

Joshua, Judges, and Ruth



Part I

Gardendale church of Christ

2024

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Preparing to Cross the Jordan

1. What were to be the eastern and western borders of the land God was giving the people? (v.4)
2. What would no man be able to do? (v.5)
3. Why would Joshua need to be “strong and courageous?” (v.7)
4. What was Joshua supposed to do with the Book of the Law?
5. Was Joshua’s success conditional?
6. What did Joshua command the officers to tell the people?
7. What promise did Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh need to fulfill?
8. Thought Question: Where else in the Bible do we see this type of loyalty that the people showed to Joshua? (v.16-17)

9. What was the punishment for disobedience to Joshua?

10. What did the people expect out of Joshua in return for their loyalty?

Rahab

1. Thought Question: Does the king of Jericho consider the children of Israel a threat?
2. What did Rahab tell the king of Jericho?
3. Where did she hide the spies?
4. In what direction did they go look for the spies? Why that way?
5. What all did Rahab know? (v.9-10)
6. What happened to the hearts and courage of the people? (v.11)
7. What was the key attitude difference between Rahab and king of Jericho?

8. What did Rahab want from the Lord?

9. What direction does Rahab send the spies?

10. What conditions do the spies give to Rahab for her family's salvation?

11. What was the key attitude difference between the spies in Joshua and the spies before the wandering of the wilderness?

Crossing the Jordan

1. How would the children of Israel know the way they should go?
(3:3-4)
2. What did the Lord do for Joshua that day? (3:7)
3. What was the purpose of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan?
4. How did the Lord get the people across the river differently than the red sea?
5. Thought Question: What does God gain by diversifying His wonders?
6. What were the twelve men from each tribe to do? (4:4-6)
7. What was the purpose of the twelve stones?

8. At what moment did the Jordan begin flowing again?

9. Thought Question: Concerning the memorial stones, and the emphasis on the retelling of the event. Does God care about His stories? Why?

10. Who all did God intend to know the story? (4:24)

The Manna Ceased

1. How did the kings of the west and east side of the Jordan take the news about the crossing of the Jordan?
2. Why did Joshua have to circumcise the sons of Israel?
3. Why is the location called Gilgal?
4. What is the Christian connection to circumcision and reproach being taken away? (Col 2:11-13)
5. What Jewish holiday did this event overlap with?
6. Why did the manna cease on this day?
7. Thought Question: What is the purpose of attacking Canaan in the spring (Passover)?
8. Who did Joshua meet in the plains of Jericho?

9. What did “He” command Joshua to do?

10. What is this command supposed to remind the reader of?

Jericho

1. What was the condition of Jericho because of the children of Israel?
2. What did the Lord tell Joshua this was proof of?
3. What were the people instructed to do to Jericho for the first six days?
4. What did Joshua tell the people to do before He commanded them to shout?
5. What were the people instructed to do for the seventh day?
6. Thought Question: Did the people destroy Jericho based off their merit? Did they earn it? Alternatively, was this a gift of grace even though they had to do something to receive it? (6:17)

7. What were Joshua rules about the taking of the city? There are several.

8. Who was specifically commanded to retrieve Rahab and her family?

9. Thought Question: What did the Lord and Joshua gain from these large public wonders? Such as, the crossing of the Jordan, the fall of Jericho, and the stopping of the sun and moon.

Achan the son of Carmi

1. What did Achan the son of Carmi do at Jericho?
2. What battle plan did the spies in Ai propose to Joshua?
3. What happened to the three thousand men of Israel?
4. Why was Joshua so terribly confused?
5. What did Joshua do about his confusion with the Lord?
6. Who would identify which people had stolen the accursed things?
7. What did Joshua implore Achan to do when the Lord revealed he was the one who trespassed?
8. Thought Question: As far as we know did Achan repent?

9. Does Achan's repentance alone spare him from the punishment of death?

10. Thought Question: Of what we know of God's pattern of judgement, does Achan's confession and repentance aid him standing at eternal judgement?

11. Thought Question: What makes this situation different from the criminal trials and executions discussed in the law of Moses?

12. Who was receiving justice by the death of Achan?

The Fall of Ai

1. What did the Lord assure Joshua of about Ai?
2. What does God clarify would be different about the fall of Ai verses the fall of Jericho?
3. How many does Joshua send this time to Ai?
4. What did Joshua do to lead the people of Ai into an ambush?
5. How many men and women died in Ai?
6. Why did Joshua build the altar on Mt. Ebal? (8:31)
7. What did Joshua do in the presence of the children of Israel?

8. Who all listened to Joshua's reading of the law?

Gibeon

1. What did most of the Canaanite nations do when they heard of Jericho and Ai?
2. What did the Gibeonites do instead?
3. Why did Joshua decide to make a covenant with Gibeon?
4. Ultimately, why was Joshua and Israel tricked by the Gibeonites?
(v.14)
5. Did the Israel honor their covenant with Gibeon?
6. What was the compromise?

7. Thought Question: From Joshua's perspective this story is about forgetting to consider God's counsel. From the Gibeonite perspective this story is about their salvation. What characteristic(s) of the Gibeonites saved them from judgement and destruction?

8. What was the other nations' reaction when they discovered that Gibeon had defected to Israel?

9. What did the five kings decide to do?

The Sun Stood Still

1. Why did these five Canaanite kings attack Gibeon together?
2. When Gibeon called Joshua to come save them, what did the Lord tell Joshua?
3. What did the Lord do to the Canaanite alliance when they began to flee the army of Israel?
4. What was Joshua's purpose in asking the Lord to stop the sun and the moon?
5. Where did the five kings hide from Joshua?
6. What did Joshua command to be done at the cave?

7. What was the purpose of Joshua making the people put their feet and the kings' necks?

8. When did they bring the bodies down from the trees?

9. Thought Question: Can you list some of the Messianic shadows in this story of Joshua?

10. Thought Question: Joshua's name means "Jehovah Saves." Who has Joshua saved in this book? What do they all have in common?

11. Why was Joshua able to conquer all these lands at one time?
(v.42)

The Conquest of Moses and Joshua

1. What areas had Joshua conquered in 10:40?
2. What areas does chapter 11 consider? (11:2)
3. Thought Question: Why did Joshua hamstring the horses and burn the chariots?
4. Except for the Gibeonites, why did the Canaanites go to war against Israel, even though they were never successful? (11:20)
5. What did the land do after the conquest of Joshua?
6. Which area did Moses conquer? (12:1)
7. What is more modern name for the “Sea of Chinneroth?” (12:3)
8. Which tribes lived in Moses’ conquered lands?

9. How many kings did Joshua kill?

Caleb and Judah

The next lesson will begin at 14:1 and cover the land allotments for the different tribes. This lesson will solely cover Caleb's account within 14 and 15.

1. How old was Caleb when he was sent by Moses to spy out the land?
2. How is Caleb's condition now that he is eighty-five?
3. What does Caleb want from Joshua?
4. Thought Question: Why does Caleb specifically want to possess the mountain that the Anakim live on?
5. Was Caleb successful in driving out the sons of Anak? (15:14)
6. What does Caleb offer as a reward for taking Kirjath Sepher?

7. Who took Kirjath Sepher?

8. What does Caleb's daughter ask for?

Land Allotments

There are no questions for the lesson. We discuss the geography and borders of Israel.

Twelve Tribes Joshua 13-22 1400 BC

6 City-State Empires in 1406 BC

Amorite 15 city state Basham empire
King Jabin at Hazor
Hazor, Madon, Shimron, Achshaph, Dor:
Joshua 11:1-3,10; Judges 4:2

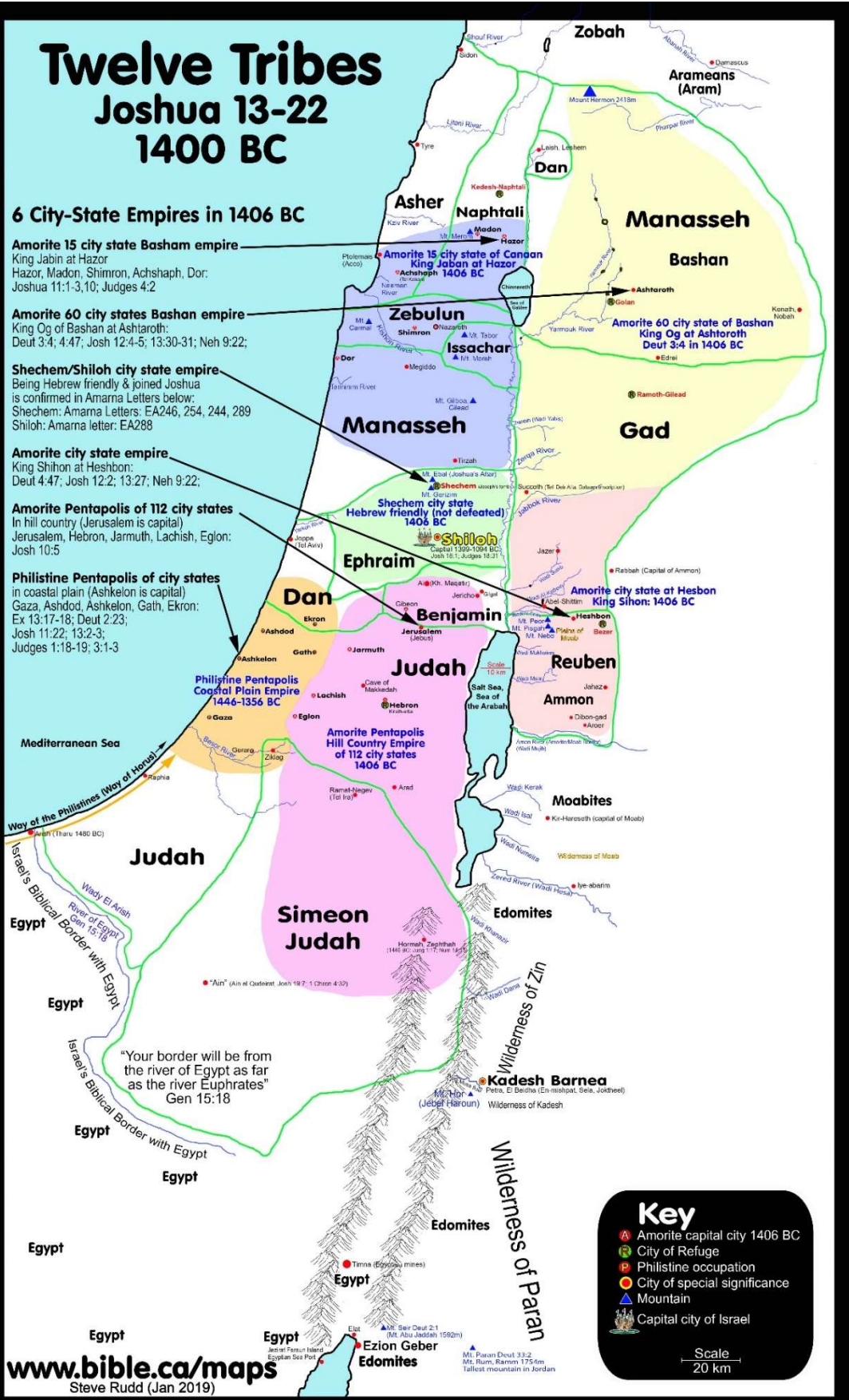
Amorite 60 city states Bashan empire
King Og of Bashan at Ashtaroth:
Deut 3:4; 4:47; Josh 12:4-5; 13:30-31; Neh 9:22;

Shechem/Shiloh city state empire
Being Hebrew friendly & joined Joshua
is confirmed in Amarna Letters below:
Shechem: Amarna Letters: EA246, 254, 244, 289
Shiloh: Amarna letter: EA288

Amorite city state empire
King Sihon at Heshbon:
Deut 4:47; Josh 12:2; 13:27; Neh 9:22;

Amorite Pentapolis of 112 city states
In hill country (Jerusalem is capital)
Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, Eglon:
Josh 10:5

Philistine Pentapolis of city states
in coastal plain (Ashkelon is capital)
Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, Ekron:
Ex 13:17-18; Deut 2:23;
Josh 11:22; 13:2-3;
Judges 1:18-19; 3:1-3



Key

- Amorite capital city 1406 BC
- City of Refuge
- Philistine occupation
- City of special significance
- Mountain
- Capital city of Israel

Scale
20 km

Joseph

1. What were the two tribes of Joseph?
2. Who did some of the cities belong to in Manasseh's land? (16:9)
3. Did the Ephraimites drive out all the Canaanites?
4. What did the daughters of Zelophehad tell Joshua?
5. Did Manasseh drive all the Canaanites out?
6. What were Joseph's people concerned about? (17:14)
7. What was Joshua's solution?

8. The people of Joseph complained that the mountain Canaanite people were too mighty with their chariots of iron. What contrasts can we make between this account and the account of Caleb of Judah's taking of the mountain in 14:6-15?

Joshua's Rebuke

1. Now that land had been subdued, how many tribes still had not possessed the land?
2. What did Joshua command these tribes to do immediately?
3. Why was Judah's and Joseph's land not to be divided?
4. What other tribes were not included in this division of land?
5. What was the name of the place where Joshua had the tabernacle of meeting?
6. Here at first, which tribe was given the city, Jerusalem?
7. Which area was Simeon given? Why?

8. Thought Question: What was the important purpose of these scriptures for the Israelites before Christ?

“The Lord is God”

Joshua ensures that the Levites receive their cities and common lands after the division of Israel. Many of these cities were to be the cities of refuge. This lesson begins right after the Levites possessed those forty-eight cities.

1. Now that people have received the land, who had the Lord fulfilled His oath to?
2. Did God fail on any of the good things of which He spoke?
3. Who else had fulfilled their promises to the people of Israel?
(22:1-2)
4. What thoughts did Joshua send them back home with? (22:5)
5. Thought Question: Why did the Western Israelites grieve about the Eastern Israelites impressive altar? (22:16-17, Num. 25:1-13)
6. What does Israel offer Reuben, Manasseh, and Gad?

7. What is Israel concerned will happen again? (22:20)

8. Were the eastern tribes trying to turn away from the Lord?

9. Why did they build the altar?

Joshua's Sermon

1. What has Israel seen these past years?
2. Thought Question: Why would an Israelite need courage to keep and do God's law? (v.6-7)
3. Which people in the bible had a firsthand experience with verse 10? "One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you."
4. What would stop the Lord from driving out these nations?
5. What would the nations become to the Israelites?
6. What does Joshua want them to acknowledge about God? (v.14)

7. Would God's good blessing be forever for the Israelites?

8. What would Israel ultimately do? (v.16)

Joshua's Sermon at Shechem

1. Which river did Terah and Abraham live on the other side of?
2. What did God do for Abaraham when He led him to cross the river?
3. Which river did the people cross to escape Egypt?
4. Which river did the people cross to enter the land of Canaan?
5. What does Joshua say about this land the people are inheriting?
(v.12-13)
6. Since this grace has been given, what should the people do? (v.14)
7. In Israel, who is given responsibility to choose to serve the Lord?

8. Why does Joshua say that the people “Cannot serve the Lord?”
(v.19)

9. Thought Question: What infamous New Testament event shadows
v.22?

10. How old was Joshua when he died?

11. What was done with the bones of Joseph?

The Incomplete Conquest

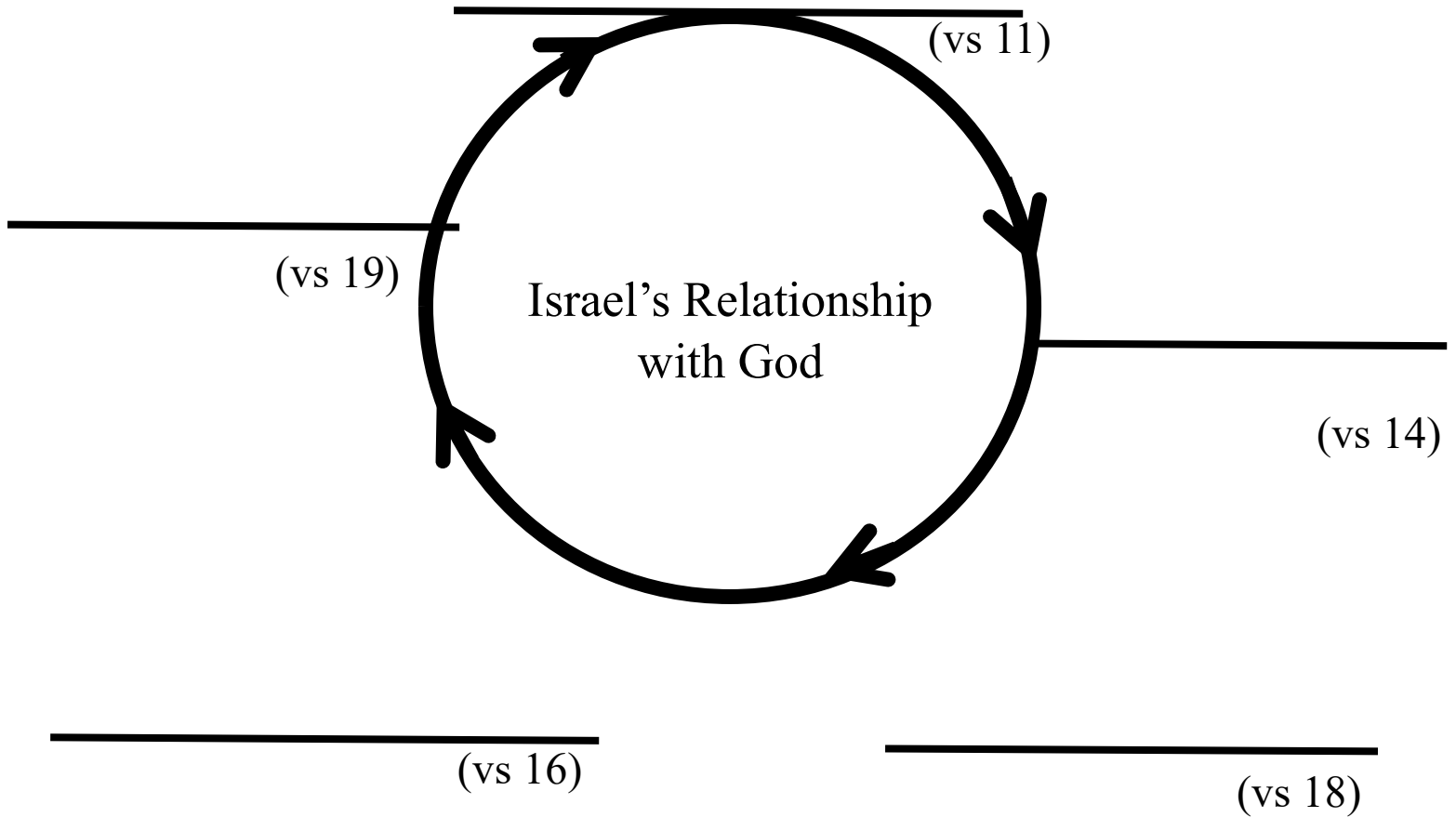
Notice that the first story in Judges is about Judah being courageous and righteous. Since Genesis our writers have been Moses and Joshua. From Judges to 2nd Samuel the voice changes to King David's perspective, probably written by Samuel, Nathan, and Gad. Judges and Ruth present an overall argument that Joseph's tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh have grown worse, while David's tribe Judah has grown strong in the Lord.

1. Who died? Why is it important?
2. What does Judah do to Adoni-Bezek? (Read Lev 24:19-20)
3. What notable city did Judah burn?
4. What did the "Inhabitants of the lowlands" have?
5. What did Joseph's spies ask the man coming out of Luz?
6. What did that man do after being shown mercy?

7. What did the Angel of the Lord rebuke the people for?

8. How long were the people faithful to God?

9. Read 2:11-23 and fill in the chart below.



Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar

1. Why did God leave the other Nations in the land?
2. Who did God first “sell” Israel to?
3. Who was Othniel related to?
4. Who was the next nation to take Israel captive?
5. Thought Question: How did Ehud sneak a dagger in?
6. How did Ehud get the king to clear the room?
7. Who was the next nation to take Israel captive?
8. Who was the next Judge and what did he do?

Deborah

1. Who was oppressing Israel?
2. What roles does Deborah serve?
3. Who was supposed to lead Israel's armies?
4. Why was Barak not going to receive glory for his journey?
5. How many iron chariots did Sisera have?
6. Where was Barak and Israel encamped?
7. Ultimately, what did Sisera have to do with his chariot?
8. Who killed Sisera? How?

The Song of Deborah

1. What do Deborah and Barak bless the Lord for?
2. Thought Question: Looking at 5:4-5, perhaps how did the Lord render Sisera's 900 iron chariots useless?
3. What were times like in the days of Shamgar?
4. How does Deborah refer to herself? (v.7)
5. What tribes came to battle?
6. What tribes did not?
7. Why is Jael praised?

8. According to Deborah and Barak, why does Sisera's mother think he is not returning?

9. Is there a clear distinction between God's enemies and those that love God?

Gideon Part I

1. What nation was oppressing Israel?
2. Who does the Lord send first, before raising a Judge?
3. What was Gideon doing when the Angel came to him?
4. What did the Angel call him?
5. What sign does the Angel show Gideon?
6. What does the Angel tell Gideon to do?
7. When does he do it? Why?
8. What defense does Joash give to Gideon?
9. What is Gideon's new name?

10. What two signs did God show Gideon?

11. Thought Question: It is easy to see that Gideon was doubtful at times, but what is good about how Gideon deals with his concerns?

Gideon Part II

1. How many men did the Midianites have? (8:10)
2. What did God say was wrong with the armies of Israel? Why was this wrong?
3. Who were the first people cut?
4. How many were left?
5. When they drank from the river, which group was cut?
6. Which group remained?
7. What does God tell Gideon to do if he is was fearful? (v.10)
8. Describe the dream.
9. What three items did each man have?

10. How did God defeat the Midianites according to verse 22?

11. Who joins the army?

12. Thought Question: What do we learn about our relationship with God from this chapter?