

Handout: Joshua Lesson 6

The first ten and a half chapters of Joshua recount the conquest of Canaan in three campaigns:

- I. Central Campaign (2:1-8:29): Jericho, Ai, Bethel
- II. Southern Campaign (10:1-43):
 - A. Part I of the Southern Campaign was the defeat of the coalition of the 5 kings at the Battle of Gibeon (10:1-27):
 - B. Part II of the southern campaign the Israelites conquered 9 armies/cities (10:28-43):
- III. Northern campaign:
 1. Hazor
 2. Merom
 3. Shimron
 4. Achshaph
 5. Chinneroth
 6. Dor

Three acts of God that assisted the Israelites in the battle to rescue the Gibeonites:

1. God threw the armies of the five kings into panic when they saw the Israelites (verse 10).
2. He sent hailstones to assail and kill the enemy (verse 11).
3. In answer to Joshua's prayer, God made the daylight last long enough to win the battle (verses 12-13).

For other passages where hail is an instrument of judgment see:

- Exodus 9:13-19, 23-26: God has used hail as an instrument of Divine judgment in the 7th Egyptian plague.
- Isaiah 28:2: the Lord's servant will be like a hail storm against the drunkards of the tribe of Ephraim.
- Isaiah 30:30: against Assyria.
- Job 38:22-23: a story that predates the events in Joshua where hail is to be "reserved" for the days of God's battles.

There were four degrees of herem:

1. The total destruction of everything living (people and animals), everything material in the city (except metals that could withstand fire), the destruction of the city by fire, and a curse on anyone who attempted to rebuild and fortify the city (only Jericho in 6:26).
2. The total destruction of everything living (people and animals), everything material in the city (except metals that could withstand fire), and the destruction of the city by fire (only Jericho and Hazor).
3. Destruction of every person in the city and the city is burned, but God gives the animals and goods to his warriors as their reward (i.e., Ai).
4. Destruction of every person in the city, but God gives the animals and goods to his warriors as their reward, and the city was not burned.

Only Jericho, Ai and Hazor were burned.