

Jos215 – Whose Victory & Whose Possession? – Joshua Chapters 11 & 12
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Open your Bibles. Title of the message, “Whose Victory And Whose Possession?” We are doing two chapters today, in Joshua; chapters 11 and 12.

The word “whose” is the possessive form of “who” as in who has won this victory? And who possesses whose victory.

You may think those who’s should be the same person but they are not. And you may think that possession is automatic after winning a victory, but it is certainly not. Whose victory is it? And who possesses whose victory?

Remember Joshua is about “Taking Possession of the Promised Life.” Taking possession of a victory that has been won on our behalf, but a victory that you must take possession of *or not*.

If we are going to make this any clearer than that we’re going to have to pray.

Let’s pray. *Lord show us this truth. This is one of the deepest truths in the Christian life and one that we don’t accept in so many cases. And so reveal it to us, Lord. Reveal to us today whose victory it is and who can or cannot possess that victory. Show it to us, illustrate it Lord, through Joshua, we pray in your name and for your glory in our lives, amen.*

So the critical questions for today are, “whose victory is it?” and “who possesses whose victory?”

And one more English lesson may help. As we’ve been talking about “Taking Possession of The Promised Life” we’ve used the word “appropriate” a lot. To appropriate is *to take possession of a thing, to make it your own*. Not necessarily something you have a right to but something that has been given to you.

Whose victory leads to the Promised Life? It certainly is *not ours*. The victory that leads to the Promised Life is fully and completely Jesus Christ’s victory. However, *who can possess* that victory of Christ’s? You and I can!

You and I can appropriate the victory of Jesus Christ.

We can take *FULL POSSESSION* of it

We can *MAKE IT OUR OWN* – so that we live in his victory.

The question today is – WILL WE?

In Joshua Chapters 11 and 12, Joshua wins full victory over the entire Promised Land on behalf of God's people and then he gives them that victory as a free gift. And then as the story of their life unfolds... like the days of our lives... we get to see whether the people of God will actually take possession of the Promised Life that was won on their behalf... or not.

So I will just skip ahead and tell you right now – some do and some don't. And that is a perfect illustration of the full and complete victory that has been won on our behalf by Jesus Christ.

So first let's try to grasp the scope (the immensity) of the victory Joshua won on behalf of God's people. And remember, although these are historical enemies, they represent (illustrate) the spiritual enemies that Jesus Christ has conquered on our behalf.

So follow me as we quickly survey Joshua 11 and 12. At the end of Chapter 10 Joshua had conquered all of the southern enemies and now the north comes at him.

Joshua 11:1–4 (NLT)

1 When King Jabin of Hazor heard what had happened, he sent messages to the following kings: King Jobab of Madon; the king of Shimron; the king of Acshaph; 2 all the kings of the northern hill country; the kings in the Jordan Valley south of Galilee; the kings in the Galilean foothills; the kings of Naphtoth-dor on the west; 3 the kings of Canaan, both east and west; the kings of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites in the towns on the slopes of Mount Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

4 All these kings came out to fight. Their combined armies formed a vast horde. And with all their horses and chariots, they covered the landscape like the sand on the seashore.

That is what the spiritual enemies looked like that Jesus Christ conquered on your behalf at the cross and the resurrection. Every enemy you could possibly name all combined to form a vast horde of spiritual enemies that were set against you – so many of them; they covered the landscape like sand on the seashore.

Joshua 11:6 & 8 (NLT)

6 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them. By this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel as dead men . . .

8 And the Lord gave them victory over their enemies . . . until not one enemy warrior was left alive.

THAT is the level of victory that Joshua won and *THAT* is the level of victory that your greater Joshua has won on your behalf.

*the Lord has given you victory over ALL your enemies
not one enemy warrior is left – that, in and of himself, can take you OUT of the
Promised life*

All that your enemy has left to use against you are his schemes and devices to get you to take yourself out of the Promised Life.

Continuing,

Joshua 11:12 (NLT)

12 Joshua slaughtered all the other kings and their people, completely destroying them, just as Moses, the servant of the Lord, had commanded.

The Lord had commanded Moses to completely destroy these enemies because (we read in a number of places) their iniquity was full; their sin had finally brought their complete destruction.

And then, in verse 15 we see that Joshua's victory came through his careful obedience to the Lord.

Joshua 11:15-18 (NLT)

15 As the Lord had commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua. And Joshua did as he was told, carefully obeying all the commands that the Lord had given to Moses.

16 and So (because of his careful obedience) Joshua conquered the entire region—the hill country, the entire Negev, the whole area around the town of Goshen, the western foothills, the Jordan Valley, the mountains of Israel, and the Galilean foothills.

17 The Israelite territory now extended all the way from Mount Halak, which leads up to Seir in the south, as far north as Baal-gad at the foot of Mount Hermon in the valley of Lebanon. (Basically ALL of what is Israel today) Joshua killed all the kings of those territories,

18 waging war for a long time to accomplish this.

This was no easy war. Scholars believe this was at least a continual seven year battle. But how much longer still was the victory won by our YESHUA (Jesus) who Revelation 13:8 calls "*The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*"? Jesus Christ battled your enemies until every single one of them was conquered, including the giants in your life as we see in Joshua 11:21.

Joshua 11:21-22 (NLT)

21 During this period Joshua destroyed all the descendants of Anak, (the Anakims) who lived in the hill country of Hebron, Debir, Anab, and the entire hill country of Judah and Israel. He killed them all and completely destroyed their towns.

22 None of the descendants of Anak were left in all the land of Israel, though some still remained in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

These are very interesting verses. These “Descendants of Anak” Numbers names as the giants that the spies saw when Moses first sent the spies into the land. (Numbers 13) And ten of those spies came back fearful and whining like a bunch of babies with no naps.

Only two had the faith that the Lord would “take out” these giants. Those two were Joshua and Caleb and Caleb is here with Joshua in this battle. And so only the two who had the faith got to experience the victory of God in this battle. (Another great side message.)

It’s also interesting that some of these giants remained in Gath which is where Goliath came from. And they remained in Gaza which today we call the Gaza Strip (exact same place.)

The lesson here is, if you and I leave a giant inside our Promised Life, that giant will always come back and attack us. The enemy must be completely driven out of every area of our lives – with extreme prejudice – which means “*with aggressive execution.*”

So we’re at Joshua 11:22 and let’s set verse 23 aside for a minute and we’ll return to it after we see the remainder of this full victory by Joshua in the Promised Land.

Now the first six verses in Chapter 12 remind us of the land that two and a half tribes took on what we like to call the “wrong side” of Jordan – the east side. We’ve talked in past messages about these two and a half tribes who begged Moses to allow them to stay on the wrong side of the Jordan and not fully enter into the Promised Life.

They were satisfied being on the edge of the Promised Life. That was “close enough” they said. And what is so important to remember about these two and a half tribes living on the border of the Promised Life is that these were the first tribes to abandon their inheritance in the Lord and these were the first tribes to get “sucked in” and disappear into the pagan world around them.

Please don’t convince yourself that the borderland is the Promised Land – it is not.

And finally, picking up in Joshua 12:7 we have a “summary list” of Joshua’s victories.

Joshua 12:7-24 (NLT)

7 The following is a list of the kings that Joshua and the Israelite armies defeated on the west side (the right side) of the Jordan . . . (Joshua gave this land to the tribes of Israel as their possession,

8 including the hill country, the western foothills, the Jordan Valley, the mountain slopes, the Judean wilderness, and the Negev. - - The people who lived in this region were the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.) These are the kings Israel defeated:

9 The king of Jericho The king of Ai, near Bethel

10 The king of Jerusalem The king of Hebron

11 The king of Jarmuth The king of Lachish

12 The king of Eglon The king of Gezer

13 The king of Debir The king of Geder

14 The king of Hormah The king of Arad

15 The king of Libnah The king of Adullam

16 The king of Makkedah The king of Bethel

17 The king of Tappuah The king of Hopher

18 The king of Aphek The king of Lasharon

19 The king of Madon The king of Hazor

20 The king of Shimron-meron The king of Acshaph

21 The king of Taanach The king of Megiddo

22 The king of Kedesh The king of Jokneam in Carmel

23 The king of Dor in the town of Naphoth-dor The king of Goyim in Gilgal

24 The king of Tirzah. In all, thirty-one kings were defeated.

How many enemies are you battling today in order to take possession of your Promised Life? Please hear me when I tell you your greater Joshua (Jesus Christ) has conquered them all – on your behalf! Every single one of them – by name! Every enemy that would stand between you and the Promised Life has been conquered by Jesus Christ on your behalf!

Whose victory is it? It is the Lord's victory. Who will possess his victory for themselves? That, my friends, is up to us. But I can assure you of this – *the full and complete victory has been won.*

So returning now to the wrap up verse of Joshua 11:23.

Joshua 11:23 (NLT)

23 So Joshua took control of (conquered) the entire land, just as the Lord had instructed Moses. & He gave it to the people of Israel as their special possession, dividing the land among the tribes. So the land finally had rest from war.

The full and complete victory was won by God and then given to the people of God. However, it is important to know as our study continues; the enemy was completely conquered but was not completely removed from the Promised Life.

Have you ever known an enemy in your own life that has been completely conquered by Jesus Christ but is still “getting at you”? Is still scheming and deceiving you? Even *inside* your Promised Life with Christ?

Next message we begin looking at how well Israel did in taking full possession of the Promised Life that Joshua had won for them. And we’ll begin looking at how we can actually begin to take full possession of the Promised Life that Jesus has won for us.

And let me say it again. What ultimately happens in Joshua is what we see ultimately happen in the lives of people around us and in our own lives.

In Joshua *some* of the Tribes of Israel *did* take full possession of the victory Joshua won for them. They *did* appropriate it. They *did* make it their own.

And some of the Tribes of Israel *did not*. The victory was just as much theirs. They had *just as much right* to it. *But they failed to take full possession of it.*

Guys, if we fail to take full possession of the victory Christ has won on our behalf, it is not a reflection on God’s ability to give us that full victory. God’s part was *done* when the word was cried out on the cross by Jesus himself – TETELESTAI – IT – IS – FINISHED.

Now, *we decide* whether to take *full possession* of that *victory* *we decide* whether we will *walk* in that *victory*.

But make no mistake about it *that victory* has been *fully and completely won* by Christ.

Next week we will read what is one of the most ominous verses in all of Joshua.

Joshua 13:1 (NKJV)

1 . . . there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

The victory on Israel’s behalf was complete BUT ***there remained very much land YET to be possessed.***

Not yet to be *conquered* . . .
yet to be *possessed*.

Alan Redpath - *It is true that the victory of the Cross was decisive, but it is also true that one will experience only as much of that victory as by faith he appropriates personally.*

Next week we begin talking about *how* to appropriate the victory that Jesus Christ has won on our behalf.

Today, we rest on the eternal truth that our victory in Christ is *FULL*... It is *COMPLETE*... It is *DECISIVE*.

Let's pray. *Lord Jesus pour your Spirit out on this place. Bring your Word, bring your worship up in our hearts and our minds and allow us to deal directly and personally with you right now.*

We're about to take communion. And communion is not a thing of repetition; it's not a cultural thing. It's one of two life transforming sacraments that we've been commanded to partake of. Communion is you saying "Jesus, I want your life in mine. I want to commune with you. I want you to replace my life with yours." And so before we do that, to make sure you don't do it lightly, would you just deal with the Lord on your own right now? Maybe you've never surrendered your life to Jesus Christ. Maybe you've said, "I'm just here because I didn't have any place else to go."

Right now, make a commitment, right now before you take communion say, "*Lord Jesus, I need you. I'm a sinner. I need to be saved by your grace. I know my sins deserve judgment. And I pray that you would forgive me. That you would cleanse me of my sin. That you would come into my life. That you would transform me by your life inside me. That I would burn as an offering to you. That the dross would be taken away, that the enemy would be defeated. Lord I commit to turn from my sin and turn to you. Please come into my life.*"

And if there is a sin in your life, if you've received Christ, if you call yourself a Christian, now is the time to say, "*Lord what stands between me and my communion with you? What stands between us Lord, what's keeping me from you? Why do I feel distant from you? Like David prayed, 'Take not your Holy Spirit from me.'* Lord if sin has separated me from you I confess it right now. I ask you to forgive me. Cleanse me of that sin and restore me to a right relationship with you. I desire to commune with you today Lord and every day. Lord I pray in your name, amen."

