

CONQUERING GIANTS

The Conquest of the Promise Land is the subject of the first 12 chapters of the Book of Joshua.

The historical summation of the Conquest is given in Josh.11:16-12:24. This summation reported the defeat of the 2 kings on the eastside of the Jordan River under leadership of Moses (Josh.12:1-6). It also reported the defeat of 31 kings on the west side of the Jordan under leadership of Joshua (Josh.12:7-24).

The defeat of these 31 kings was accomplished by 3 military campaigns.

- Central 2 kings (Josh.12:9).
- Southern 4 kings (Josh.12:10-16)
- Northern 15 kings (Josh.12:17-24).

A historical description of the conquered territory is given in Josh.11:16-18; 12:7-9.

Our lesson text is part of this historical summation. We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- Josh.11:16-18 Conquered land Seven year campaign
- Josh.11:19-20 Collusion with the Hivites All the other nations were destroyed (cherem)
- Josh.11:21-23 Conquering of the Anakites Giants of the land

**This lesson will study SIX aspects of Conquering the Anakites or Giants of the land.
We will learn how to conquer giants in our lives.**

1. Anakim were the oldest and most dreaded inhabitants of Canaan.

They were descendants of Anak, son of Arba of Kiriath-arba or Hebron (Josh.14:15).

Their name in Hebrew means long-necked or giant. They were the inhabitants of the land that put fear in the hearts of the spies 40 years earlier (Num.13:21-25).

The Israelites spies compared them to the Nephilim of Genesis 6. However you must remember that this comparison came from a reversionistic heart – “There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” (Num.13:33)

Notice that the Israelites used bible doctrine to live by fear rather than by faith (Rom.10:17; Num.13:31-33). How can this happen? (Eph.4:17-24; 2 Cor.5:7; Num.13:28/ we saw descendants of Anak)

False assumption leads to false interpretation leads to false expectation leads to false application. “But God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” (2 Tim.1:7)

2. The Bible refers to the Anakites by different names given by the different nations in the land.

Moabites called them Emites (Deut.2:10-11). Ammonites called them Zamzummites (Deut.2:19-21).
Amorites called them Rephaites (Deut.4, 11) Philistines called them Rapha (2 Sam.21:22).
Israel called them Anakim (Josh.11:22)

3. The mere appearance of the Anakites along with the thought of fighting them push Exodus Israelites into Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking / fear rather than New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking / faith (Deut.1:19-33).

We will examine the Exodus generation's reaction to the Anakites in Deut.1:19-33 by the following five homiletical points.

- Let's take possession by faith Deut.1:19-21
- Let's check it out first Deut.1:22-25
- Let's retreat rather than fight Deut.1:26-28 (blame game)
- Let's trust the promises of Lord Deut.1:29-31
- Let's not follow the Lord Deut.1:32-33

Note these 8 characteristics of apostate reversionism: unwilling (26), rebellion (26), grumbling (27), lost of heart (28), giant problem (28), terrified (29), no trust (32), and arrogance (43-46).

Deut.1:41-43 says that they confessed their sin but did not change their heart or belief about the Anakites nor the Lord. Failure of faith became the testimony of the Exodus generation (Heb.3:7-12).

4. Modern psychology coined a term to describe phobic, inferiority, neurotic thinking and behavior.

They call it the Grasshopper complex. It was taken from Num.13 and the reaction to the spy report of the Promise Land by the Exodus generation (Num.13:27-33) "in our eyes".

Fear shrinks your functional world. Fear is inner flight of self more than the object or problem. It is illogical thinking to avoid logical thinking. That is why it is called neurosis.

[Here is an example] A man has a cucumber in his ear. You ask why? He says to keep elephants away. You say there aren't any elephants around here. He says, see it works!] This is part of making mountains out of mole-hills. This is half-hearted devotion when what is required is wholehearted devotion (Num.14:24; Prov.29:25) [wholehearted].

5. I find it interesting that the Anakites were left the last to be conquered in the land (Josh.11:21-22).

Maybe the Lord saved the best for the last. Maybe the Lord saved the most feared for the last to conquer. Maybe the Lord needed to spiritually train the new generation how to walk by faith before they took on their parent's greatest fears. This we know for sure – "No temptation has overtaken you but such is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Cor.10:13)

It takes a lot to be an apostate reversionist but very little to walk by faith (Caleb/ Num.13:30). The parents could have spared their children from fighting the giants but they couldn't. But their children conquered by FAITH. They were overcomers like Caleb and Joshua (1 John 5:4; Num.14:6-9; Josh.15:13-14).

Lord left some giants in the land. They moved to the coastal area (Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod) (Josh.11:22).

6. 500 years later a Philistine from Gath named Goliath become the object for the spiritual training of a young David (1 Sam.17). Goliath was a descendant of Rapha (giants) (2 Sam.21:22).

God knows how to manage battles in our lives for His glory. God is greater than your biggest problem.

We need to be GRACEHOPPER like Joshua, Caleb, and David and NOT a grasshopper like the Exodus generation (Ps.56:3-4; John 16:33).