

## Marching to Victory: God Uses Man's Hardness for His Glory Joshua 11:1-15

Scene 1 – Northern Kings Unite Against Israel [1-5]

1. Israel's first encounter with overwhelming odds
2. Israel's first encounter with horses and chariots

**Truth: Enemies always appear overwhelming when viewed by sight**

Scene 2 – The Lord Encourages Joshua [6]

1. "Be not afraid" - God comforts and encourages
2. "I will deliver" - God does what man cannot; His promises, sure
3. "You shall . . ." - Man does what God directs; responsibility

### Four Great Lessons

1. **God sized** assignments are the only assignments God gives
2. God makes **good** on His promises {Deut 20:1-4; Heb 10:23}
3. Promises are only as sure as the **Promiser** {1 Thess 5:24}
4. The outcome of the battle always **rests** with the Lord

Scene 3 – Israel Defeats the Northern Coalition [7-8]

1. Joshua immediately engaged the enemy
2. God fought and defeated the enemy; He is a God of war

**Truth: Resting on God's promises does not mean resting from our responsibilities. We are not **spectators** but participants!**

**Truth: No one can defeat the **counsel** of the Lord {Prov21:30-31}**

Scene 4 – Joshua Obeys the Lord [9]

1. Hamstrung/houghed (KJV): to be killed or rendered unfit for battle
2. Chariots burned would seem illogical for people in a war

### Two Great Lessons

1. God desires **dependence** on Him {Ps 20:7}
2. Obedience precedes the next **victory**

Scene 5 – Israel Captures the Cities [10-13]

1. *Herem* - the curse placed upon them and especially Hazor
2. Only 3 cities burned - Jericho, Ai, Hazor
3. God left the remainder of the cities for Israel to dwell in

## Scene 6 – Joshua Obeys the Lord [14-15]

1. Joshua left nothing undone of God's commandments
2. Joshua is compared to Moses in his obedience and faithfulness

**Truth: Obedience is not selective - the hard and easy, the pleasant and the unpleasant**

### **Additional Notes**

Tell Hazor is one of the largest, most important biblical sites in the Canaanite and Israelite periods. Tell Hazor is located on the east of the northern part of Israel, the upper Galilee. Its prime location on the main ancient road through Syria to Babylon, made it an important city. This road bypassed the impossible way through the desert, and was an important link between the two strong empires of the ancient world: Egypt on the south, and Mesopotamia (Babylon, Assyria, Persia) on the north. At its peak in the Late Bronze Age, Hazor's population is estimated to have been between 15,000 and 20,000 – easily the largest in Canaan. It covered more than 200 acres. Joshua 11:10 states that Hazor “was the head of all those kingdoms” in northern Canaan. Around the time of Joshua's conquest, the archaeological record shows the city was destroyed in a massive fire. Ash deposits from the conflagration have been located all across the ancient site. Prior to the destruction by fire Hazor had an upper and a lower city, all inhabited and fortified. The upper city was rebuilt and inhabited for several more centuries, but the lower city was never rebuilt.