

Unpacking the Book

#6 Conquest and Settlement of Canaan

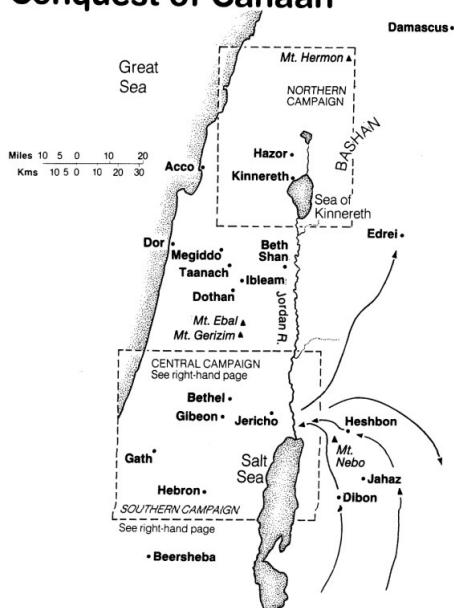
I. The Stages of Israel's Journey

- A. It took approximately 24 months for Israel to travel from Egypt to Kadesh Barnea.
- B. The debacle at Kadesh Barnea – Num. 14:20-38, Deut. 1:34-40. Note the sentence: vs. 23, 30-35.
- C. Moses' mistake – Num. 20:13
- D. The Talking Donkey – Num. 22-24
- E. The record of Israel's wanderings – Num 33:1-48 and Deut. 2:14

II. Joshua leads the conquest of Canaan

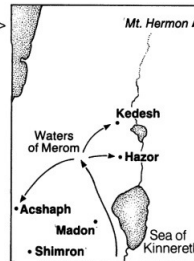
Pay special attention to the scope of their assignment: Num. 33:51-56.

Conquest of Canaan



4. THE NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

Late Bronze Age Hazor was burned by Joshua (Jos 11:13). Excavations have revealed three clearly datable destruction layers, one of which may provide the strongest evidence yet for a historically verifiable date for the conquest. The excavator thought Joshua burned the latest level (c. 1230 B.C.), but others argue that it must actually have been the earliest of the three levels, c. 1400 B.C.



1. ENTRY INTO CANAAN

When the Israelite tribes approached Canaan after four decades of desert existence, they had to overcome the two Amorite kingdoms on the Mebeba plateau and in Bashan. Under Moses' leadership, they also subdued the Midianites in order to consolidate their control over the Transjordanian region. The conquest of Canaan followed a course that in retrospect appears as though it had been planned by a brilliant strategist. Taking Jericho gave Israel control of its strategic plains, roads and roads as a base of operations. When Israel next gained control of the Bethel, Gibeon and the Upper Beth Horon region, she dominated the center of the north-south Palestinian ridge. Subsequently, she was able to break the power of the allied urban centers in separate campaigns south and north.

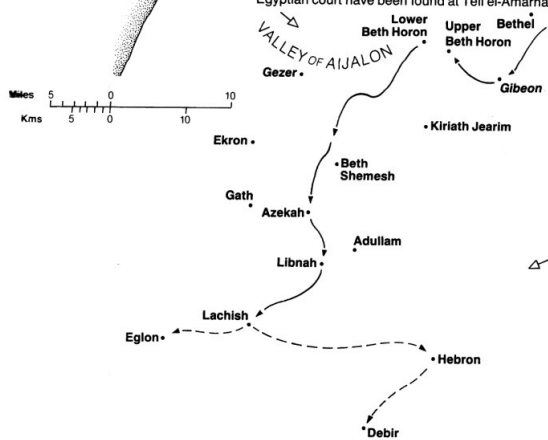
2. THE CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

The destruction of both Jericho and Ai led to a major victory against the Canaanites in the Valley of Aijalon—the "battle of the long day"—which then allowed Joshua to proceed against the cities of the western foothills.

Archaeological evidence for the conquest is mixed, in part because the chronological problems are unsolved. On the one hand, clay tablets containing cuneiform letters to the Egyptian court have been found at Tell el-Amarna

in Egypt from c. 1375 B.C. These mention bands of *Habiru* who threaten many of the cities of Palestine and create fear among the Canaanite inhabitants.

On the other hand, numerous towns were destroyed c. 1230 B.C. by unknown assailants, presumably the "Sea Peoples," but possibly including the Israelites as well. The Biblical chronology based on 1 Ki 6:1 seems to demand an even earlier dating, near the end of the 15th century (see Introduction to Joshua: Historical Setting).



3. THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

Lachish, Debir, Libnah, Eglon and Makkedah (a town near Beth Shemesh and Azekah, whose exact location is unknown) were all captured by Joshua in his attack on the lowland foothills controlling the approaches to the Judahite plateau.

Several of these towns, most notably Lachish, contain destruction evidence that might possibly be correlated with the Israelite conquest, but with Jericho and Ai, the historical implications are not clear.

(The Visual Resource Book, p.45)

A. The Military Efforts:

Took 6 years. They did not complete the job.

1. The Central Campaign:

Focused on the cities of Jericho and Ai and then the cities of the western foothills.

***The story of Rahab fits here (Joshua 2)

2. The Southern Campaign:

Focused cities such as Lachish, Debir, Libnah, Eglon and Makkedah.

3. The Northern Campaign:

Focused on the area west and north of the Sea of Galilee.

B. Some important biblical stories that take place during this time.

1. Rahab and the spies (Josh 2)

2. Fall of Jericho (Josh 5:13-6:27)

3. The sun stands still (Josh. 10:1-15)



(Holman, p. 124)

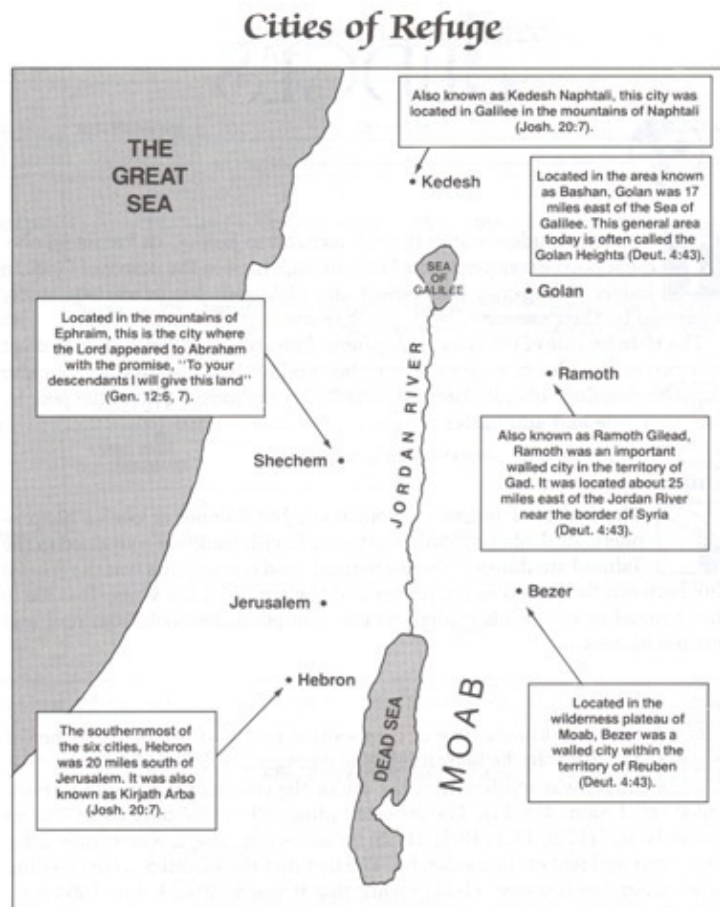
C. Towns for the Levites

1. Remember the job assigned to the Levites – to assist the priests (Aaron and his sons) with the work at the Tabernacle and Temple. See Nu. 3:5-9, 1 Chron. 23:28-32.
2. The Levites were not allocated land. See. Num. 35:1-5, Deut. 14:27.

D. The Tabernacle was set up at Shiloh. See Deut. 12:4-15, Josh. 18:1-2, Jer. 7:12

III. The Cities of Refuge

Hebron, Bezer, Schechem, Ramoth-Gilead, Golan and Kedesh



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IV. So What?

The cities of refuge represent Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 6:18-20). They were provided by God as an expression of grace. He initiated the process (John 6:44, Eph. 2:1), He provided the means (Rom. 3:25, Acts 4:19), He saves those who believe (Acts 16:31), and He keeps in safety those whom He saves (1 Pet. 1:5).

Discussion Question:

How do Old Testament historical facts relate to New Testament Christians? What is the summary point that Paul is making in 1 Cor. 10:1-6?