

**BOOK OF JOSHUA**  
**GOD'S WORD—TRIED AND PROVEN!**  
**JOSHUA 11-12**

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**Introduction**

*I remember reading about a lady that had many small t's and p's written in her Bible in the margins. Someone asked, "What does the little 't' and 'p' mean that I see so often in your Bible?" "Oh," she explained, "Those are verses that I have tried and proven."*

The **WORD OF GOD** doesn't really mean much to any **BELIEVER** unless it has become personal in their lives.

By that I mean that we are to personally apply the **BIBLE** by "**TRYING IT AND PROVING IT**" in our daily lives.

I love the song that we sing often, "**TRUST AND OBEY** for there is no other way to be happy in **JESUS**, but to **TRUST AND OBEY.**" (DO WE?)

In the practical daily **READING, STUDYING, and OBEYING** of **GOD'S WORD** we learn to **TRUST AND OBEY!** That is how **GOD'S WORD** becomes **TRIED AND PROVEN** in our lives!

**PAUL** said in *Romans 12:2* that we are not to be conformed to this world but rather we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds that we "**may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**"

We want to see this evening how **GOD'S WORD** was **TRIED AND PROVEN** by **HIS PEOPLE** here in this portion of the book of **JOSHUA!**

While this may at first appear to be some rather dull reading, we'll see that there are some wonderful lessons for us here!

**I. WE SEE ANOTHER CONFEDERACY COMES AGAINST ISRAEL. (11:1-5)**

**A. We See Another ALLIANCE Forms!**

**JABIN** had **HEARD** about what had taken place with the **ALLIANCE** of the five kings of the **AMORITES.**

He **HEARD** how the **LORD** intervened and caused the sun to stand still until the battle was **ISRAEL'S.**

He had **HEARD**, but he obviously hadn't **LEARNED** anything, because he assembled another **ALLIANCE** to come against **ISRAEL.**

The **ENEMIES** of **GOD** show that they aren't too bright sometimes and this is one of those times! They assumed that **GOD'S PEOPLE** could be defeated by a larger alliance.

**Note Vs 4:** "*And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the sea shore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many.*"

Later in the **BIBLE**, we are told how **SAUL'S** son, **JONATHAN** and his armorbearer went into a **PHILISTINE** garrison alone. This is what he told his armorbearer: *1 Samuel 14:6b—"...There is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few."*

(i.e. The **LORD** can give **VICTORY** by as few or by as many as he chooses. Whether it be by **an army** or by **a few** or by **one** [or even by **none!**])

**B. As BELIEVERS, We Face A Variety Of ENEMIES!**

1. We know them as **THE WORLD, THE FLESH, and THE DEVIL!**
2. Any one or any combination of our **ENEMIES** can **DEFEAT** us if we fail to **RELY UPON THE LORD!**
3. Just as **ISRAEL'S** only **HOPE** here was to continue to **TRUST AND OBEY** the **ONE** who had brought them **VICTORY** in the past, the same is **TRUE** for us!

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**II. WE SEE THE LORD ENCOURAGES THEM AND GIVES THEM THE VICTORY! (11:6-14)**

**A. The LORD’S ENCOURAGEMENT! (Vs 6a)**  
*“Be not afraid because of them...”*

If we’re not careful, **FEAR** of our **ENEMIES** will **DEFEAT** us, but, like **JOSHUA** we have the **LORD’S ENCOURAGEMENT** to **OVERCOME THE FEAR!**

We are not to **FEAR** our **ENEMIES!**

*2 Timothy 1:7–“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

*John 14:27–“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**”*

*John 16:33–“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

*Hebrews 13:5–6–“5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**”*

**B. The LORD’S PROMISES! (Vs 6b)**

*“...for tomorrow about this time will I deliver them up...”*  
Their **ENEMIES’** horses would be *“houghed”* (or *brought down...to tear out by the roots*) and their chariots burned. The **LORD** knew how to take care of **ISRAEL’S ENEMIES!**

*Psalm 20:7–“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*

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The **LORD** knows how to take care of our **ENEMIES** as well! And the **LORD PROMISES VICTORY** to us as well.  
*(See Romans 8:31-39)*

*2 Corinthians 2:14–“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”*

Our **VICTORY** is in **JESUS!**

**C. The LORD’S VICTORY EXPERIENCED! (Vs 7-14)**  
Utter extermination was literally carried out.

The **VICTORY** was **COMPLETE...** *“he utterly destroyed them...neither left they any to breathe”.*

The **LORD’S VICTORY** for **ISRAEL** was **HIS JUDGMENT** upon the ungodly nations of **CANAAN!**

**III. WE SEE CONTINUED CONFLICT AND COMPLETE VICTORY! (11:15-23)**

**A. CONTINUED CONFLICT!**

As **JOSHUA** and **ISRAEL** were **VICTORIOUS** over the **ENEMIES OF THE LORD**, there would arise new **CONFLICTS!**

As we’ve said before, living for the **LORD** on this earth is a **CONTINUAL BATTLE!**

One day the **CONFLICT** will be **SETTLED FOREVER**, but until then we face daily **BATTLES** with our **ENEMIES!**

But we do so with the **PROMISE OF VICTORY!**  
*1 Peter 5:6-10*

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**B. COMPLETE VICTORY Comes With COMPLETE OBEDIENCE!**  
**JOSHUA and ISRAEL were acting in OBEDIENCE to the LORD'S WILL!**

I want you to note a repeated action here:

*Vs 9—"...And Joshua did unto them as the Lord bade him:"*

*Vs 12—"And he utterly destroyed them, as Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded."*

*Vs 15—"As the Lord commanded Moses, his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses."*

*Vs 23—"So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses..."*

What was the action? **OBEDIENCE!** The lesson we need to learn is this: **COMPLETE VICTORY** is directly dependent upon **COMPLETE OBEDIENCE!**

As a result of **ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE**, in **vs 23** we are told that the land rested from war!

**Conclusion**

Now we're not going to read it tonight, but I encourage you to read **Ch. 12**. It recounts the **VICTORIES OF ISRAEL** over the various kingdoms. It serves as a reminder to us that the **LORD KEEPS HIS PROMISES! GOD'S WORD** is **MOST PRECIOUS** to us when it is **TRIED** and **PROVEN** in our **WALK!**

*2 Samuel 22:31—"As for God, his way is perfect; The word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in him." (Cf. Psalm 18:30)*

*Psalm 12:6—"The words of the LORD are pure words: As silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."*

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The question is, are we **WALKING in VICTORY** or are we **LIVING DEFEATED LIVES?** The difference between **VICTORY** or **DEFEAT** is found in our **OBEDIENCE** to **GOD'S WORD** or **LACK THEREOF!**

In **SCRIPTURE** we are told to...**READ** the **WORD!**...**MEDITATE** on the **WORD!**...**STUDY** the **WORD!**...**MEMORIZE** the **WORD!**...**SEARCH** the **WORD!**...**REJOICE** in the **WORD!**...**SHARE** the **WORD!**

All of which are important, but **VICTORY** is found in **OBEYING THE WORD!**