

Appendix 1D, I¹

JOSHUA

When Joshua assumed command after Moses died the people were encamped east of the Jordan River in the northeast vicinity of the Dead Sea. From there Joshua sent two men to reconnoiter the walled city of Jericho west of the Jordan River, some 20 miles northeast of Bethlehem as the crow flies. Joshua's men made contact with one Rahab, a woman sympathizer in Jericho. Rahab is described only as a "harlot," and her clan relations in Jericho are not detailed; however, the fact that her residence was in the city's wall suggests she may not have been of the peasant class. Rahab, one of the four women named in the official lineage roster, appears as the great-great-grandmother of king David.²

Jericho's king was informed that Joshua men were in the city and commenced a search for them. Rahab concealed their presence while the king's men questioned her at her home. Afterward, she engineered their escape from Jericho by rope from the outer window of her house that formed part of the city wall. Before doing so, she elicited their promise that in exchange for her aid she and all her kin would be spared in any ensuing action. She was told to gather all of her family to the house and mark its window with a scarlet thread.

Upon receiving his men's report, Joshua gave all his officers three days' time to ready the people to cross the Jordan. The people were commanded to rise and follow the priests and ark-bearing Levites as soon as they saw them set forth. With an army of about 40,000 armed Reubenites, Gadites and east-Manassehites leading the way, the people crossed the Jordan onto the plains of Jericho on "the tenth of the month first;" and a new camp was established immediately east of Jericho, at Gilgal.³ Jericho sealed its walls.

Joshua had his army, with the ark in its midst, circle the city seven consecutive days sounding trumpets. Then, at a prescribed moment, they gave a great shout, and "...fell the wall under it; and up went the people to the city...." Rahab and "all her families" were brought out of the city before it and all that was in it was burned (except "the silver and the gold, and the vessels of copper and of iron they gave the treasury"). "Rahab...and house her father's, and all whom she had, kept alive, Joshua; and she lives in the midst of Israel to this day.... And warned Joshua at time that, saying, 'Cursed the man...who rises up and builds city, this Jericho; at the cast of his firstborn he will found it, and of his youngest son set up its gates.'"⁴

Joshua next targeted Ai, about 12 miles north of Jerusalem. After another reconnaissance, Joshua made a 3000-man assault against Ai, which failed. Before a second attempt, one (Zerah-Zabdi-Carmi-) Achan/Achar "of the tribe of Judah" was found guilty of secreting certain valuable spoil. Either he alone,⁵ or (depending on the source) he with all his sons and daughters, were stoned and burned.

Joshua's strategy for the second Ai assault was a rear ambush by only a part of his army, to draw out Ai's men in the belief all of the enemy was before them, and leave the city unprotected. The plan succeeded. Twelve thousand inhabitants of Ai are reported to have fallen; its captured king was hanged.

¹ This summary from the *Book of Joshua* is cited at intervals.

² (Rahab + Salma/Salmon - Boaz + Ruth - Obed + ? - Jesse + ? -) David; refer to Appendix 1A, Attachment 1, (n) Boaz, (hhh) Obed, (uuu) Salma, (vvv) Salmon; Appendix 1C, sub-part VIII, "Lineage Roster, Abraham to Solomon and Nathan;" Appendix 2A, Attachment 1, "Descendancy of Jesse," and Attachment 3, "Descendancy of David."

³ To *Joshua* 5. See Appendix 2A, Gilgal.

⁴ *Joshua* 6:22ff.

⁵ *Josephus* has Zebedias/Zachar-Achan, and mentions only Achan's death; *AJ* IV.I.14.

Hivites/Amorites west of Jericho, when informed of Joshua's successful advances, sent a humble delegation and surrendered to a covenant of peace. Their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth and Kirjath-Jearim;⁶ and they became "...slaves and woodcutters and drawers of water...for the congregation."

Meanwhile, five other regional kings had gathered forces. Kings Hoham of Hebron, Piram of Jarmuth, Japhia of Lachish and Debir of Eglon joined Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem, and they laid siege at Gibeon. Word was sent to Joshua, whose army traveled all night to reach Gibeon and won the ensuing battle.⁷

The five kings fled and hid in a cave near Makkedah.⁸ Joshua caught the kings and temporarily sealed them in the cave while his force went in pursuit of the kings' soldiers, all of whom either surrendered or were annihilated. Afterward, Joshua executed the kings.

Joshua and his army also captured Makkedah, killed its king, and left no survivors.⁹ After Makkedah, Joshua and his army went against Libnah, then Lachish, also killing their kings and leaving no survivors. King Horam and his people of Gezer, who went to the aid of Lachish, also were struck to the last man.¹⁰

Joshua and his army continued to advance, striking Eglon, Hebron, Debir,¹¹ "...all the land: the heights, and the Negev, and the lowland, and the slopes, and all their kings; not he did leave a survivor;...from Kadesh-barnea, even until Gaza, and all the land of Goshen,¹² even until Gibeon; and all kings these and their land captured Joshua.... And returned Joshua, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal."

Another opposing, wide-ranged alliance was formed by King Jabin of Hazor, who gathered the kings of Medon/Madon, Shimron and Achshaph--"kings that on the north of the heights, and on the plains south of Chineroth, and in the low country and in the hills of Dor on the west; and the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the heights, and the Hivite below Herman, and in the land of Mizpah." Their armies joined and camped together at the waters of Merom. Joshua and his army made a surprise attack, followed by a relentless pursuit which left no survivors. Returning, he captured Hazor, killed its king, burned the city and left no survivors. "But all the cities which stood by their mounds not did burn...Hazor only...[a]nd all the spoil of cities these, and the cattle, seized...; but every human being they struck by edge, the sword's, until they had destroyed them; not they did leave anyone breathing." "There not was a city that made peace with...Israel, except the Hivites natives of Gibeon."¹³ Of the

⁶ See for (a) Hivite/Amorite, Appendix 1F; (b) Geba/Gibea/Gibeah/Gibeon and Kiriath/Kirjath-Jearim, Appendix 2A. Chephirah is identified with a summit five miles W/SW of biblical Gibeon, and Beeroth, approximately the same distance N/NE of Gibeon in the vicinity of present-day Ramallah.

⁷ (a) Jarmuth is believed to have been 16 miles SW of Jerusalem; (b) Lachish, generally identified with a mound 15 miles W of Hebron; (c) Eglon, believed to have been 7 miles SW of Lachish--see also at fn. 10.

⁸ Appendix 2A, Makkedah.

⁹ To *Joshua* 10:28.

¹⁰ Blank.

¹¹ See Appendix 2A, "Debir."

¹² Refer to Appendix 1F, Goshen.

¹³ *Joshua* 11:13 ff.; 11:19.

Anakim and their cities, some remained--in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod.¹⁴

The text sets forth (a) the expanse and borders of territory east of the Jordan River formerly ruled by Amorite King Sihon, which land Moses had allotted to the Reubenites, Gadites and east-Manassehites, and (b) the expanse and borders of conquests west of the Jordan--a total of 31 kings and their cities.¹⁵ Next detailed are (a) the borders, regions and cities of the tribal allotments--both those possessed, and as-yet not; (b) the dedicated Levitical cities/areas within each tribe's allotment; and (c) designated cities where a "manslayer striking anyone in innocence" could obtain refuge from an avenger.

The sons of Reuben, Gad and east-Manasseh had honored their pledge to assist the common effort, and Joshua released them to return to their land east of the Jordan. However, as Joshua's days at the Shiloh capital neared an end, several tribes still were not in possession of land. Joshua established certain borders and then had the landless tribes provide him with a map, over which lots were cast and allotments assigned to those tribes of territory that remained to be taken.¹⁶

Before Joshua died he held an assembly at Shechem, where, for the benefit of the rulers and all the people, he recalled their history, faith and achievements, and entreated them to persevere. Joshua died at age 110 and was buried "in the border of his inheritance, in Timnath-serah/[heres], which in the hills of Ephraim, on the north of the hill of Gaash."¹⁷ Chief priest Eleazar, Aaron's successor, also died; he was buried "in the hill of Phinehas his son...in the hills of Ephraim."¹⁸

¹⁴ (a) *Hazor* here has been identified as a city about four miles SW of Lake Huleh, (see Appendix 2A for other Hazors); (b) *Medon/Madon*, placed about six miles NW of Tiberias on the SW side of the Sea of Galilee; (c) *Shimron*, suggested as a short distance W of Medon in Zebulun's allotment; (d) *Achshaph*, possibly six miles SE of Acco (Acco being a seaport city some 30 miles S of Tyre of Phoenicia's Mediterranean coastline); (e) *Chineroth/Chinnereth*, (1) an early name for the Sea of Galilee; (2) a town about two miles SW of Capernaum (see Appendix 4C, *Capernaum/Capharnaum*); (f) *Dor*, on or near the Mediterranean coast some 15 miles S of Cape Carmel (see Appendix 2A, *Carmel*); (g) *Perrizite*, Appendix 1F; (h) *Jebusite* and *Mizpeh*, Appendix 2A; (h) "the waters of *Merom*" have been associated with various Lake Huleh sites; (i) *Anakim*, Appendix 2A; (j) *Gath's* true location is unknown; separated sites have been suggested, one being 15 miles SE of Gaza, which does fit this grouping; for more, see Appendix 2A, *Gath*; (k) *Ahdod*, about midway between Gaza and Joppa.

¹⁵ *Joshua* 12:1-24.

¹⁶ Detailed in Introductory Summary following fn. 56.

¹⁷ (a) *Gaash* the hill has not been located definitively--"brooks"/"torrents" of *Gaash* are mentioned at 2 *Samuel* 23:30 and 1 *Chronicles* 11:32; (b) "current geographers prefer to identify" Timnath-serah/[heres] about 18 miles S/SW of ancient Shechem (*Aid*, p. 1601).

¹⁸ *Joshua* chapters 13-24. *Joshua* 22 has a parallel account of the conflict that arose subsequently, when the easterners unilaterally erected an altar at the Jordan--refer to Introductory Summary paragraphs between fns. 56 and 59.