

JOSHUA 11: THE BATTLE FOR THE NORTH

- Joshua 10 was the battle for the south of Canaan
- King Yavin of Hazor calls neighboring kingdoms to arms
- Same pattern of warfare in the north as in the south
- Pattern: the armies will leave their strongholds to fight Israel out in the open



HAZOR: PRINCE OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOMS



- Northern Canaanite kings will come out to fight Israel because the Lord hardened their hearts to do it!
- Hazor in the north, Jebus in the south
- Hazor already more than 1000 years old when Joshua arrived



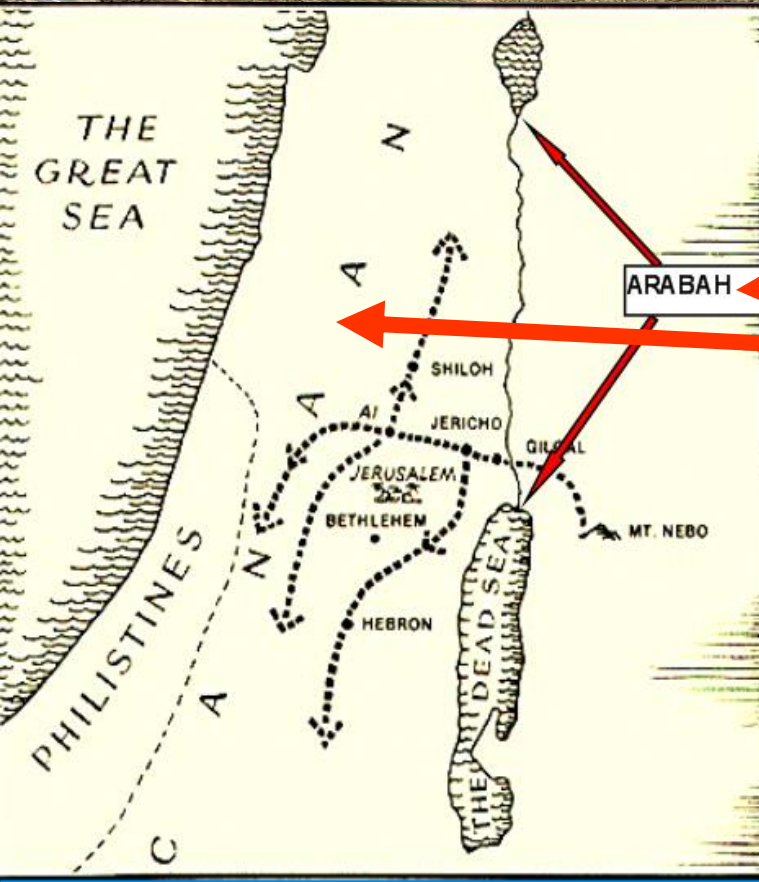
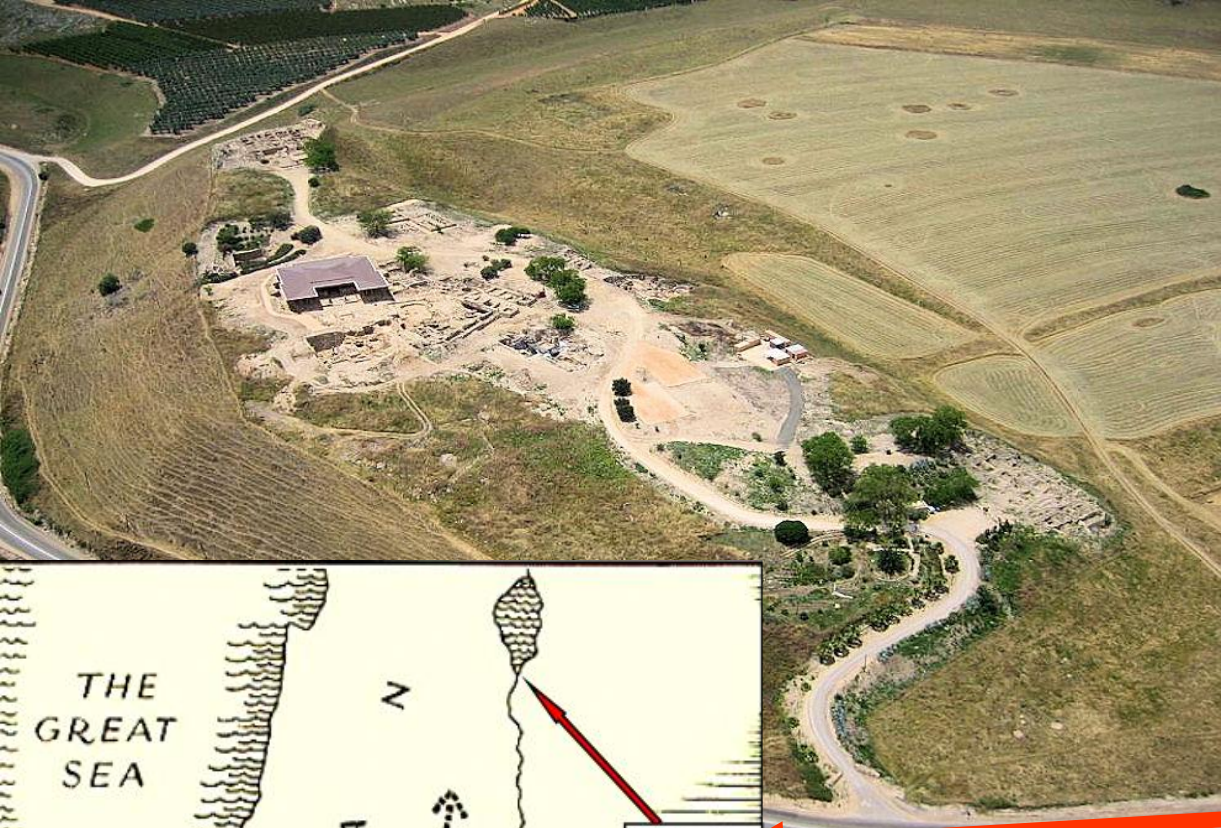
LAYERS OF CIVILIZATION

- Cities were built, destroyed, and re-built
- Stayed in the same place because of:
 - 1) major highways
 - 2) reliable water source
 - 3) reuse of existing building materials
- Layers = strata
- The deeper down the strata the **OLDER** it is



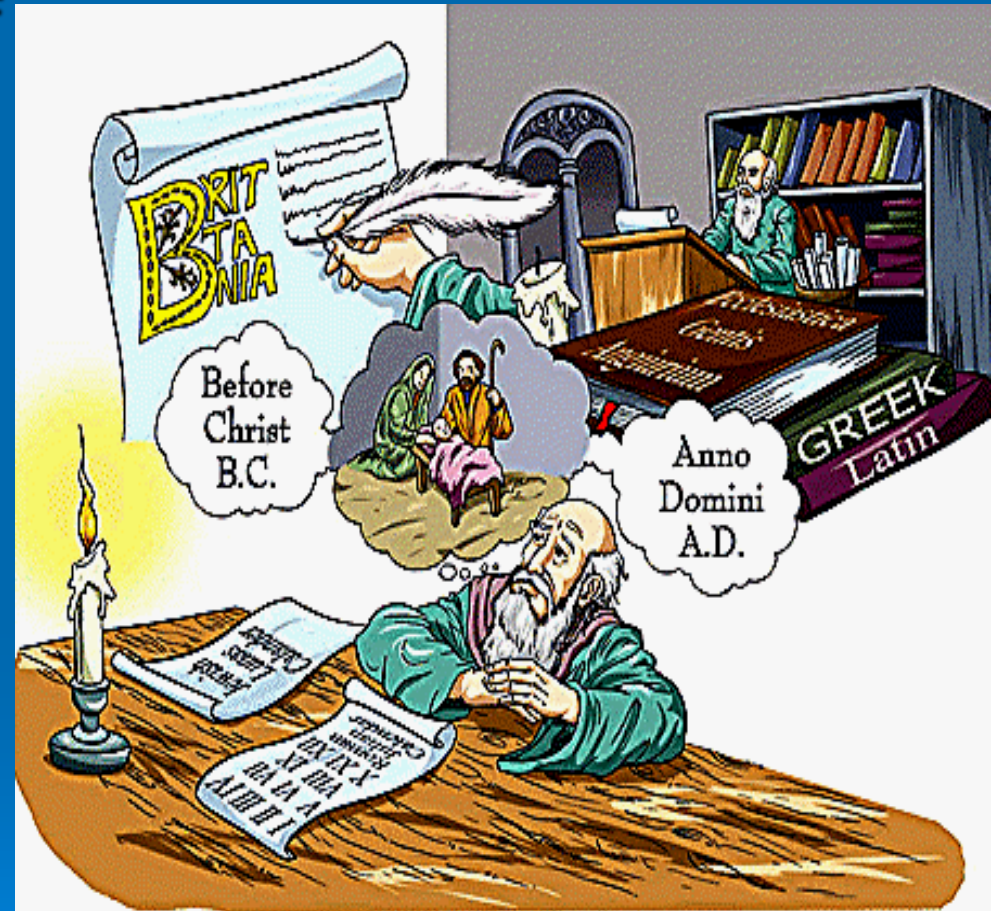
HAZOR

- Huge, vital
- Over 175 acres
- The major seat of government in northern Canaan
- Arabah
- Shephelah



LITERAL AND BIBLE STRUCTURE

- “as many as the sands of the seashore” was not LITERAL!
- Important to define the term “literal” concerning Bible Study
- Bible uses poetry, simile, hyperbole, metaphor, parable, and more
- Critical to know when each style is occurring!
- Bible written over a period of 1400 years



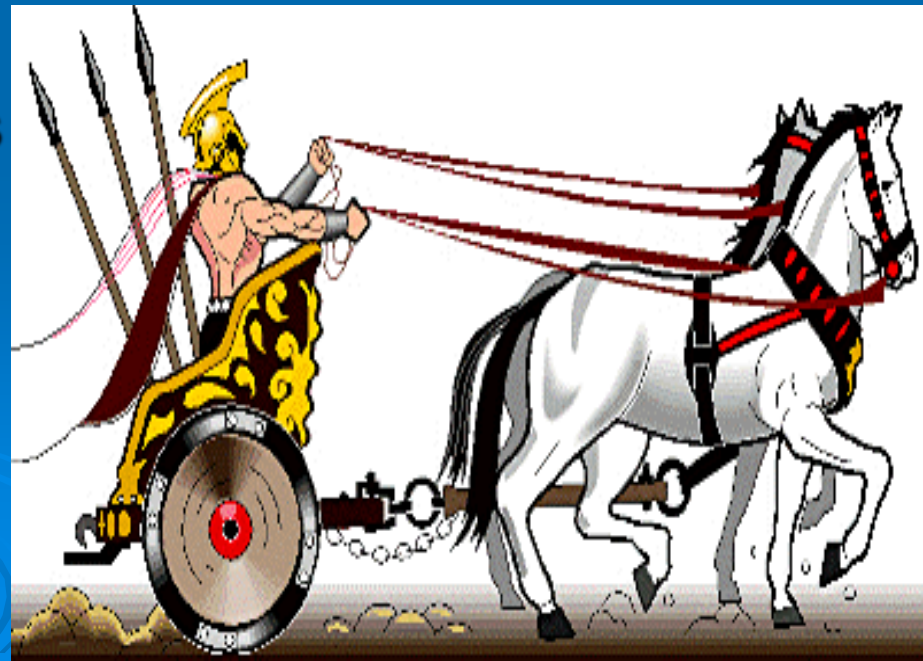
THE CONFLICT BEGINS



- Chariots were an advanced weaponry
- Northern alliance headquartered at the Waters of Merom
- ENORMOUS northern army
- “Don’t be afraid....”
- Israel had every human reason to be afraid
- This was a matter of trusting God, not of trusting their eyes

ISRAEL WINS !

- Israel routs the northern armies
- The armies begin to flee back to their home bases
- Joshua “hamstringed” the horses and burned the chariots
- Why not take the Canaanites’ chariots and horses and use them?
- **First:** by destroying the chariots and horses, the enemy would take much longer to regroup and rebuild



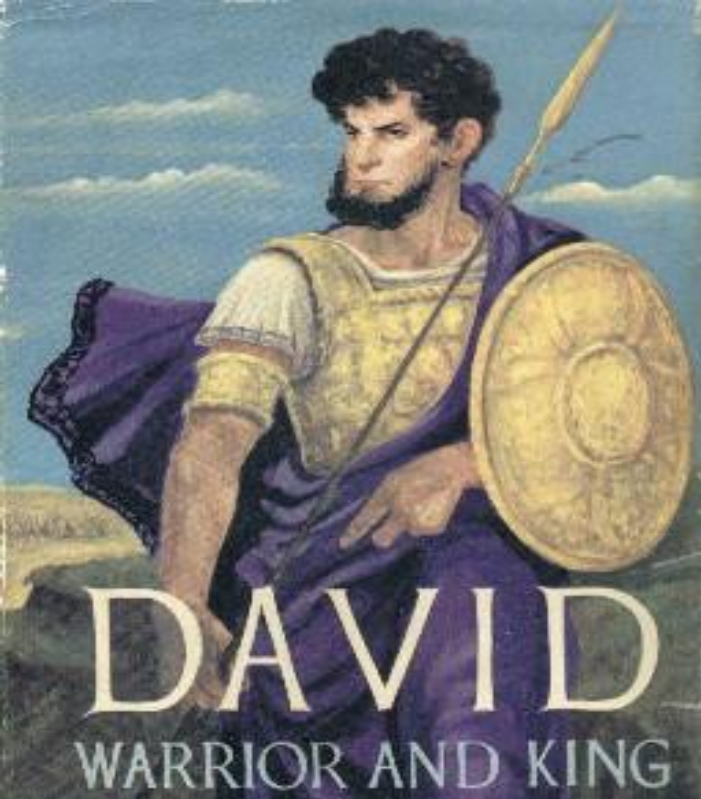
THE HORSES AND CHARIOTS WERE DEVOTED TO GOD

- Second: If Israel had acquired chariots they would have been more powerful, and likely would again NOT consult God before battle
- Third: God declared the ban upon the horses and chariots
- They became His holy property
- Law of Herem
- Holy property is generally delivered into God's hands by destroying it

HAZOR TAKEN AND BURNED



- King Yavin and all inhabitants of Hazor killed
- Difficult passage in verses 12, 13
- Did Joshua burn the cities of the other kings or not?
- The remainder of the OT bears out that Joshua did NOT follow God's orders perfectly and destroy all the Canaanite cities



DAVID, A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

- David was hardly perfect, he committed terrible sins
- Joshua's job was to conquer Canaan, and he did it well but not perfectly
- Canaanites could follow the way of Rahab, or leave Canaan, or be killed
- God's reason for this was so that HIS PEOPLE would NOT follow false gods and in turn feel His wrath of justice



RETROSPECTIVE OF THE CONQUEST

- Joshua took the whole land
- Such endeavors do not have a smooth road, or a timetable or sharply defined outcomes
- The BIG battles moved quickly, but for years afterwards many smaller skirmishes would be fought
- This IS as the Lord said it would be in Exodus 23:29
- We see this exact process in the war in Iraq
- Perfection was never an option



GOD'S ENEMIES DRAWN LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME



- God CAUSED the Canaanite kings to attack Israel!! Why?
- Reason was so that they would be utterly destroyed
- God put it in the king's minds NOT to make peace, like Gibeon did
- Is that same dynamic still playing out in modern Israel?



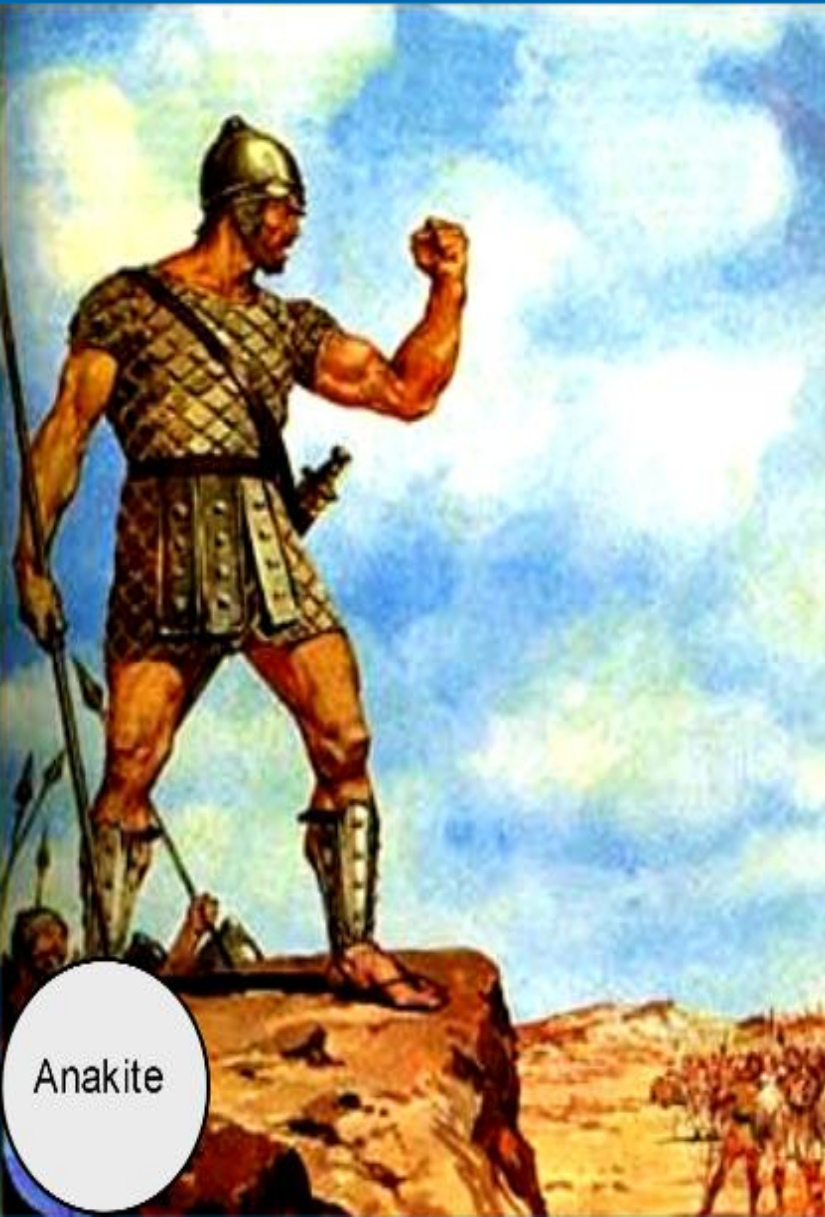
IS PEACE REALLY GOD'S GOAL?



- Perhaps the world's hope for peace in the Middle East is not on God's agenda
- Rather, God wants to eradicate false gods and the people who worship them
- Armageddon is the final chapter of the 3300 year old battle for Canaan



ANAKITES AND REPHAIM



Anakite

- Anakites associated with Rephaim
- Many survived and lived among the Philistines
- The land was not allotted among the Israelites until after the major battles were won
- ***Shaqat*** = respite from hostility, rest from war
- Settling Canaan was the next duty for Israel