

EMBRACING CHANGE
"Winning Against Overwhelming Odds"
Joshua 11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Israel's conquest of the Land

- a) First, they drove a wedge through **Central Canaan**.
- b) Secondly, they turned drove South defeating the armies of the **South**.
 - 1) **Chapter 10:29ff**
- c) In Chapter 11 Joshua turns north to defeat those armies in **Northern Canaan**.

2. Joshua 11:1-3, 4

3. Vs 4

- a) Some historians have numbered this Army in the North to be around **300,000**.
 - 1) **100,000** horse soldiers (cavalry)
 - 2) **20,000** chariots

4. HERE'S THE BIG QUESTION: *"How do I make it when the odds are stacked against me?"*

5. Vs 5

- a) Waters of Merom
 - 1) King Josiah would be defeated here.
 - 2) Saul and Jonathan will be killed here.
 - 3) Deborah fought the Canaanites here.
 - 4) Gideon fought the Midianites here.

6. Vs 6-7

5 PRINCIPLES OF WINNING SPIRITUAL VICTORY

I. PRINCIPLE #1 - YOU NEED THE STABILITY OF A HOME BASE

1. Vs 4:1-3, 19; 5:8-10;

2. 10:43

3. Definition of Gilgal

- a) **Gilgal** - means to *"roll back"* or *"the rolling away"*

- b) God was rolling away their reproach.
 - c) God was rolling away the embarrassment of being slaves for 400 years.
 - d) God was going to "*roll away*" the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.
4. It was at **Gilgal** that God instructed Israel to erect a monument of 12 stones from the Jordan.
5. It was Gilgal that would become their Home Base.
- a) They would leave Gilgal and go and defeat **Jericho**.
 - b) They left Gilgal to fight against **Ai** and after their defeat they returned to Gilgal.
 - c) It was out of Gilgal that God told Joshua to **return to Ai** and defeat them.
6. Gilgal was Israel's **Home Base**, place of **Refreshment**, a place of **Encouragement**, and a place of **Renewal**.
7. *If you want Spiritual Victory in your life* you will need the stability of a HOME BASE.
8. *This Church is important to this Community*:

II. PRINCIPLE #2 - NOTICE THE STRENGTH OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** We all need encouragement
2. Notice how Joshua encourages his people.
 - a) **10:12-15; 16-21; 22-24**
 - 1) This is a picture of total surrender and victory.
3. Joshua then encourages his people with the words God encouraged Joshua with.
 - a) **Vs 25**
 - 1) **Cf. 1:6, 7, 9**
 - b) Joshua encourages all his Lieutenants.
4. *You and I may have been through some intense Spiritual Battles in our lives but **be assured there is a greater battle coming.***

5. SPIRITUAL BATTLES ONLY INTENSIFY.

6. *"The greater the Spiritual Opportunity, the greater the Satanic Opposition!!!"*

7. **IMPORTANT:** *If you are doing what God has called you to do...you will have to fight the devil!!!*

8. We need to be ready to share our stories of Spiritual Victory with others.

a) "Look what my God has done!!"

CLOSING ILLUSTRATION: *Japanese Surrender*