ בְיַדְכֶם
צִדָּה לְדֶרֶךְ וּלְכוּ לְקִרְאתֶם וְאִמְרֶתֶם
אֵלֵיהֶם עֲבָדֵיכֶם אֲנַחְנוּ וְעַתָּה כְּרַתוּ־לָנוּ
בְּרִית: (יב) זֶה א לַחֲמֵנוּ הֵם הִצְטִי־דָנוּ
אֲתוֹ מִבְּתֵינוּ בַּיּוֹם צִאתֵנוּ לְלַכֵּת אֲלֵיכֶם
וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה יָבֵשׁ וְהָיָה נִקְדָּים: (יג) וְאֵלֶּה
נֹאדוֹת הַיַּיִן אֲשֶׁר מִלְּאֵנוּ חֲדָשִׁים וְהִנֵּה
הִתְבַּקְּעוּ וְאֵלֶּה שְׁלֹמוֹתֵינוּ וְנִעְלִינוּ בָּלוּ
מִרַב הַדֶּרֶךְ מֵאֵד: (יד) וַיִּקְחוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים
וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ שְׁלוֹם וַיַּכְרֵת לָהֶם
בְּרִית לְחַיֵּיהֶם וַיִּשְׁבְּעוּ לָהֶם נְשִׂאֵי
הָעֵדָה: (טז) וַיְהִי מִקְצֵה שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים
אַחֲרֵי אֲשֶׁר־כְּרַתוּ לָהֶם בְּרִית וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ
כִּי־קִרְבִים הֵם אֵלָיו וּבִקְרָבוֹ הֵם יוֹשְׁבִים:
(יז) וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־עָרֵיהֶם
בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וְעָרֵיהֶם גְּבֻעוֹן וְהַכְּפִירָה
וּבְאֵרוֹת וְקִרְיַת יַעֲרִים: (יח) וְלֹא הִבִּיֵם
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־נִשְׁבְּעוּ לָהֶם נְשִׂאֵי
הָעֵדָה בַּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּלְנוּ כָּל־
הָעֵדָה עַל־הַנְּשִׂאִים: (יט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל־
הַנְּשִׂאִים אֶל־כָּל־הָעֵדָה אֲנַחְנוּ נִשְׁבְּעוּ
לָהֶם בַּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַתָּה לֹא
נוּכַל לִנְגֹעַ בָּהֶם: (כ) זֹאת נַעֲשֶׂה לָהֶם
וְהַחַיָּה אוֹתָם וְלֹא־יְהִי עָלֵינוּ קֶצֶף עַל־
הַשְּׁבוּעָה אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבְּעוּ לָהֶם: (כא)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם הַנְּשִׂאִים יַחֲיוּ וַיְהִי
חֹטְבֵי עֵצִים וְשֹׂאֲבֵי־מַיִם לְכָל־הָעֵדָה
כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבְרוּ לָהֶם הַנְּשִׂאִים: (כב)
וַיִּקְרָא לָהֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם לֵאמֹר
לָמָּה רַמִּיתֶם אֲתָנוּ לֵאמֹר רְחוֹקִים
אֲנַחְנוּ מִכֶּם מֵאֵד וְאַתֶּם בְּקִרְבָנוּ
וַיִּשְׁבְּעוּ: (כג) וְעַתָּה אֲרוּרִים אַתֶּם וְלֹא־

drawers of water for the House of my God.” (24) But they replied to Joshua, “You see, your servants had heard that the ETERNAL your God had promised Moses—[God’s] servant—to give you the whole land and to wipe out all the inhabitants of the country on your account; so we were in great fear for our lives on your account. That is why we did this thing. (25) And now we are at your mercy; do with us what you consider right and proper.” (26) And he did so; he saved them from being killed by the Israelites. (27) That day Joshua made them hewers of wood and drawers of water—as they still are—for the community and for GOD’s altar, in the place that [God] would choose.

יְבַרְתָּ מִכֶּם עֶבֶד וְחֹטְבֵי עֵצִים וְשֹׁאֲבֵי מַיִם לְבַיִת אֱלֹהֵי: (כד) וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיֹּאמְרוּ כִּי הִגֵּד הִגַּד לְעַבְדֶּיךָ אֶת־אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה עַבְדּוֹ לָתֵת לָכֶם אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ וְלִהְשָׁמִיד אֶת־כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵיכֶם וַיִּירָא מְאֹד לִנְפְשֵׁי תִינוּ מִפְּנֵיכֶם וַנַּעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה: (כה) וַעֲתָה הִנְנוּ בְיָדְךָ בְּטוֹב וְכִי־נִשָּׂר בְּעֵינֶיךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת לָנוּ עֲשֵׂה: (כו) וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם כְּכֵן וַיַּצֵּל אוֹתָם מִיַּד בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא הָרְגוּם: (כז) וַיִּתְּנֵם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא חֹטְבֵי עֵצִים וְשֹׁאֲבֵי מַיִם לְעֹדָה וּלְמִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה עַד־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר: {פ}

Joshua 10

(1) When King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem learned that Joshua had captured Ai and proscribed it, treating Ai and its king as he had treated Jericho and its king, and that, moreover, the inhabitants of Gibeon had come to terms with Israel and remained among them, (2) he was very frightened. For Gibeon was a large city, like one of the royal cities—in fact, larger than Ai—and all its men were warriors. (3) So King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem sent this message to King Hoham of Hebron, King Piram of Jarmuth, King Japhia of Lachish, and King Debir of Eglon: (4) “Come up and help me defeat Gibeon; for it has come to terms with Joshua and the Israelites.” (5) The five Amorite kings—the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, with all their armies—joined forces and marched on Gibeon, and encamped against it and attacked it. (6) The people of Gibeon thereupon sent this message to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not fail your servants; come up quickly and aid us and deliver us, for all the Amorite kings of the hill country have gathered against us.” (7) So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with all his combat troops—all the trained warriors. (8) GOD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for I will

יהושע י'

(א) וַיְהִי כַשְׁמַע אֲדֹנִי־צֶדֶק מֶלֶךְ יְרוּשָׁלַם כִּי־לָכַד יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת־הָעִיר וַיַּחְרִימָהּ כְּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְיִרְיָחוֹ וְלַמְלָכָהּ כְּכֵן עָשָׂה לָעִיר וְלַמְלָכָהּ וְכִי־הִשְׁלִימוּ יֹשְׁבֵי גִבְעוֹן אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי־בְקִרְבָּם: (ב) וַיִּירָאוּ מְאֹד כִּי עִיר גְּדוֹלָה גִבְעוֹן כְּאַחַת עָרֵי הַמַּמְלָכָה וְכִי הִיא גְּדוֹלָה מִן־הָעִיר וְכָל־אֲנָשֶׁיהָ גִבּוֹרִים: (ג) וַיִּשְׁלַח אֲדֹנִי־צֶדֶק מֶלֶךְ יְרוּשָׁלַם אֶל־הוֹהָם מֶלֶךְ־חֶבְרוֹן וְאֶל־פִּירָם מֶלֶךְ־יַרְמוּת וְאֶל־יָפִיעַ מֶלֶךְ־לָכִישׁ וְאֶל־דְּבִיר מֶלֶךְ־עִגְלוֹן לֵאמֹר: (ד) עֲלוּ־אֵלַי וְעִזְרְנוּ וְנִכְּה אֶת־גִּבְעוֹן כִּי־הִשְׁלִימָה אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְאֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ה) וַיִּאֲסְפוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ חֲמִשָּׁתַּיִם מְלָכֵי הָאֲמֹרִי מֶלֶךְ יְרוּשָׁלַם מֶלֶךְ־חֶבְרוֹן מֶלֶךְ־יַרְמוּת מֶלֶךְ־לָכִישׁ מֶלֶךְ־עִגְלוֹן הֵם וְכָל־מַחְבֵּיהֶם וַיַּחֲנוּ עַל־גִּבְעוֹן וַיִּלַּחֲמוּ עִלְיָהּ: (ו) וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ אֲנָשִׁים גִּבְעוֹן אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה הַגִּלְגָּלָה לֵאמֹר אֶל־תָּרוּ יָדֶיךָ מֵעַבְדֶּיךָ עֲלֵנוּ אֵלֵינוּ מִהָרָה וְהוֹשִׁיעָה לָנוּ וְעִזְרְנוּ כִּי נִקְבְּצוּ אֵלֵינוּ כָּל־מְלָכֵי הָאֲמֹרִי יֹשְׁבֵי הָהָר: (ז) וַיַּעַל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מִן־הַגִּלְגָּל הוּא וְכָל־עַם הַמַּלְחָמָה עִמּוֹ וְכָל־גִּבּוֹרֵי הַחַיִל: {פ} (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אַל־תִּירָא מֵהֶם

deliver them into your hands; not one of them shall withstand you.” (9) Joshua took them by surprise, marching all night from Gilgal. (10) GOD threw them into a panic before Israel: [Joshua] inflicted a crushing defeat on them at Gibeon, pursued them in the direction of the Beth-horon ascent, and harried them all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. (11) While they were fleeing before Israel down the descent from Beth-horon, GOD hurled huge stones on them from the sky, all the way to Azekah, and they perished; more perished from the hailstones than were killed by the Israelite weapons. (12) On that occasion, when GOD routed the Amorites before the Israelites, Joshua addressed GOD; he said in the presence of the Israelites:

“Stand still, O sun, at Gibeon,
O moon, in the Valley of Aijalon!” (13) And the sun stood still And the moon halted, While a nation wreaked judgment on its foes —as is written in the Book of Jashar. Thus the sun halted in midheaven, and did not press on to set, for a whole day; (14) for GOD fought for Israel. Neither before nor since has there ever been such a day, when GOD acted on words spoken by someone else. (15) Then Joshua together with all Israel returned to the camp at Gilgal. (16) Meanwhile, those five kings fled and hid in a cave at Makkedah. (17) When it was reported to Joshua that the five kings had been found hiding in a cave at Makkedah, (18) Joshua ordered, “Roll large stones up against the mouth of the cave, and post some men over it to keep guard over them. (19) But as for the rest of you, don’t stop, but press on the heels of your enemies and harass them from the rear. Don’t let them reach their towns, for the ETERNAL your God has delivered them into your hands.” (20) When Joshua and the Israelites had finished dealing them a deadly blow, they were wiped out, except for some fugitives who escaped into the fortified towns. (21) The whole army returned in safety to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah; no one so much as snarled at the Israelites. (22) And now Joshua ordered, “Open the mouth of the cave, and bring those five kings out of the cave to me.” (23) This

כִּי בַיָּדְךָ נִתְּתִים לֹא־יַעֲמִד אִישׁ מֵהֶם
בַּפְּנֵיךָ: (ט) וַיָּבֵא אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה הַלַּיְלָה עֲלֵהּ מִן־הַגִּלְגָּל: (י) וַיִּהְיֶה יְהוָה
לִפְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּכְּסֶם מִכָּה־גְדוֹלָה בְּגִבְעוֹן
וַיִּרְדְּפֵם דָּרֶךְ מַעְלֵה בֵּית־חֹרֶן וַיִּכְּסֶם עַד־
עֵזְקָה וְעַד־מַקְדָּה: (יא) וַיְהִי בְּנֶסֶם אֶל מִפְּנֵי
יִשְ�רָאֵל הֵם בְּמוֹרֵד בֵּית־חֹרֶן וַיְהִי הַשְּׁלִיף
עֲלֵיהֶם אֲבָנִים גְּדוֹלוֹת מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם עַד־עֵזְקָה
וַיָּמָתוּ רַבִּים אֲשֶׁר־מָתוּ בְּאֲבָנֵי הַבָּרָד מֵאִשֶׁר
הֶרְגוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּחֶרֶב: {ס} (יב) אֲזַי
יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה לַיהוָה בַּיּוֹם תַּת יְהוָה אֶת־
הָאָמְרִי לִפְנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל לְעֵינֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁמַשׁ בְּגִבְעוֹן דָּוִם וַיִּרַח בְּעַמֶּק
אֵילֹון: (יג) וַיִּדָּם הַשְּׁמַשׁ וַיִּרַח עָמֵד עַד־יָקֹם
גּוֹי אֲיָבִיּוֹ הַלֹּא־הִיא כְּתוּבָה עַל־סֵפֶר הַיְיָשָׁר
וַיַּעֲמֵד הַשְּׁמַשׁ בַּחֲצֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְלֹא־אָץ לָבוֹא
כַּיּוֹם תָּמִים: (יד) וְלֹא הָיָה כַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לִפְנֵי
וְאַחֲרָיו לְשִׁמְעַי יְהוָה בְּקוֹל אִישׁ כִּי יְהוָה
נִלְחַם לְיִשְׂרָאֵל: {ס} (טו) וַיָּשָׁב יְהוָה
וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ אֶל־הַמַּחְנֶה הַגִּלְגָּלָה: (טז)
וַיִּגְסוּ חַמְשַׁת הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּחַבְּאוּ
בַּמְּעָרָה בְּמַקְדָּה: (יז) וַיִּגַּד לַיהוָה לְאֹמֶר
נִמְצְאוּ חַמְשַׁת הַמְּלָכִים נִחְבְּאִים בַּמְּעָרָה
בְּמַקְדָּה: (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה גְּלוּ אֲבָנִים
גְּדוֹלוֹת אֶל־פִּי הַמְּעָרָה וְהִפְקִידוּ עֲלֶיהָ
אֲנָשִׁים לְשִׁמְרָם: (יט) וְאַתֶּם אֶל־תַּעֲמְדוּ
רַדְפוּ אַחֲרֵי אֲיָבִיכֶם וְזַנְבְּתֶם אֹתָם אֶל־
תֵּתְנֵם לָבוֹא אֶל־עֵרֵיהֶם כִּי נִתְּנָם יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּיַדְכֶם: (כ) וַיְהִי כִכְלוֹת יְהוָה
וַבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַבֹּתֶם מִכָּה גְדוֹלָה־מְאֹד עַד־
תָּמָם וְהַשְּׂרִידִים שָׁרְדוּ מֵהֶם וַיָּבֵאוּ אֶל־עֵרֵי
הַמְּבָצָר: (כא) וַיָּשָׁבוּ כָל־הָעָם אֶל־הַמַּחְנֶה
אֶל־יְהוָה וַיַּעֲמֵד מַקְדָּה בְּשָׁלוֹם לֹא־חָרַץ לִבְנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאִישׁ אֶת־לִשְׁוֹ: (כב) וַיֹּאמֶר
יְהוָה פָּתְחוּ אֶת־פִּי הַמְּעָרָה וְהוֹצִיאוּ אֵלַי
אֶת־חַמְשַׁת הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה מִן־הַמְּעָרָה:
(כג) וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כֵן וַיִּצִיאוּ אֵלָיו אֶת־חַמְשַׁת
הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה מִן־הַמְּעָרָה אֶת אֶל מֶלֶךְ
יְרוּשָׁלַם אֶת־מֶלֶךְ חֶבְרוֹן אֶת־מֶלֶךְ יִרְמֹת
אֶת־מֶלֶךְ לָבִישׁ אֶת־מֶלֶךְ עַגְלוֹן: (כד) וַיְהִי

was done. Those five kings—the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon—were brought out to him from the cave. (24) And when the kings were brought out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all of Israel’s side and ordered the army officers who had accompanied him, “Come forward and place your feet on the necks of these kings.” They came forward and placed their feet on their necks. (25) Joshua said to them, “Do not be frightened or dismayed; be firm and resolute. For this is what GOD is going to do to all the enemies with whom you are at war.” (26) After that, Joshua had them put to death and impaled on five stakes, and they remained impaled on the stakes until evening. (27) At sunset Joshua ordered them taken down from the poles and thrown into the cave in which they had hidden. Large stones were placed over the mouth of the cave, [and there they are] to this very day. (28) At that time Joshua captured Makkedah and put it and its king to the sword, proscribing it and every person in it and leaving none that escaped. And he treated the king of Makkedah as he had treated the king of Jericho. (29) From Makedah, Joshua proceeded with all Israel to Libnah, and he attacked it. (30) GOD delivered it and its king into the hands of Israel; they put it and all the people in it to the sword, letting none escape. And he treated its king as he had treated the king of Jericho. (31) From Libnah, Joshua proceeded with all Israel to Lachish; he encamped against it and attacked it. (32) GOD delivered Lachish into the hands of Israel. They captured it on the second day and put it and all the people in it to the sword, just as they had done to Libnah. (33) At that time King Horam of Gezer marched to the help of Lachish; but Joshua defeated him and his army, letting none of them escape. (34) From Lachish, Joshua proceeded with all Israel to Eglon; they encamped against it and attacked it. (35) They captured it on the same day and put it to the sword, proscribing all the people that were in it, as they had done to Lachish. (36) From Eglon, Joshua marched with all Israel to Hebron and attacked it. (37) They captured it and put it, its king,

בְּהוֹצִיאָם אֶת־הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיִּקְרָא יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־כָּל־אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־קְצֵיָי אַנְשֵׁי הַמַּלְחָמָה הִהְלָכוּא אִתּוֹ קָרְבוּ שִׁימוּ אֶת־רַגְלֵיכֶם עַל־צוּאְרֵי הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּקְרְבוּ וַיִּשִׁימוּ אֶת־רַגְלֵיהֶם עַל־צוּאְרֵיהֶם: (כה) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל־תִּירְאוּ וְאַל־תִּתְחַתּוּ חִזְקוּ וְאַמְצוּ כִּי כָכָה יַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה לְכָל־אֲבִיבֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם נִלְחָמִים אוֹתָם: (כו) וַיִּבְּחֶם יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶחָרֵיכֶן וַיִּמְיֹתֵם וַיִּתְּלֵם עַל חַמְשָׁה עֶצְמִים וַיְהִיוּ תְלוּיִם עַל־הָעֵצִים עַד־הָעֶרֶב: (כז) וַיְהִי לַעֲתָו בּוֹא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ צָוָה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיְרִידוּם מֵעַל הָעֵצִים וַיִּשְׁלַחֵם אֶל־הַמַּעְרָה אֲשֶׁר נִחְבְּאוּ־שָׁם וַיִּשְׁמוּ אֶבְנִים גְּדוֹלוֹת עַל־פִּי הַמַּעְרָה עַד־עֶצְם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: {ס} (כח) וְאֶת־מַקְדָּה לָכַד יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיִּבֶה לְפִי־חָרְבָהּ וְאֶת־מַלְכָּהּ הַחֲרַם אוֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ לֹא הִשְׁאִיר שְׂרִיד וַיַּעַשׂ לַמֶּלֶךְ מַקְדָּה כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לַמֶּלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ: {ס} (כט) וַיַּעֲבֹר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ מִמַּקְדָּה לַבְּנֵה וַיִּלָּחֶם עִם־לַבְּנֵה: (ל) וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה גַּם־אוֹתָהּ בְּיַד יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־מַלְכָּהּ וַיִּבֶה לְפִי־חָרְבָהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ לֹא־הִשְׁאִיר בָּהּ שְׂרִיד וַיַּעַשׂ לַמֶּלְכָּה כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לַמֶּלֶךְ יְרִיחוֹ: {ס} (לא) וַיַּעֲבֹר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ מִלַּבְּנֵה לְכִישָׁה וַיַּחֲנוּ עָלֶיהָ וַיִּלָּחֶם בָּהּ: (לב) וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה אֶת־לְכִישׁ בְּיַד יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּלְכְּדֶהּ בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי וַיִּבֶה לְפִי־חָרְבָהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ כְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה לַלַּבְּנֵה: {פ} (לג) אַז עָלָה הָרֶם מֶלֶךְ גְּזֹר לַעְזֹר אֶת־לְכִישׁ וַיִּבֶהוּ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְאֶת־עַמּוֹ עַד־בֵּלְתֵי הַשְּׂאִירֵלּוֹ שְׂרִיד: (לד) וַיַּעֲבֹר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ מִלְכִישׁ עַגְלָה וַיַּחֲנוּ עָלֶיהָ וַיִּלָּחֶמוּ עָלֶיהָ: (לה) וַיִּלְכְּדוּהָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיִּבֶהוּ לְפִי־חָרְבָהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא הַחֲרָם כְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה לְלְכִישׁ: {פ} (לו) וַיַּעַל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ מֵעַגְלוֹנָה

and all its towns, and all the people that were in it, to the sword. He let none escape, proscribing it and all the people in it, just as he had done in the case of Eglon. (38) Joshua and all Israel with him then turned back to Debir and attacked it. (39) He captured it and its king and all its towns. They put them to the sword and proscribed all the people in it. They let none escape; just as they had done to Hebron, and as they had done to Libnah and its king, so they did to Debir and its king. (40) Thus Joshua conquered the whole country: the hill country, the Negeb, the Shephelah, and the slopes, with all their kings; he let none escape, but proscribed everything that breathed as the ETERNAL, the God of Israel, had commanded. (41) Joshua conquered them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, all the land of Goshen, and up to Gibeon. (42) All those kings and their lands were conquered by Joshua at a single stroke, for the ETERNAL, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. (43) Then Joshua, with all Israel, returned to the camp at Gilgal.

חִבְרוֹנָה וַיִּלְחֲמוּ עָלֶיהָ: (לז) וַיִּלְכְּדוּהָ וַיִּבְּרוּהָ לְפִי־חֶרֶב וְאֶת־מַלְכָּהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־עַרְיָהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ לֹא־הִשְׁאִיר שְׂרִיד כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה לְעַגְלוֹן וַיַּחְרֵם אוֹתָהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ: {ס} (לח) וַיָּשָׁב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ דְּבַרְהָ וַיִּלְחֲמוּ עָלֶיהָ: (לט) וַיִּלְכְּדוּהָ וְאֶת־מַלְכָּהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־עַרְיָהּ וַיִּבְּרוּהָ לְפִי־חֶרֶב וַיַּחְרִימוּ אֶת־כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ לֹא הִשְׁאִיר שְׂרִיד כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְחִבְרוֹן כִּן־עָשָׂה לְדְבַרְהָ וּלְמַלְכָּהּ וּכְאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לְלִבְנָה וּלְמַלְכָּהּ: (מ) וַיִּבֶנּוּ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ הַהִרָה וְהַגִּבְעָה וְהַשְּׁפֵלָה וְהָאֲשְׁדּוֹת וְאֶת־כָּל־מַלְכֵיהֶם לֹא הִשְׁאִיר שְׂרִיד וְאֶת־כָּל־הַנִּשְׁמָה הַחַיִּים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (מא) וַיִּבְּרוּ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מִקֹּדֶשׁ בְּרַנֵּעַ וְעַד־עֵצָה וְאֶת־כָּל־אָרֶץ גִּשְׁשׁוֹן וְעַד־גִּבְעוֹן: (מב) וְאֶת־כָּל־הַמְּלָכִים הָאֵלֶּה וְאֶת־אֲרָצָם לְכַד יְהוֹשֻׁעַ פָּעַם אַחַת כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נָלַחֵם לְיִשְׂרָאֵל: (מג) וַיָּשָׁב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה הַגִּלְגָּל: {פ}

Summary -- Joshua 6-10: Victorious Battles Over the Canaanites

In this next section of the book of Joshua we find stories about all the conflicts Israel had with different Canaanite groups as they entered the land. Chapters 6-8 retell the story of two battles in detail, followed by chapters 9-10, which are the beginning of a series of short stories that condense years of battles into a few brief summaries.

The first two battles against Jericho and Ai offer contrasting portraits of God’s faithfulness and Israel’s failure. At Jericho, Israel is to take a completely passive approach, letting God’s presence in the ark lead them around the city with music for six days. Just as Rahab turned to the God of Israel, perhaps the people of Jericho will do the same. They do not, sadly, and so on the seventh day when the priests blow their trumpets, the walls miraculously crumble and Israel is led to victory. What is the point of this story? Is it that God is the one who will deliver his people and Israel simply needs to trust and wait?

The battle at Ai makes a contrasting point, showing what happens if Israel doesn’t trust their God. An Israelite named Achan stole goods from Jericho that were meant to be devoted and offered to God. Then he proceeded to lie about it. So when Israel enters the battle of Ai, they are defeated. It’s only after humble repentance and severely dealing with Achan’s sin that they

gain victory over Ai. Together, these two stories are placed at the front of the battle narratives to make an important point. To inherit the land, Israel has to be obedient and trust in God's commands. This isn't their battle, and God isn't their trophy.

The second part of this section begins in chapter 9 as the Gibeonites, a Canaanite people group, do what Rahab did—turn to follow Israel's God and make peace. This is in stark contrast to many other Canaanite kings, who form coalitions to destroy Israel. Israel, however, wins all of these battles by a landslide. The section concludes with a summary list of all the victories won by Moses and Joshua (Josh. 12).

Now, let's stop for a moment because odds are that these stories and the violence described in the battles are going to bother you. Why is God declaring war?" Why the Canaanites? The main reasons given are that their culture had become morally corrupt, especially when it came to sex (Lev. 18), and because they widely practiced child sacrifice (Deut. 12:29-31). God didn't want these practices to influence Israel, so these groups needed to be expelled.

But that only raises the second question, "Did God really command the destruction of all the Canaanites, like a genocide?" At first glance, we see the phrases "totally destroy" and "leave no survivor" or "anything that breathes." Are these phrases used by the author as hyperbole?

We're told in Joshua 10:36-39 that Israel left "no survivors" in either Hebron or Debir, but later in 15:13-15 (a little preview for our next gathering), these towns are still populated by Canaanites. What gives?