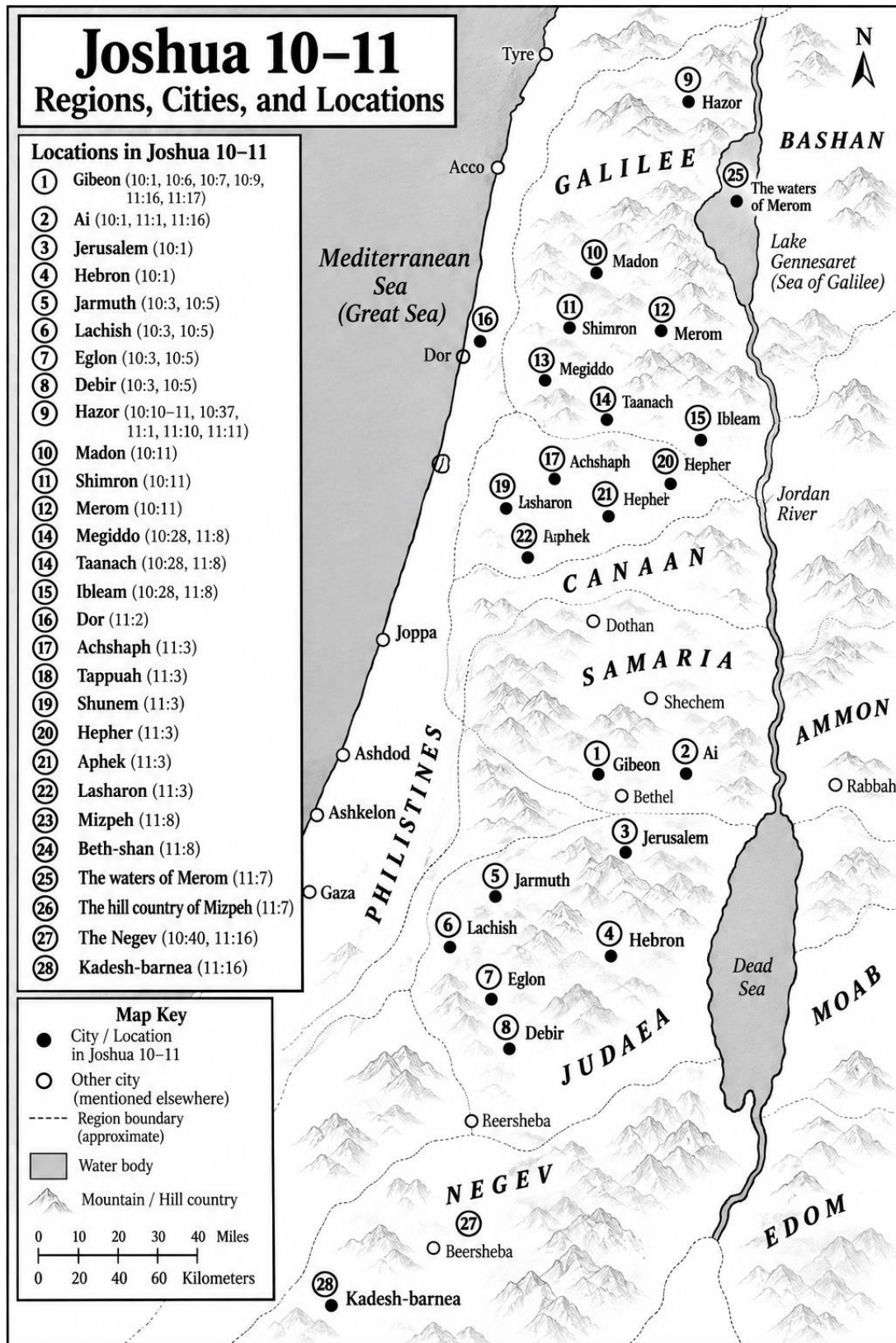


JOSHUA (19) – Joshua 10–11
 Covenant Fellowship Church
 Wednesday, September 30, 2026
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Assistance from sermons by Phillip Kayser is freely acknowledged.



(over, please)

Joshua 10:9–15

1. God's power does not eliminate human responsibility (v. 9a).

- Joshua acts promptly to help Gibeon rather than merely praying from a distance.
- Prayer should accompany whatever responsible action is within our power—studying, working, helping others, or using medical treatment.

2. God's power does not eliminate personal sacrifice (v. 9b).

- Israel marches all night before fighting, sacrificing sleep, comfort, and energy.
- Serving God may demand costly effort even when he provides supernatural assistance.

3. God ordinarily works through human means (vv. 10–11a).

- The passage credits the Lord with routing and defeating the enemy while Israel pursues and fights.
- Believers should work diligently while asking God to empower their work and attitudes.

4. God's miraculous power exceeds human effort (vv. 11–15a).

- **The hailstones:** Their selectivity and devastating effect are evidence of supernatural intervention.
 - **Joshua's faith:** Joshua's public command to the sun and moon was an extraordinary confidence supplied by God.
 - **The prolonged day:** This was a literal miracle, so we reject explanations that reduce it to ordinary phenomena or merely poetic language.
 - **The moon's stopping:** This was another aspect of God's intervention, giving Israel time to complete the victory.
 - **God's sovereignty:** This unique day does not establish that believers can demand miracles or expect every biblical miracle to recur.
 - **Israel's preservation:** Notice that "all Israel" returned with Joshua, indicating that no Israelite soldier died in this battle.
- ### 5. God also blesses his people with rest (v. 15).
- God's power is present in ordinary rest and sleep as well as spectacular events. We are not meant to live in constant crisis.

Joshua 11:16–20

1. God governs the scope and pace of the conquest (vv. 16–17a).

- Joshua conquers a large territory, but God leaves some areas for later generations.
- There were three purposes for this gradual conquest: preventing the land from becoming desolate, foreshadowing the gradual spread of the gospel, and testing and strengthening successive generations.
- **For you:** Difficulty and delayed progress can serve God's purposes by developing maturity, obedience, and dependence on him.

2. God accomplishes his purposes through human action (v. 17b).

- God delivers the kings into Israel's hands, and Israel fights and defeats them.
- Divine sovereignty makes human effort effective without making it unnecessary.
- Joshua was a type of Jesus, who leads his people in a worldwide conquest through the gospel.

3. God's purposes require perseverance over time (v. 18).

- Joshua's initial conquest took approximately seven years; gaining control of the remaining territory took much longer.
- **For you:** God's promises do not imply immediate results. His people must persevere through gradual progress and setbacks.

4. Gibeon and the other cities illustrate sovereign mercy and judgment (vv. 19–20).

- **Gibeon receives mercy:** Its peace with Israel was part of God's plan, despite the deception involved.
- **The other cities resist:** They refuse to seek mercy and attack Israel, making them accountable for their rebellion.
- **God hardens their hearts:** This was an example of *reprobation*—God's determination to withhold saving mercy and leave sinners to judgment.
- **Judgment remains just:** They are condemned for their own willful sins.

5. God hardens hearts by withdrawing restraining grace (v. 20).

- Think of a pen held above the floor: removing the supporting hand guarantees its fall without requiring someone to throw it down.
- Similarly, God can withdraw the restraint that keeps fallen people from pursuing further evil. They then sin willingly, according to their own desires. Think of Pharaoh, of the crucifixion, and of David's census illustrate that God can determine events without committing, tempting, or becoming the author of sin.
- **For you:** Believers can experience a withdrawal of protection as discipline for presumption.

