Forgotten Battles of the Bible

1. The Battle of the Vale of Siddim – Gen 14:1-12
   1. Often referred to as the Battle of Nine Armies
   2. The Participants:
      1. bad guys: Amraphel, Arioch, Chedorlaomer, and Tidal – vs 1
      2. The good guys: Bera, Birsha, Shinab, Shemeber, and the king of Bela – vs 2
   3. Location: The Vale of Siddim – the salt sea – vs 3
   4. Reason: Rebellion against Chedorlaomer – vs 4
   5. The Battle: Good guys were defeated in the Vale Siddim – vs 8-10
   6. The Aftermath: Bad guys spoiled the cities and took prisoners – vs 11-12
      1. Lot was one of the prisoners
      2. Does not appear to have been a citizen of Soddom at this time
   7. Archeological evidence: All of the bad guys are mentioned in the records of Babylon as having a confederation.
2. The slaughter of Chedorlaomer – Gen 14:13-20
   1. The participants:
      1. The bad guys: Amraphel, Arioch, Chedorlaomer, and Tidal
         1. Or possibly just Chedorlaomer – vs. 17
      2. The good guys: Abram, Aner, Eschol, and Mamre – vs. 24
         1. Abram only had 318 men with him – vs. 14
            1. His servants were trained as soldiers
            2. He had a stockpile of weapons
         2. Abram was in confederation with the armies of his allies – vs. 13
   2. Location: From Dan to Hobah – vs. 14-15
      1. Dan is the northernmost point of the nation of Israel
         1. It is about 20 miles above the Sea of Galilee
         2. It is more than 200 miles from Sodom
      2. Hobah has not been discovered, but it was close to Damascus
         1. Damascus is more than 50 miles from Dan
   3. Reason: Rescue Lot
   4. The Battle: Good guys won and rescue the captives – vs. 15
      1. Abram divided his forces and attacked on two fronts
      2. He attacked at night while the enemy was asleep
         1. Indicates that Chedorlaomer probably did not realize that Abram was nearby with an army
         2. Implies that Abram’s forces were marching stealthily
         3. Also implies that Abram had planned an ambush
         4. Dan is in the mountains where a smaller army could successfully ambush a larger army
         5. Abram may have intentionally taken so long to catch up to Chedorlaomer in order to take advantage of this topography
         6. His division of his forces was probably designed to give him the high ground on either side of a valley where Chedorlaomer was encamped.
         7. Would have had to first neutralize the lookouts who would undoubtedly have been placed on the ridges to prevent such an attack
      3. Smote them at Dan, and pursued them to Hobah
         1. Abram’s army was not large enough to prevent Chedorlaomer from escaping the ambush
         2. Chedorlaomer fled through the mountains to Hobah just outside of Damascus
         3. Abram’s forces continued to launch attacks against them the entire time.
         4. Abram and his allies must have been familiar with the area in order to constantly set up additional ambushes and avoid being overrun by Chedorlaomer’s larger force
         5. He probably used guerilla warfare tactics similar to those later written of in Sun Tzu’s *The Art of War*
      4. Two possible reasons to stop at Hobah
         1. Could have been that they were getting too close to Chedorlaomer’s allies in Damascus
         2. This could have been the point at which Chedorlaomer abandoned the captives.
            1. I have no doubt that if Chedorlaomer had taken the captives all the way to Damascus, Abram would have sacked the city in order to deliver Lot
   5. The Aftermath: Witnessing to and conflict with the king of Sodom – vs 17-24
      1. The king of Sodom was forced to recognize Abram as his better – vs. 17
         1. Abram had delivered those whom Sodom had not been able to protect
      2. The king of Sodom was present when Melchizedeck came
         1. Melchizedeck was nearby king and a priest of God
         2. He blessed Abram and blessed God as the possessor of heaven and earth
         3. Abram gave tithes of his plunder to Melchizedeck in thanks to God
         4. The king of Sodom must have heard the blessing and witnessed the tithing
         5. The king of Sodom had no excuse for rejecting the one true God
      3. Abram did not hesitate to display his contempt for Sodom – vs. 21-23
         1. Abram’s refusal to accept a gift from the king of Sodom was not given kindly
            1. Abram could have come up with a gentler way to turn him down while still giving praise to God
            2. For example: “Thank you for the offer, but my God has blessed me so much that I have no need of anything else.”
            3. Instead Abram emphasized that he did not want to be tainted by the slightest piece of Sodom
            4. He also insulted the king of Sodom by accusing him of wanting to claim that he had made Abram rich
      4. Thus, the king of Sodom saw clearly that this man who served the one true God was better than himself and that he was held in contempt by this better man.
         1. This should have been a clue that something was wrong with his rejection of God
3. The first battle with Amalek – Exodus 17:8-16
   1. Israel’s first battle after leaving Egypt – less than three weeks after
   2. The Participants:
      1. The Good Guys: Israel
      2. The Bad Guys: Amalek
         1. Descendants of Esau – Gen 36:12
         2. “The first of the nations” of Edom – Num 24:20
            1. Part of the prophecy of Balaam
            2. The other nations mentioned were all nations in the region of Edom on the east of the Dead Sea
            3. “First” probably means that they were the greatest
   3. The Reason:
      1. Not given in this passage
      2. Initiated by Amalek – vs 8
   4. The Battle:
      1. Amalek set an ambush for the Children of Israel – I Sam 15:2
      2. They attacked the week and feeble at the rear of the column first – Deut 25:17-18
      3. They attacked at the end of the day when the people were tired – Deut 25:18 & Exo 17:9
         1. Moses told Joshua to fight, and then said that he wouldn’t stand on the until tomorrow
         2. Implies that the attach from Amalek was a short and sudden attack at the end of the day designed to create fear and confusion among the Israelites and prevent them from getting much rest before the battle of the next day.
      4. Joshua fought a very lengthy battle and prevailed as long as Moses’ held up the rod of God.
         1. Aaron and Hur stood on either side of Moses to help him keep the rod in the air.
         2. The battle lasted the entire day – vs. 12
      5. The Israelites defeated the Amalekites
   5. The Aftermath:
      1. God promised to completely destroy Amalek – vs. 14
      2. Moses built an altar and called it “Jehovahnissi” – vs 15
         1. Means “The Lord is our banner”
         2. Refers to God being the banner around which they rallied for the battle
         3. In former days, each division of an army carried a banner into battle with them so that the members of that division would have a rallying point to keep them from being separated as they progressed from enemy to enemy on the battle field.
         4. Without a banner, the individual members could quickly become isolated from each other and would be more easily killed.
         5. By declaring that the Lord was their banner, the Children of Israel were praising God for giving them the victory even though they did not have banners to rally around.
         6. Since this was their first battle, and they had been slaves just 3 weeks previously, it’s not likely that Israel used any kind of military strategy.
         7. They would have obtained swords, other weapons and armor when they plundered the Egyptians prior to leaving, but they would have had no training in how to use them.
         8. God probably allowed the battle to take place and even to take all day in order to provide the Israelites with some much needed military experience.
      3. God declared a multi-generational war against Amalek
         1. Commanded Israel to wipe out all of Amalek as part of the Law – Deut 25:19
         2. Began to be carried out by Saul – I Sam 15:7-8
         3. Almost completed by David – I Sam 27:8-9
         4. Finally completed by the sons of Simeon in the days of Hezekiah – I Chron 4:42-43
4. Second Battle with Amalek – Num 14:39-45, Deut 1:41-45
   1. The Participants
      1. Good guys: Nation of Israel
      2. Bad guys: Amalekites and Canaanites (Amorites)
   2. The Location
      1. Kadesh in the Wilderness of Paran – Num 13:26
         1. Near Sodom and Gomorrah – Gen 14:7
         2. The wilderness where Hagar fled with Ishmael – Gen 16:14
         3. On the border of the wilderness of Paran and the Desert of Zin – Num 20:1
   3. The Reason
      1. Israel was afraid of God’s anger over their response to the spies – Num 13:26-14:2, 14:22-23, 39-45
      2. They sought to appease God by trying to do what they should have done before being told of their punishment.
      3. Just like a child being told to do something and then, when he didn’t do it, being told to go to his room to await punishment. Many times that child will start to do what he had been told to do in an attempt to stave off the punishment that had been proclaimed against him.
   4. The Battle
      1. The Israelites attacked anyway and were defeated
      2. Moses did not go with them into battle – vs 44
      3. They were chased all the way to Hormah in Seir – vs 45, Deut 1:44
         1. Seir was the center of the land of Edom
         2. Kadesh was on the western border of Edom
         3. Hormah was on the northern border of Edom at the base of Mt. Hor – Num 21:3-4
         4. From Kadesh to Hormah is about 60 miles as the crow flies
         5. By land, it would be significantly longer because of the mountainous terrain
         6. This means that the children of Israel were chased by the Amalekites and the Amorites for at least 3 days and possibly for as long as 1 week
   5. The Aftermath
      1. The children of Israel came back to Kadesh where Moses still waited, and they wept before the Lord, but He refused to hear them – Deut 1:45
      2. They camped at Kadesh for many days before beginning their wanderings through the wilderness – Deut 1:46
5. The Defeat of King Arad – Num 21:1-3
   1. Israel has now completed their wilderness wanderings and has come back to Kadesh in preparation for conquering Canaan
   2. The Participants
      1. The Good Guys: Israel
      2. The Bad Guys: King Arad
         1. Knew about the 12 spies and even which path they took to spy out the land.
         2. The path of the spies is given in Num 13:21-22
         3. Probably an Amorite
   3. The Location
      1. In the wilderness of Zin between Kadesh and Hormah
      2. Same location as the Israeli defeat by the Amorites
   4. The Reason
      1. Arad attacked out of fear and Israel retaliated
   5. The Battle
      1. Israel asked God for victory before fighting
      2. God heard their request and gave them victory
      3. Israel completely destroyed the people and the cities of Arad
   6. The Aftermath
      1. Moses named the place Hormah which means “total destruction”
      2. The Israelites took a circuitous path around the land of Edom – vs 4
      3. The people murmured against Moses and accused him of trying to kill them – vs 5
      4. God sent fiery serpents to punish the people – vs 6
6. The Battle of the Amorites – Num 21:21-32
   1. The Participants
      1. The Good Guys: Israel
         1. Remember this is the next generation of Israelites
         2. They had seen God provide for them in the wilderness, but prior to the battle with King Arad, they had not seen God provide for them in war
      2. The Bad Guys: The Amorites
         1. Led by King Sihon
         2. Lived in the land bordered by the Dead Sea and the lower third of the River Jordan on the west, the River Jabbok on the north, the River Arnon to the south and the Arabian Desert to the east – Judges 11:22
         3. This was a very fertile land that was ideal for raising cattle
            1. Diverse range of plants for grazing and plenty of water
   2. The Location
      1. Jahaz – Num 21:23
         1. A city on the southeastern border of the Amorites
   3. The Reason
      1. Israel had stopped at Jahaz in order to ask Sihon for permission to cross through his kingdom – Num 21:22
         1. Israel had offered to stay on the highway and not turn aside into any of the rest of the country – Num 21:22, Deut 2:26-29
         2. They even offered to buy food and water along the way
         3. They offered to go through the land on foot as opposed to riding on horseback. This was essentially an offer to go through unarmed since horses were used primarily for battle
      2. Sihon received their request, and immediately gathered his troops for battle
         1. This was God’s plan, for He had hardened Sihon’s heart against Israel in the same way that He had hardened the heart of Pharaoh
   4. The Battle
      1. Not much information given
      2. The primary battle was fought at Jahaz
      3. After defeating Sihon in Jahaz, the Israelites conquered each of his cities
      4. Must have been other minor battles at each city as the Israelites attacked each one
      5. Israel killed all the men, women and children just as God had commanded them to do – Deut 2:34
   5. The Aftermath
      1. The land of the Amorites was given to the tribes of Reuben and Gad at their request because they had much cattle – Num 32:1-5, Deut 3:16-20
      2. This was God’s plan from the beginning – Deut 2:12, 24-25, 31
      3. The Gadites and the Reubenites did not ask for the land to be theirs until after they had defeated the Amorites, but God told Moses from the beginning that this land would be part of the inheritance of the children of Israel
      4. This disproves the popular claim that Reuben and Gad were somehow sinning by asking to live on the east of Jordan rather than on the west side of Jordan with the rest of the tribes.
7. The Conquest of Bashan – Deut 3:1-11
   1. The Participants
      1. The Good Guys: Israel
      2. The Bad Guys: Bashan
         1. Led by their king Og
            1. Og was a giant – vs. 8
            2. His bed was 13.5 feet long and 6 feet wide
            3. Apparently, his bed was such a novelty that it was put in a Museum by the Ammonites
            4. In comparison, Goliath was only 9 feet tall
         2. Also Amorites – vs. 8
         3. Bashan is north of the River Jabok which formed the northern border of the Amorites Israel had just defeated – vs. 1
         4. Bashan was bordered by the upper two-thirds of Jordan and the Sea of Galilee on the west, Mt. Hermon to the north, the River Jabok to the south and the Arabian Desert to the east
   2. The Location
      1. Battle began at the city of Edrei on the eastern border of Bashan
   3. The Reason
      1. Conquest
      2. God did not do anything to prompt Bashan into battle
      3. He commanded the Israelites to go north to conquer Bashan, and they did
   4. The Battle
      1. All we know is that God gave Israel total victory over Bashan
      2. Israel killed all the men, women and children in all the cities of Bashan – Deut 3:6
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Bashan was given to the half-tribe of Manasseh – Deut 3:13
      2. Moses told Joshua to remember the victories on this side of Jordan as he conquers the land on the west side of Jordan – Deut 3:21-22
         1. I’ve never heard anyone point out before that Moses led the campaign on the east side of Jordan and not Joshua
      3. Moses begged God one final time for permission to see the rest of the promised land – Deut 3:23-28, 34:1-5
8. Vengeance against Midian – Num 31
   1. The Participants – vs. 1-3
      1. The Good Guys: Israel
      2. The Bad Guys: Midian
         1. Descendants of Abraham through his second wife, Keturah – Gen 25:1-2
         2. Lived just north of Egypt and was the place where Moses fled after killing the Egyptian – Ex 2:15
         3. Moses’ wife was a Midianite – Ex 2:16, 21
         4. The Midianites knew the true God
            1. They had a priest of God, Jethro – Ex 3:1, 18:9-12
            2. And a prophet of God, Balaam – Num 22:5
         5. Joined with Balak the Moabite to hire Balaam to curse Israel
         6. When Balaam could not curse Israel, he told the Midianites to send the women of Midian into the camp to seduce the men of Israel and draw them into worshipping idols – Num 31:16, Rev. 2:14
   2. The Location
      1. In the plains of Moab just across the river from Jericho – Num 22:1
      2. In the city of Shittim – Num 25:1
      3. Balaam had looked on the children of Israel from three mountains
         1. Kirjath-huzoth – Num 22:39
         2. Pisgah – Num 23:13-14
         3. Peor – Num 23:27-28
   3. The Reason
      1. Vengeance against Midian – Num 25:17-18
         1. The Midianites had intentionally sent their women into the camp of the Israelites to seduce them into fornication and idolatry – Num 31:16
         2. 24,000 Israelite men had died as a result of the plague brought by the Midianites – Num 25:9
            1. These were all the men who had slept with the Midianite women – Deut 4:3-4
            2. 23,000 of these men died in a single day – I Cor 10:8
            3. Apparently, the Midianites were infected with some kind of STD that eventually produced a sudden death in the Israelites who contracted it
            4. The Bible describes these men as eating “the sacrifices of the dead” – Psalm 106:28-29
      2. Elimination of a dangerous disease
         1. A plague was introduced in Israel through the Midianite women – Num 25:9
         2. After the Israelites defeated Midian, God commanded that all the non-virgin women and all the male children be killed. This is the only time that God ever gave such a command – Num 31:15-17
         3. God commanded that all the spoils captured from the Midianites be cleaned with either fire or water before being brought back into the camp of the Israelites – Num 31:22-23
         4. God commanded that every soldier who killed a Midianite and every captive spend seven days in isolation with at least two baths before coming back to the camp – Num 31:19-20
         5. These unusual commands only make sense if the Midianites were carriers of a disease, and the means by which the disease was introduced into Israel indicates that it was a sexually transmitted disease that was also passed to all the males through the mothers.
   4. The Battle
      1. Only required 12,000 of the 601,730 men of Israel – Num 31:4-5
         1. Indicates that the Midianite population was being depleted by the plague as well
         2. Probably also sent in such a small force because of the quarantine procedure
      2. Killed all the males including all five of the kings of Midian – Num 31:7-8
      3. Killed Balaam as well – Josh 13:22
   5. The Aftermath
      1. The Book of Deuteronomy was written – Deut 1:3-5, 4:3-4
         1. Could have been written after the plague but before the battle
      2. Created one of the greatest moral challenges to the Bible
9. Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho – Josh 6
   1. The Participants
      1. The good guys – Israel
      2. The bad guys – Canaanites
   2. The Location
      1. The fortified city of Jericho
      2. Just a short distance West of the Jordan River
      3. City was built on large mound
      4. Had two walls
         1. The outer wall was at the top of a 15 ft high retaining wall that supported the mound of the city
         2. The outer wall extended an additional 20 ft above the retaining wall and was 6 feet thick
         3. Between the outer wall and the inner wall was a wide sloped embankment leading up to the city proper
         4. The embankment was topped with another wall about 10 ft high the top of which was 45 ft above ground level
      5. Houses were built inside the inner wall as well as on the embankment between the two walls with some of the poorest houses built directly against the lower wall
      6. Very fertile area fed by Elisha’s Spring
      7. The battle came in the spring of the year 1406 when the grain stores were at their peak – Jericho would have been able to withstand a very long siege
   3. The Reason
      1. Conquest
         1. God had promised the land to Israel and had commanded them to go and conquer it
      2. Punishment
         1. God was punishing the people of the land because of their iniquity - Lev 18:25-30, Lev 20:22-23, Deut 12:31
         2. He allowed Israel to spend 400 years in bondage precisely because the sins of the Amorites in the land had not reached a level deserving of destruction until the time that Israel came out of Egypt – Gen 15:16
   4. The Battle
      1. No hope of breaching the walls
         1. The retaining wall was essentially a 15 ft cliff – ie: there was no space behind it to knock the wall into, and removing it would still leave a 15 ft wall of dirt
         2. The base of the outer wall was 15 ft above the ground on top of the retaining wall and it’s 6 feet of thickness was supported by the mound more than by the thin retaining wall
         3. If the outer wall was knocked inward by siege weapons, there would still be a 15 ft cliff to scale before getting into the city plus an additional inner wall
      2. No hope of a successful siege
         1. Jericho had plenty of fresh water because of Elisha’s Spring
         2. They had plenty of food because of all the stored grain
      3. Marched around the city once a day for six days and then seven times around on the seventh day
      4. After the seventh trip on the seventh day, God caused the walls to fall outward from the city – vs 20
         1. The Hebrew translated “fall flat” carries the idea of falling outward to the ground as opposed to falling inward against the mound.
         2. Archaeological evidence shows that the wall fell down in front of the retaining wall and formed a ramp into the city
         3. There is a small section of the northern wall which still remains standing – this was probably the location of Rahab’s house
      5. The men of Israel went straight up into the city – vs 20
         1. The way in which the walls fell allowed each man to run straight ahead into the city without having to form columns to file through gates or narrow sections of fallen walls
         2. This gave Israel a strategic advantage since the soldiers of Jericho would have been concentrated around the gates to the city and not prepared for attacks on all sides
      6. The Israelites killed every living thing in Jericho except for Rahab and her family – vs 17
         1. Killed men, women and children as well as all the livestock as commanded by the Lord – vs 21
         2. Anyone who listened to Rahab could have lived – vs 17, 22-23
         3. The salvation of Rahab shows that even in the midst of punishment, God is still quick to show mercy to any who repent
            1. It also reveals that no one else in Jericho was willing to turn to God for salvation
   5. The Aftermath
      1. The city was completely burned – vs 24
         1. Only the precious metals and the metal vessels were saved
         2. Everything else was burned including all the grain
      2. A curse was pronounced against anyone who would try to rebuild Jericho – vs 29
         1. Fulfilled in the life of Hiel – I Kings 16:34
      3. Archaeology completely agrees with the Bible regarding the destruction of Jericho
10. The First Battle of Ai – Josh 7:2-12
    1. The Participants
       1. Israel
       2. Ai – Canaanites that Israel had been commanded to kill
    2. The Location
       1. East of Bethel
       2. 12 miles West of Jericho
       3. 10 miles North of Jerusalem
    3. The Reason
       1. Conquest – God had already commanded Israel to kill everyone in the promised land
    4. The Battle
       1. The spies suggested taking only a few thousand men to battle because Ai was a small city – vs 3-4
       2. The main thing that most people notice about the battle is that Israel lost and 36 men died – vs 4-5
       3. A fact often overlooked: The Bible tells us that Israel made a frontal assault against Ai – vs 5 (“from before the gate”)
    5. The Aftermath
       1. The people were depressed – vs 5
       2. Joshua was depressed – vs 6-8
       3. God rejected their depression – vs 10
       4. God commanded that Joshua take action to fix the problem – vs 11-13
          1. This is always God’s solution to depression
       5. The sin of Achan was exposed and punished – vs 20
       6. No condemnation for Israel not seeking God’s will prior to the battle of Ai
11. The Second Battle of Ai – Josh 8
    1. The Participants
       1. Israel
       2. Ai
    2. The Location
       1. The gate of the city faced north – vs 11
       2. City was on a hill with a valley and another hill to the north – vs 11
       3. A hidden valley on the west to conceal 5,000 men – vs 9, 12
       4. These descriptions fit a site known today as Khirbet el-Maqatir
       5. Until 1995, archaeologists claimed that Ai was at a site called et-Tell
       6. Et-Tell was destroyed 1,000 years before Joshua
    3. The Reason
       1. Conquest
    4. The Battle
       1. Joshua led the main body of his troops in a pretend attack against the city gate on the north side of the city – vs 13
       2. The king of Ai led his troops outside the city to attack Israel in the valley – vs 14
       3. Israel retreated – vs 15-17
       4. When Joshua lifted up his spear to point to Ai, the 5,000 men hiding in ambush came out and attacked the city – vs 18-19
       5. The 2 Israeli forces then attacked the men of Ai from both hills – vs 21-22
       6. All the inhabitants of Ai were killed – vs 25-26
    5. The Aftermath
       1. Ai was burned completely – vs 28
          1. Only 1 of three cities to be burned during the conquest – Jericho, Ai and Hazor
       2. Joshua built an altar to the Lord – vs 30
       3. He engraved a copy of the Law of God on the stones of the altar – vs 32
       4. Assembled all of Israel to hear him read the Law of God – vs 33-35
       5. The Gibeonites sought to use subterfuge to make peace with Israel – Josh 9:3-4
       6. Caused Adonizedek of Jerusalem to form a league of five kings – Josh 10:1-5
12. Joshua’s Defense of Gibeon- Josh 10
    1. The Participants
       1. Israel
       2. The five kings of the Amorites
          1. The king of Jerusalem
          2. The king of Hebron
          3. The king of Jarmuth
          4. The king of Lachish
          5. The King of Eglon
    2. The Location – vs 10
       1. Gibeon
          1. Large fortified city in the same gap in the mountains as Jerusalem
       2. Beth Horon
          1. City to the northwest of Gibeon
          2. On the western edge of the mountains
          3. There is a road between Gibeon and Beth Horon which follows a series of valleys connecting the two cities
       3. Azekah
          1. A city 20 miles southwest of Beth Horon
          2. On the western edge of the mountains
          3. Southwest of Jarmuth
          4. Their path followed the edge of the mountain range
       4. Makkedah
          1. Fortified city about 20 miles southeast of Azekah
          2. From Azekah, there is a wide valley that runs eastward and then turns to the south
       5. Ajalon – vs 12
          1. About 8 miles southwest of Beth Horon
          2. Due west of Gibeon
          3. A valley that the Amorites would have followed westward as they were fleeing toward Azekah
    3. The Reason
       1. Defense of Gibeon – vs 6-7
          1. A very controversial defense
          2. Some claim that Joshua should have either allowed Gibeon to be destroyed or that he should have destroyed it himself
       2. Conquest
    4. The Battle
       1. The Israelites traveled all night and attacked as soon as they arrived – vs 9
          1. Traveled 20 miles from Gilgal to Gibeon
          2. Gibeon is 3,000 feet higher than Gilgal
          3. Probably caught the Amorites still asleep before the sun had risen
       2. The Israelites “slew them with a great slaughter,” and the Amorites fled – vs 10
          1. This great slaughter was less than half of the Amorites
       3. Israel pursued the Amorites through a series of valleys to Beth Horon
          1. Distance of about 10 miles
          2. They had now traveled 30 miles from one side of the mountain range to the other
       4. Once they made it through the mountains, the Amorites turned to the south and began fleeing through the plains back to their homes
          1. The Amorite soldiers were likely in better physical condition than the Israelites
          2. There was a good possibility that they would have escaped in the open plains without the mountains to slow them down
       5. God prevented the Amorites from escaping by sending hailstones against them – vs 11
          1. The hailstorm lasted for a distance of 20 miles
          2. God kept the hail falling on the Amorites for the entire time that they were fleeing through the plains
          3. God killed more Amorites with the hail than the Israelites killed with the sword
          4. The hailstorm would have been accompanied by thick clouds
       6. Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still – vs 12-13
          1. The Amorites were fleeing westward through the Ajalon valley
          2. The moon was “in the valley of Ajalon,” and the sun was “upon Gibeon”
             1. The moon was setting in the west and just above the horizon
             2. The sun was just coming over the mountains in the east
             3. This would have been mid-morning sometime between 9 and 10
             4. Joshua was not afraid that he would run out of daylight
             5. He was afraid that the hailstorm would block the light of both the sun and the moon
          3. The sun and moon did not move for “about a whole day”
             1. Not sure if that is 12 hours or 24 hours
             2. It is not the quarter of a day (6 hours) that most theologians assume it to be
          4. This would have placed the sun at the backs of the Israelites making it difficult for the Amorites to see to shoot arrows at them
          5. Ajalon is about 7 miles from Beth Horon bringing Israel’s total to 37 miles
       7. Israel continued to pursue the Amorites through the hailstorm all the way back to Azekah where the Amorites turned into the mountains once again
          1. From Ajalon to Azekah is about 13 miles
          2. This brings Israel’s total to 50 miles
       8. The Amorites fled from Azekah through a mountain pass to Makkedah
          1. Just before arriving at Makkedah, the five kings left their remaining soldiers and hid in a large cave – vs 16
          2. Joshua had the Israelites put stones in front of the cave to keep them there – vs 18
          3. The Israelites continued to fight until the last of the soldiers escaped into the cities – vs 19-21
          4. Then Joshua released the five kings and killed them – vs 22-26
          5. Makkedah is 20 miles from Azekah bringing Israel’s total to 70 miles in one very long night and day
       9. The sun began to move again after the remaining Amorites escaped
          1. We know this because it was still daylight when Joshua hanged the five kings, and he allowed them to hang until evening – vs 26
    5. The Aftermath
       1. No one in the southern kingdoms dared to even speak against Israel – vs 21
       2. With the Amorite armies depleted, the Israelites were able to march from city to city and conquer the entire southern region of Canaan with very little resistance – vs 40-43
13. The Battle of Merom – Josh 11
    1. The Participants
       1. The good guys – Israel
       2. The bad guys – vs. 1-3
          1. Jabin – king of Hazor
          2. Jobab – king of Madon
          3. The king of Shimron
          4. The king of Achshaph
          5. The kings of Chinneroth
          6. The king of Dor
          7. The king of the Canaanites
          8. The king of the Amorites
          9. The king of the Hittites
          10. The king of the Perizzite
          11. The king of Jebus
          12. The king of the Hivites
    2. The Location
       1. The waters of Meron – vs 5
          1. Centrally located in the northern half of Canaan
          2. A very large plain with a lake nestled in the mountains
          3. Total area of about 15 square miles or 10,000 acres
          4. Bigger than the entire city of Pinson
          5. About half the size of Manhattan
          6. Or the same size as 10,000 football fields
    3. The Reason
       1. Conquest by the Israelites
       2. Fear on the part of the Canaanites
    4. The Battle
       1. A series of 5 battles
          1. The Battle of Merom
             1. The twelve armies arrived at Merom – vs 4-5

They were as the sand upon the sea

They had many chariots – the ancient equivalent of tanks

* + - * 1. God promised Joshua the victory – vs 6
        2. Joshua attacked suddenly – vs 7

By now, we can see that Joshua was not a fan of pomp and circumstance

He didn’t waste time on posturing and pointless displays of strength

He simply located the enemy and attacked

* + - * 1. The Canaanites were defeated – vs 8

The Israelites chased them in three different directions

These were the three northward exits of the plain

The Israelites came from the south, and the Canaanites fled to the north through whichever exit was closest

* + - 1. The 3 Battles of the Fleeing Canaanites – vs 8
         1. Toward Zidon
         2. Toward Misrephoth Maim
         3. Toward Mizpeh
      2. The Battle of Hazor
         1. The Israelites returned from the three northern exits and marched on Hazor – vs 10
         2. Killed the king – vs 10
         3. Killed everyone in the city – vs 11
         4. Burned the entire city – vs 11

Archaeological evidence shows that the entire city of Hazor was burned with a very large fire about the same time as Joshua’s conquest

Archaeologists used to deny this account, but the discovery of Hazor’s total destruction has now confirmed the biblical account

One of the most convincing evidences was the fact that all of the idols of Hazor had been violently smashed before the city was set on fire

This would only have been done by a people who did not share any of the gods worshipped in the city

* 1. The Aftermath
     1. Joshua then attacked all the other cities of the 12 kings – vs 12-14
        1. They killed everyone in the cities, but only burned Hazor
     2. The northern campaign took a very long time – vs 18
        1. By the end of the campaign, Joshua was “old and stricken in years” – Josh 13:1
        2. This campaign took so long that the southern region began to be repopulated by the Philistines
           1. See my rebuttal of Paul Copan
     3. None of the cities of Canaan sought peace with Israel except for Gibeon – vs 19-20
        1. This is an interesting statement, for it implies that God did not harden the hearts of the Gibeonites
        2. Thus, God likely intended to spare Gibeon all along
        3. Otherwise, He would have hardened their hearts as well to cause them to seek war instead of peace
        4. Thus we see that, even in the midst of His wrath and punishment, God is still ready to forgive those who seek Him
     4. Joshua divided the land among the tribes – vs 23
     5. The land rested from war – vs 23

1. Victory Over Sisera – Judges 4
   1. The Participants
      1. The Good Guys – 10,000 men from Naphtali and Zebulun – vs 6
         1. Deborah a prophetess – vs 4-5
            1. Israel was led by a woman because the men were too scared – vs 8
            2. They were so afraid of the Canaanites that they stopped traveling – 5:6-7
         2. Barak the general – vs 6-10
            1. From the tribe of Naphtali
            2. Commanded by God to gather an army and attack
            3. Apparently was too afraid to obey
            4. Was commanded to “lead thy captivity captive” – 5:12, Eph 4:8
            5. Because of his fear, God denied him the honor of defeating the enemy and gave it to a woman instead – vs 9
         3. Jael the hero – vs 17
            1. The wife of Heber the Kenite
            2. The Kenites were relatives of Moses’ father in law who joined the Israelites at the request of Moses – Judges 1:16
            3. Lived apart from the rest of the Kenites who were in Judah and dwelt near Kedesh-naphtali – vs 11
            4. At peace with Jabin the Canaanite – vs 17
         4. The men of Naphtali and Zebulun
            1. They were the only men in Israel who were willing to fight – 5:14-18

Ephraim claimed to be busy fighting Amalek, but it was just a few of them

Benjamin said that they were helping Ephraim

Machir (Manasseh) was too involved in politics

Zebulun offered to write about Israel’s plight

Issachar sent leaders but no soldiers

Rueben said that they were thinking about it

Gilead (Gad) said they were too far away

Dan was busy with their shipping industry

Asher didn’t want to leave home

Judah and Simeon aren’t even mentioned – probably didn’t respond

Only Naphtali and Zebulun were willing to fight

* + 1. The Bad Guys – The Canaanites
       1. King Jabin of Hazor – vs 2
          1. Same name as a previous king of Hazor killed by Joshua at least 120 years earlier – Josh 11:1
          2. Probably a grandson or great grandson
          3. Hazor had been burned to the ground by Joshua and everyone in the city had been killed
          4. This is another example of relatives moving in and reclaiming the conquered cities of Canaan
       2. Sisera – The Canaanite general
          1. Lived in Harosheth, a city near the Kishon River – vs 2
          2. Commanded 900 chariots of iron – vs 3
          3. Terrorized Israel for 20 years
          4. Apparently never married – 5:28-30
  1. The Location
     1. Kedesh-naphtali – city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where Barak gathered his forces – vs 6, 10
     2. Zaanaim – a plain near Kedesh – vs 11
     3. Mt. Tabor – a mountain just outside of Kedesh where Barak’s army was camped – vs 12
     4. Harosheth – a town due east of Mt. Tabor on the shore of the Kishon River – vs 13
     5. The battle was probably fought at the base of Mt. Tabor since the Bible describes Barak as hesitating until the last moment before descending from the mountain – vs 14
        1. This was actually a good strategy, but Barak only happened upon it because of his fear
  2. The Reason
     1. The oppression of Israel – vs 3
  3. The Battle – vs 15-16
     1. Barak attacked from the high ground of Mt. Tabor
     2. This gave him a slight advantage over the chariots as they were less maneuverable on the slopes
     3. God discomfited Sisera and his chariots
        1. The stars in their courses fought against Sisera – 5:20
           1. Not sure what this means, but somehow, God did something with the stars to help Barak gain the victory
     4. Sisera was so afraid that he jumped out of his chariot and ran away
        1. Typical of a bully – he’s always a coward at heart
  4. The Aftermath
     1. Jael killed Sisera instead of Barak – vs 17-22
     2. The rest of Israel joined Barak and defeated Jabin – vs 23-24

1. Gideon Defeats the Midianites – Judges 6-8
   1. The Participants
      1. The good guys
         1. Gideon – A mighty man of valour – 6:11-32
            1. Called a man of valour for threshing wheat in hiding – vs 11-12
            2. He would likely have been killed if he had been found
            3. He was not startled by the appearance of the Lord
            4. Gideon is one of very few biblical characters that did not collapse in fear when they saw the Lord
            5. He feared for his life afterwards when he realized that he had been speaking to God – vs 22-23
            6. Tore down the altar of Baal – vs 25-27
            7. Did it by night because he was afraid of his father’s family
            8. Courage is not being without fear but rather being able to overcome your fear in order to do what is right
         2. The 300 – 7:1-7
            1. Representatives from Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali – 6:34-36
            2. Started with 32,000 men – vs 3
            3. The chosen 300 were more alert than the others – vs 4-7
      2. The bad guys
         1. The Midianites, the Amalekites, and the children of the east
            1. A huge roving army of plunderers – 6:1-6
            2. All originally from the land southeast of Israel
            3. A total of 135,000 – 8:10
   2. The Location
      1. The Valley of Jezreel – 6:33
         1. A long valley running northwest to southeast and ending at the Jordan River
      2. The Hill of Moreh
         1. On the south side of the valley near its end at the Jordan
      3. Karkor
         1. A city of the Midianites on the east of Jordan south of the Jabbok River
   3. The Reason
      1. Oppression of Israel – 6:1-6
      2. Massacre of Gideon’s mother’s family – 8:18-19
   4. The Battle – 7:16-22
      1. The Midianites were afraid of Gideon – vs 9-15
      2. Gideon’s 300 surrounded the Midianites, broke the pitchers, held up lamps, blew trumpets and shouted
      3. The Midianites were so afraid of Gideon that they panicked and began killing each other
      4. The Midianites eventually fled down the Jordan River
      5. The rest of the 32,000 men joined Gideon in the pursuit – vs 23
      6. The men of Ephraim captured Bethbarah and killed two of the princes of Midian – vs 24-25
         1. This cut off the Midianite retreat, and they crossed Jordan to flee to Karkor instead
      7. Gideon asked for bread from Succoth and Penuel, but was denied – 8:4-9
      8. The remaining 15,000 Midianites made it to Karkor and thought they were safe – 8:10-11
      9. Gideon circled around them and launched a surprise attack from the east – 8:11-12
   5. The Aftermath – 8
      1. Gideon punished Succoth and Penuel – vs 15-17
      2. Israel asked Gideon to be their king, but he refused – vs 22-23
      3. Gideon made a golden ephod from the earrings of the Midianites and Israel began worshipping it – vs 24-27
      4. The land had peace for 40 years – vs 28
2. The Battle of Shechem – Judges 9
   1. The participants
      1. Abimelech
         1. Killed 69 of his 70 brothers – vs 5
         2. Israel’s first king – vs 6 & 22
            1. A populist leader
            2. Used grassroots activism to convince the people – vs 1-3
      2. Shechem
         1. A city in central Israel
         2. Paid for Abimelech to kill his brothers – vs 4
         3. Crowned Abimelech king – vs 6
      3. Gaal
         1. A boastful man that Shechem hoped would rid them of Abimelech – vs 26-29
   2. The Location
      1. The city of Shechem
         1. A city of refuge in the center of Israel – Josh 20:7, 21:21
         2. The seat of the national government before Jerusalem
            1. The city that hosted the first national convention under Joshua – Josh 24:1
            2. The place where the text of Israel’s covenant with God was stored – Josh 24:25-27
            3. The location of the tabernacle – Josh 24:26
            4. The city where Rehoboam was crowned king – I Kings 12:1
         3. Between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal – vs 7
            1. The valley where Joshua had the people assemble while he read the covenant – Josh 8:33-35
   3. The Reason
      1. God wanted them to punish each other – vs 23-24
      2. All about words
         1. Abimelech used his words to gain the throne
         2. God used Gaal’s words to incite Abimelech into war – vs 27-29
   4. The Battle
      1. The men of Shechem began attacking people on the road into town in hopes of killing Abimelech when he came back – vs 25
      2. They made Gaal their leader, and threw a party – vs 26-27
      3. Gaal challenged Abimelech while drunk – vs 28
      4. He also derided Zebul the ruler of Shechem
      5. Zebul got angry and told Abimelech to come kill Gaal – vs 30-33
      6. Abimelech set an ambush for Gaal and Shechem the morning after the party while the men were fighting hangovers – vs 34
      7. When Gaal saw Abimelech’s army, Zebul told him he was still drunk and imagining things – vs 35-36
      8. When Gaal realized that it really was Abimelech, Zebul mocked him and incited him to go out and fight – vs 37-39
      9. Abimelech won the battle, and Zebul kicked out Gaal – vs 40-41
      10. Abimelech then fought against the city of Shechem, and killed everyone who lived there – vs 42-45
          1. Waited until the people of the city went out into the fields in the morning
          2. Attacked the workers with two-thirds of his force
          3. Used the other third to prevent anyone from running back into the city
          4. Destroyed the entire city and salted the fields
          5. Shechem remained important but was not fully rebuilt until Jeroboam – I Kings 12:25
      11. The tower guard fled into a temple – vs 46
      12. Abimelech burned down the temple with 1,000 people trapped inside – vs 47-49
          1. Mt. Zalmon is another name for Mt. Ebal
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Abimelech then attacked the city of Thebez about 10 miles north of Shechem – vs 50
         1. No one knows why
         2. The people ran into a tower – vs 51
         3. A woman cast a stone out of the tower and fatally wounded Abimelech – vs 53
         4. Abimelech ordered his armourbearer to kill him so that it would not be said that he was killed by a woman – vs 54
            1. Still focused on words
            2. People said that he was killed by a woman anyway – II Sam 11:21
      2. God’s punishment was accomplished – vs 56-57
3. Civil War in Gibeah – Judges 20
   1. The Participants
      1. The good guys: 11 tribes of Israel
         1. 400,000 men – vs 2
      2. The bad guys: the tribe of Benjamin
         1. 26,000 men – vs 15
         2. 700 of them were left handed marksmen – vs 16
         3. This is the account of how Benjamin lost its statehood among the tribes of Israel
   2. The Reason
      1. Levite travelling through Gibeah was accosted and gave his concubine to the men of Gibeah to save his own life – 19:22-25
      2. The men of Gibeah killed the Levite’s concubine – 19:26-28
      3. The Levite cut up his concubine and sent a piece to each tribe 19:29-30
      4. All the tribes except Benjamin gathered together to demand an explanation – 20:1-3
      5. The Levite recounted his story but left out his guilt in giving away his concubine – 4-7
         1. Notice that the Bible refers to him as “the husband of the woman that was slain”
         2. We consider a concubine to have a lower legal status than a wife
         3. In the Bible, the concubine held the same legal position as a common law wife in our day
         4. There is no mention of concubines in the law indicating that God did not condone the practice
         5. However, this verse gives us God’s opinion that a concubine has the same legal status as a wife, and that the husband of a concubine owes her the same duties that he would owe to a wife
      6. The men of Israel ordered Benjamin to hand over the men of Gibeah for punishment – 12-13
      7. Benjamin decided to fight instead – 14
   3. The Location
      1. Gibeah
         1. Centrally located within the tribe of Benjamin
      2. Mizpeh
         1. Major gathering place for the tribes
   4. The Battle
      1. God said that Judah should lead the charge – vs 18
      2. After two days of battle, Benjamin had killed 40,000 Israelites – vs 20-25
      3. Israel retreated to Bethel and asked God if they should continue the fight – vs 26-28
         1. God said to continue
         2. It is interesting that the Bible mentions Phinehas being at Bethel
         3. Phinehas was very old by this time, but he was present throughout all the battles of Joshua
         4. He may have given the Israelites the strategy that they used to defeat Benjamin
         5. The presence of Phinehas shows that the events of this chapter took place early in the time of the Judges in spite of being written at the end of the book
      4. Israel launched another attack using the same strategy that was used against Ai – vs 29-46
         1. They sent a portion of their men to hide in the fields behind the city
         2. The main body then attacked and retreated as before
         3. The men hidden in the fields then attacked the city and burned it
         4. When they saw the smoke, the main force stopped retreating and attacked the Benjamites again
         5. The men attacking the city joined the attack from behind
         6. I think that this was the influence of Phinehas who was at Ai with Joshua
      5. Benjamin lost no more than 900 men in the first two days of battle compared to Israel’s loss of 40,000 men
         1. Benjamin had an army of 26,000 men – vs 15
         2. This account uses round numbers for troop strength – compare vs 35 with vs 46
         3. 26,000 could mean as many as 26,500
         4. 25,100 were killed on the third day of battle
         5. 600 survived all three battles
         6. Giving a total of 25,700 who were alive at the beginning of the third day of battle
         7. This is within the range which would be rounded off at 26,000
         8. Thus, Benjamin would have lost as few as 0 men in the first two days of battle or as many as 900, but no more.
      6. The 600 survivors fled to Rimmon and hid there for 4 months – vs 47
   5. The Aftermath – Judges 21
      1. Israel destroyed all the cities of Benjamin and everyone in the tribe of Benjamin except for the 600 who were hiding at Rimmon – 20:48
      2. Israel came up with a plan for saving Benjamin from extinction
         1. All of Israel had sworn not to give any of their daughters to the men of Benjamin – vs 1
         2. The men of Jabeshgilead committed a capital offense by not taking part in the battle – vs 6, 8-9
         3. Israel killed everyone in Jabeshgilead except the unmarried women – vs 10-12
         4. The 400 unmarried women from Jabeshgilead were given to the men of Benjamin to be their wives – vs 13-14
         5. There were still 200 Benjamites without wives
         6. The elders instructed the Benjamites to take wives from any daughters of Israel that chose to dance in the fields during the upcoming feast – vs 19-21
            1. Dancing was a voluntary activity
            2. The daughters most likely knew that the men of Benjamin would be there and that they were volunteering to be chosen as wives for them
            3. The complaint from the fathers and brothers in vs 22 was a complaint that they may have been guilty of violating their oath not a complaint that their daughters had been stolen
      3. Ehud, the left handed Judge, was likely one of the Benjamites who escaped to Rimmon – Judges 3:15
         1. His assassination of Eglon was about 7 years after the civil war with Benjamin
         2. Ehud’s tribe may have been the reason that Eglon was willing to meet with him privately
         3. Eglon probably thought that Ehud was going to pledge the service of the 600 remaining Benjamites in retaliation against the rest of Israel
      4. Because Judah led the conquest of Benjamin. The land of the tribe of Benjamin thus became Judah’s by right of conquest
         1. Benjamin was saved as a tribe, but they were subject to Judah from this time forward.
4. The Loss of the Ark of the Covenant – I Sam 4
   1. The Participants – vs 1
      1. The good guys: Israel
      2. The bad guys the Philistines
   2. The Reason
      1. Rebellion on Israel’s part
      2. Israel had apparently been servants to the Philistines prior to this battle – vs 9
   3. The Location – vs 1
      1. Ebenezer and Aphek
         1. Neither location is known today
   4. The Battle
      1. Israel lost 4,000 men in the first day of battle – vs 2
      2. They sent for the Ark of the Covenant as a good luck charm – vs 3-5
         1. Israel was worshipping idols at this time – I Sam 7:3
         2. They brought the Ark of the Covenant as if they expected God to bless them in spite of their wickedness
      3. The presence of the Ark inspired the Philistines to fight harder – vs 6-9
         1. The Philistines had a greater respect for God than the Israelites
         2. They knew of His power, and they feared Him
      4. The Philistines won the battle and captured the Ark – vs 10-11
         1. Israel lost 30,000 men
         2. Eli’s sons were killed also
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Eli died – vs 14-18
      2. God humiliated Dagon and plagued the Philistines – I Sam 5 & 6
         1. The Philistines knew of God and feared Him so much that if Israel had been openly serving God, the Philistines would likely never have oppressed them in the first place – I Sam 6:6
      3. 20 years later, Israel repented of their idolatry and God defeated the Philistines in battle – I Sam 7:2, 6-10
5. Victory at Michmash – I Sam 13-14
   1. The Participants
      1. The good guys
         1. Israel
            1. Started out with 3,000 men – 13:2
            2. 2400 deserted out of fear – 13:6-8, 15
            3. No swords or spears to fight with – 19:22
         2. Saul
            1. Newly elected king
            2. Chosen to be king because of his strategic prowess
            3. Foolishly commanded that no one eat before or during the battle – 14:24
            4. Reluctant to fight – 14:2, 16-20
         3. Jonathan
            1. Had already defeated a garrison of the Philistines with his 1,000 men (Saul took credit) – 13:3
            2. Impatient for battle – 14:1
      2. The bad guys
         1. The Philistines – 13:5
         2. 30,000 chariots
         3. 6,000 horsemen
         4. Foot soldiers without number
   2. The Reason
      1. Joshua’s defeat of a Philistine garrison – 13:3
      2. The Philistines ruled Israel at this time
   3. The Location
      1. Michmash
         1. Camp of the Philistines
         2. A hill surrounded on three sides by mountains with steep cliffs
         3. Only 3 passages for an army to approach
      2. Gibeah
         1. Camp of the Israelites
         2. Across the valley to the south of Michmash
      3. Bozez & Seneh – 14:4
         1. 2 cliffs on either side of the valley between Gibeah and Michmash
         2. Bozez was the northern cliff and Seneh was the southern cliff
   4. The Battle
      1. Jonathan’s Battle
         1. Jonathan decided to just trust God for a victory – 14:6-10
         2. Climbed down Seneh into the valley and got the attention of the Philistines on top of Bozez – 14:11
         3. Instead of commanding him to halt, the Philistines mocked him and dared him to climb up to them – 14:11-12
         4. Jonathan climbed the cliff Bozez and began killing – 14:13
         5. He and his armor bearer killed 20 men – vs 14
      2. God’s Battle
         1. After Jonathan’s initial attack, God sent an earthquake into the camp of the Philistines – 14:15
         2. The Philistine were so afraid that they trampled each other in their haste to retreat – 14:16
      3. Saul’s Battle
         1. Reluctant to fight when he saw the enemy retreating
         2. Decided instead to find out who was missing – 14:17
         3. Then wanted make sure his good luck charm was with him – 14:18
         4. When the noise of the Philistine retreat grew too loud, he finally decided to join the battle – 14:19-20
         5. By the time he arrived, the Philistines were already killing each other – 14:20
      4. Israel United in Battle
         1. The Israelites who had been collaborating with the Philistines turned against them – 14:21
         2. The Israelites who were hiding in caves came out to fight the fleeing Philistines – 14:22
      5. Saul’s Failure
         1. The Philistines managed to regroup at Aijalon – 14:31
         2. The battle stopped because the people were too weak from hunger to continue the fight
            1. Saul had commanded that no one eat anything until the evening – 14:24
            2. Jonathan said that the command was foolish – 14:25-29
            3. Jonathan said that if Saul had not given this command, then there would have been a greater victory – 14:30
            4. The people were so hungry, that when evening came, they didn’t even take the time to cook their food before eating – 14:32
         3. Saul wanted to keep fighting during the night, and the people were willing – 14:36
         4. God didn’t answer Saul when he asked a foolish question – 14:37
         5. Saul chose to vent his anger by sentencing Jonathan to death – 14:38-44
         6. The people refused to allow Saul to kill Jonathan – 14:45
         7. Saul was so frustrated that he left the battle and allowed the Philistines to escape – 14:46
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Saul fought many more battles to deliver Israel from her enemies – 14:47
      2. There was war against the Philistines for all of Saul’s reign – 14:52
      3. Saul’s determination to kill Jonathan was probably the reason that Jonathan befriended David and helped him escape from Saul
6. David and Goliath – I Sam 17
   1. The participants
      1. The Israelites
         1. A very large army of at least 210,000 – I Sam 15:4
         2. A corps of mighty warriors – I Sam 14:52
         3. About 25 years after Saul’s first war with the Philistines
      2. The Philistines
         1. Likely an equal number of men since the two armies are locked in a stalemate for 40 days – I Sam 17:3 & 16
         2. Emboldened by Saul’s failure to completely defeat them – I Sam 14:52
         3. Had their own corps of mighty warriors who were giants
      3. Goliath – 17:4-10
         1. 9 feet and 4 inches tall – vs. 4
            1. Average cubit length is 18”
            2. Average span width is 4”
         2. Very strong
            1. Coat of mail weighed 156 pounds and 4 ounces – vs 5
            2. The head of his spear weighed 31 pounds 4 ounces – vs 7
         3. Probably a descendant of the Anakims
            1. Goliath was from Gath – vs 4
            2. There were Anakims left in Gath after the conquest – Josh 11:22
      4. David
         1. Youngest son of Jesse – vs 14
         2. Left Saul to tend the sheep while his brothers fought – vs 15
         3. A youth – vs 33 &42
         4. Had already proven to be a man of valor – vs 34-36
            1. God proved to David that He could give him great victories before bringing him to the battle
         5. Already as large as Saul – vs 38-39
            1. Saul’s armour fit properly, but David rejected it because he hadn’t “proven” it or hadn’t practiced with it
            2. David didn’t want to go into battle with weapons and armour that were unfamiliar to him
         6. Had a proper sense of honor – vs 26
            1. Those who stand firm in defense of God’s honor are often considered prideful by those who do not – vs 28
            2. Because David **behaved** better than others, his brother accused him of **thinking** that he was better than others
   2. The Reason
      1. No particular reason given
   3. The Location – I Sam 17:1-3
      1. Shochoh – The Philistine camp
         1. About 7 miles from Gath and 10 miles from Ekron
         2. About 15 miles from Jerusalem
         3. Near the border between Israel and Philistia
         4. A mountain on the south side of the Valley of Elah
      2. The Valley of Elah
         1. A very large valley half a mile across
         2. Large enough that both armies would have fit within the valley with room to spare
         3. Goliath would have seen David coming from a long way off
            1. This is why both David and Goliath are said to have drawn near to each other before Goliath recognized that David was just a youth
            2. At first, Goliath would have just seen a large man coming to him from across the half mile wide valley
         4. A major highway ran through the Valley of Elah to Jerusalem
         5. Mountains on both the north and the south side of the valley
   4. The Battle
      1. Both armies would descend into the valley to fight and then retreat back to the mountains – vs 19
      2. The location created a perfect stalemate with neither side able to successfully charge or outflank the other
         1. The half-mile of distance between the two mountains meant that archers in the mountains were able to shoot just under halfway across the field of battle
         2. This would have created a zone in the center where the 2 armies could fight while either side could quickly retreat back to the protection of the archers if they started losing the battle
      3. Every day, the Philistines proposed to end the stalemate through a one-on-one battle of champions – vs. 8-10
      4. After 40 days of battle, David came down the road from Jerusalem and arrived just as the Israelites were descending into the valley for another charge – vs 20-21
      5. As the men returned, David found his brothers just as Goliath issued another challenge – vs 22-23
      6. David asked what the reward would be for the one who kills Goliath – vs 26-30
         1. Probably trying to encourage one of his brothers to take on Goliath
         2. When he was rebuked by his brother, he turned to another group of soldiers to ask the same question
         3. If he had been asking with the intent of defeating Goliath himself and claiming the reward, he would not have asked multiple groups of soldiers about the reward
         4. David did not volunteer himself until he was brought to Saul at which point, the fact that no one else would fight Goliath was abundantly evident – vs 31-32
      7. David went out to meet Goliath and answer his challenge – vs 40-42
      8. David won in order to prove “that there is a God in Israel” – 43-50
         1. Purpose of the story was not to teach that God helps the underdog
      9. The Philistines fled westward through the valley to Gath and Ekron – vs 51-52
      10. The Israelites attacked the fleeing Philistines all the way back to Ekron
   5. The Aftermath
      1. David and Jonathan became friends – I Sam 18:1
      2. David became Saul’s general – 18:5
      3. Saul became jealous – 18:8
7. David Defeats the Philistines
   1. The Participants – II Sam 5:17
      1. Israelites
      2. Philistines
   2. The Reason
      1. Philistines sought to defeat the new king before he had solidified the nation around him – II Sam 5:17
      2. David had just succeeded in uniting the kingdom after seven years of civil war between David and Ishbosheth – II Sam 3:1, II Sam 5:3
   3. The Location
      1. The Valley of Rephaim
         1. Means the valley of the giants
         2. A valley connecting Jerusalem with the Valley of Elah
         3. Begins on the Northwest side of Jerusalem and flows South to Elah
      2. The hold
         1. May have been a reference to the fort on Mt. Zion – II Sam 5:7 & 9
            1. Mt. Zion is a hill in Jerusalem on the eastern slope of Mt. Moriah
            2. When the Bible says that David “went down into the hold” it could be describing David descending from Mt. Moriah into the fortress of Mt. Zion in preparation for a siege
         2. More likely a reference to the cave of Adullam – II Sam 23:13-14, I Chron 11:15-16
            1. The cave of Adullam was on the south side of the Valley of Elah near where Elah meets Rephaim
      3. Baalperazim
         1. South of Jerusalem on the east side of the Valley of Rephaim
   4. The Battle
      1. Two separate battles
      2. First Battle - Philistines camped in Valley of Rephaim – II Sam 5:18
         1. David prayed for direction – II Sam 5:19
         2. God said to attack, and David attacked – II Sam 5:20
         3. The Philistines retreated – II Sam 5:21
      3. Second Battle – Again in Valley of Rephaim – II Sam 5:22
         1. David prayed for direction again – II Sam 5:23
         2. God said to attack the Philistines from behind – II Sam 5:23-24
         3. David chased the Philistines north to Geba – II Sam 5:25
         4. Continued the pursuit westward toward Gazer
      4. David’s mighty men
         1. It was during this time that David’s three mighty men brought him water from the well of Bethlehem – II Sam 23:13-16, I Chron 11:15-19
   5. The Aftermath
      1. This battle is what made David world famous – I Chron 14:17
8. David’s Defeat of the Ammonites
   1. The Participants
      1. Israel
         1. Led by Joab, David’s General – I Chron 19:8
         2. Did not have any chariots at this time
            1. The first mention of Israel owning chariots comes after David’s final defeat of Syria in II Sam 8
      2. Ammonites – I Chron 19:7
      3. Syrians
         1. 32,000 chariots – I Chron 19:7
   2. The Reason
      1. The king of Ammon died, and David sent servants bearing his condolences – I Chron 19:1-2
      2. The new king, Hanun, was told that the servants were sent as spies – I Chron 19:3
      3. Hanun mistreated David’s servants – I Chron 19:4
      4. David heard about it and despised the Ammonites – I Chron 19:5
      5. The Ammonites didn’t like being despised by David, so they hired an army to attack him – I Chron 19:6-7
   3. The Location
      1. Medeba – I Chron 19:7
         1. A city next to a large plain on the eastern border of Rueben
         2. This is one of the plains that convinced the Ruebenites to ask for land on the east side of Jordan.
         3. It is mostly flat pasture land where an army of chariots would have the greatest advantage.
      2. Rabbah – II Sam 11:1
         1. Capital city of Ammon
         2. A large, steep hill surrounded by plains and small foothills
         3. Very well fortified and easy to defend
         4. Shaped like a capital L
         5. Known today as the Citadel of Aman
   4. The Battle
      1. The Battle of Medeba
         1. Joab marched to Medeba only to find that he was trapped between two enemy forces – I Chron 19:9-10
         2. Joab realized that the battle was hopeless
            1. On one side, he was facing a fortified city with archers on high ground
            2. At the same time, he was being attacked from the rear by chariots in the open plain
            3. It was not humanly possible for Israel to be victorious
         3. Joab decided to trust God and fight anyway – I Chron 19:10-13
            1. He split his force in two
            2. Took the best fighters and turned to face the onslaught of chariots
            3. His brother took the rest of men and attacked the city
         4. God provided a miraculous victory – I Chron 19:14-15
            1. Joab’s foot soldiers defeated the chariots of Syria and forced them to retreat
            2. The Ammonites also retreated out of fear
      2. The Battle of Rabbah
         1. After defeating the Syrians, David sent Joab back to Ammon to destroy the Ammonites – I Chron 20:1
         2. Rabbah was too strong to defeat in open battle, so Joab laid a siege against it – II Sam 11:1
         3. It was during this siege that David committed adultery with Bathsheba – II Sam 11:2
         4. David ordered Joab to allow Uriah to die in battle – II Sam 11:15
         5. Joab sent Uriah and several other men to attack the city at its most defensible point – II Sam 11:16
            1. Probably the east side of the city where archers from the walls could shoot at the attackers from two different angles
         6. Uriah and the other men died in the attack – II Sam 11:17
         7. The siege lasted long enough for Bathsheba’s child to be born and then die – II Sam 12:19
         8. At the end of the siege, Joab told David to come and finish the conquest – II Sam 12:26-28
            1. A very wise decision by Joab
         9. David came and finished the conquest of Ammon – II Sam 12:29-30
   5. The Aftermath
      1. After the siege of Rabbah, David brutally killed all the survivors of Ammon – II Sam 12:31, I Chron 20:3
      2. This is one of the verses frequently quoted by atheists to condemn the Bible for advocating killing innocent people
      3. God never commanded David to kill the Ammonite survivors
      4. David probably killed them out of anger because of his son’s death
      5. The Bible merely records this as a historical event and offers no commentary on whether God approved or disapproved of David’s actions
9. David’s Conquest of Syria

* I Chron 19:16-19 & II Sam 10:15-19
* I Chron 18:3-6 & II Sam 8:3-6
  1. The Participants
     1. Israel
        1. still without chariots
        2. Led by David personally – II Sam 10:17
     2. Syria
        1. Initially 32,000 chariots – I Chron 19:7
        2. Joined by another force after fleeing – II Sam 10:16
        3. Led by Hadarezer – II Sam 10:16
  2. The Reason
     1. Syria had been hired by the Ammonites to defeat Israel
  3. The Location
     1. From Helam to Hamath
        1. Helam
           1. A city just south of the river Jabbok
        2. Hamath
           1. A city north of Syria in the land of the Hittites
     2. In the prior battle, the Syrians were defeated at Medeba
        1. A city on the eastern border of Rueben
  4. The Battle
     1. The retreating Syrians rallied at Helam where they were joined by reinforcements – II Sam 10:15-16
     2. David left the battle against Ammon in order to pursue the Syrians – II Sam 10:17
     3. David defeated the Syrians at Helam – II Sam 10:18
     4. David pursued the fleeing Syrians all the way to Hamath – I Chron 18:3
  5. The Aftermath
     1. David conquered all of Syria – I Chron 18:6
     2. Israel’s border was extended all the way to the Euphrates River – I Chron 18:3
        1. The Euphrates was one of the borders of the land promised to Israel through Moses – Deut 11:24
     3. A supposed contradiction was born
        1. How many horsemen/charioteers did David take from Hadarezer – 700 or 7,000?
        2. Solution: The author of Samuel used collective nouns in numbering while the author of Chronicles used individual nouns.
           1. The author of Samuel counted 700 companies of horsemen/charioteers
           2. The author of Chronicles counted 7,000 individual horsemen/charioteers
        3. Compare with the 4,000 stalls in II Chron 9:25 and the 40,000 stalls in I Kings 4:26

1. Civil War with Absalom – II Samuel 14-18
   1. The Participants
      1. Absalom – Proclaimed king in Hebron – 15:10, 19:10
         1. The men of Israel – followed Absalom
      2. David
         1. The Cherethites, Pelethites and Gittites – 15:18
            1. Mercenary force led by Ittai the Gittite
         2. A large host – 18:1
   2. The Reason
      1. Absalom desired to be king
      2. Possibly wanted vengeance for his exile – 13:38
      3. Probably angry with his father’s treatment of him – 14:24 & 28
   3. The Location
      1. The Wood of Ephraim – 18:6
         1. A large forest east of Jordan and north of Jabbok
   4. The Battle
      1. Absalom gathered his army in Hebron – 15:10 & 12
      2. David fled from Jerusalem to prevent bloodshed in the city – 15:14
      3. Absalom came to Jerusalem – 15:37
      4. David fled into the wilderness – 15:23
      5. He set up a network of spies and double agents
         1. Ahimaaz and Jonathan the sons of the priests – 15:27-28
         2. Hushai the strategist – 15:31-37
      6. Hushai convinced Absalom to trust him – 16:17-19
      7. Absalom sought counsel from Ahithophel – 17:1-4
      8. Hushai gave Absalom a bad strategy – 17:5-14
      9. Hushai used the spy network to warn David
         1. Told Zadok and Abiathar – 17:15-16
         2. Jonathan and Ahimaaz took the message to David 17:17-21
      10. David fled across Jordan – 17:22
      11. Ahithophel committed suicide – 17:23
      12. Absalom pursued David across Jordan – 17:24
      13. David divided his army into three companies – 18:1-2
      14. David was commanded to stay behind – 18:3-4
      15. David’s army met Absalom and his army in the Forest of Ephraim – 18:6
      16. David’s army slaughtered 20,000 of Absalom’s men – 18:7-8
          1. More than 10,000 were killed through falls and other accidents in the woods
      17. Absalom was killed – 18:9-15
   5. The Aftermath
      1. David’s army snuck back into the city – 19:2-3
      2. Joab rebuked David for shaming his army – 19:5-7
      3. David listened – 19:8
      4. David had to be re-elected as king 19:9-14
2. Abijah vs. Jeroboam – II Chron. 13
   1. The Participants – vs 1-2
      1. Abijah – King of Judah – vs 3
         1. 400,000 men
      2. Jeroboam – King of Israel
         1. 800,000 mighty men of valor – vs 3
   2. The Reason
      1. Jeroboam was likely the instigator of the war
         1. Abijah did not have enough men
         2. The battle took place in Judah’s territory – vs 4
         3. Abijah accused him of instigating the conflict – vs 6-8
      2. Jeroboam may have thought that he could intimidate the son of Rehoboam into subjection
   3. The Location
      1. Mount Zemaraim – vs 4
         1. Near the northern border of Benjamin – Josh 18:21-22
         2. About 2 miles southwest of Bethel
         3. Overlooks a large plain where Jeroboam was likely encamped
   4. The Battle
      1. Jeroboam marched south across the border between the two kingdoms
      2. Abijah marched north from Jerusalem to meet him
      3. Abijah claimed the high ground
         1. Probably marched his army through the mountains to catch Jeroboam by surprise
      4. Abijah rebuked Jeroboam
         1. For his rebellion – vs 5-7
         2. For his current attack – vs 8
         3. For his false gods – vs 8-9
      5. Abijah claimed moral superiority
         1. For staying faithful to God – vs 10-11
         2. Claimed that God was on his side – vs 12
      6. Jeroboam set an ambush while Abijah was speaking – vs 13
      7. Abijah’s army cried out to God, sounded the trumpets and shouted to begin their charge – vs 14
      8. God delivered Israel into the hands of Judah – vs 15-16
   5. The Aftermath
      1. The kingdom was partly reunited
         1. Israel became subject to Judah – vs 18
         2. Abijah captured several major cities – vs 19
      2. Abijah’s son learned to follow God
         1. This battle occurred near the end of Abijah’s life – vs 21, I Kings 15:2
         2. Abijah did not follow God for most of his life – I Kings 15:3
         3. His son, Asa, saw Abijah turn to God at the end of his life
         4. Asa then followed God “all of his days” – I Kings 15:11-14
3. Asa defeats the Ethiopians – II Chron. 14
   1. The Participants
      1. Asa
         1. King of Judah, son of Abijah – vs 1
         2. 300,000 soldiers from Judah – vs 8
         3. 280,000 archers from Benjamin – vs 8
         4. Wisely prepared for war during time of peace – vs 6-7
         5. Trained his military for war – vs 8 “mighty men of valour”
      2. Zerah – vs 9
         1. Probably Usarken I
         2. An Ethiopian king of Egypt
         3. 1,000,000 footmen and 300 chariots
         4. The leading world power of that time
   2. The Reason
      1. Zerah probably wanted to assert his authority over the territory conquered by his father Shishak – II Chron. 12:9
   3. The Location
      1. Mareshah – vs 10
         1. The last major city between Egypt and Jerusalem
         2. At the head of a valley opening from the mountains of Israel into the plains of the Philistines
   4. The Battle
      1. Zerah would have assembled his army at the wide end of the valley where his greater numbers and his chariots could be used to his advantage
      2. Asa would have descended from the mountains and would have kept his archers on the slopes along either side of the valley hoping to draw Zerah into a crossfire
      3. Asa prayed for victory - 11
      4. God smote the Ethiopians before Asa – vs 12
      5. Asa pursued the Ethiopians all the way to Gerar in the land of the Philistines – vs 13
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Asa destroyed the cities of the Philistines – vs 14
      2. The Jews brought back great wealth – vs 14-15
      3. All of Judah made a covenant to serve God – II Chron. 15:1-15
      4. Produced 20 years of peace – II Chron. 15:10 & 19
4. Ahab Defeats the Syrians – I Kings 20
   1. The Participants
      1. Ahab
         1. King of Israel
         2. Husband of Jezebel
         3. Worshipped Baal
      2. Israel
         1. Just finished three years of famine
         2. Just witnessed the defeat of the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel
         3. Turned from Baal to God – I Kings 18:39
         4. 7,232 men – vs 15-16
         5. This was about the same number that God said had not bowed the knee to Baal – I Kings 19:18
         6. It’s possible that the servants of God were the only ones to survive the famine in good enough condition to fight
      3. Benhadad
         1. King of Syria
         2. Led an alliance of 33 kings – vs 1
         3. His father, also named Benhadad, had previously defeated Baasha in a border war paid for by Asa
         4. 127,000 men – vs 29-30 cf vs 25
   2. The Reason
      1. Conquest on the part of Syria
      2. God wanted to destroy Benhadad – vs 42
   3. The Location
      1. Samaria – vs 1
         1. Recently built capital city of Israel
         2. Built on a mountain
         3. Heavily fortified
      2. Aphek – vs 27
         1. A city in the plains of Israel
         2. Chosen by Benhadad because he thought that God was just a God of the mountains – vs 23
   4. The Battle
      1. Benhadad besieged Samaria the capital city of Israel – vs 1
      2. Sent terms of surrender to Ahab
         1. First demanded that everything belonging to Ahab be turned over to Benhadad – vs 2-3
         2. Ahab agreed to these terms – vs 4
         3. Benhadad decided to change the terms and demand that his army be given all the possessions of the people of Israel – vs 5-6
         4. Ahab asked the elders of Israel if they would agree to these terms – vs 7
         5. The elders refused Benhadad’s second set of terms – vs 8
         6. Ahab told Benhadad that he was not allowed to give away the property of his subjects – vs 9
            1. This shows that Ahab was fully aware of the property rights of his subjects when he later demanded that Naboth sell him a vineyard.
         7. Benhadad and Ahab exchanged trash talk – vs 10-11
      3. God promised Ahab a victory – vs 13
      4. The men of Israel defeated the Syrian army – vs 19-21
      5. God warned that Benhadad would come back the next year – vs 22
      6. The Syrians developed a new strategy
         1. They would meet Israel in the plains instead of the mountains – vs 23
         2. They would replace Benhadad’s drinking buddies with men of actual military experience – vs 24 cf vs 12 & 16
         3. They would assemble an army of the same size and composition as the previous army – vs 25
      7. The Syrians marched to Aphek – vs 26
      8. The Israelites marched to Aphek – vs 27
      9. God promised a victory – vs 28
      10. Israel defeated the Syrians
          1. Killed 100,000 men in one day – vs 29
          2. God killed another 27,000 by collapsing a wall on top of them – vs 30
             1. The wall of the city was likely a standard double wall with space in between for an army to defend the city
             2. The Syrians would have been on the outer wall to repel any Israelites that might attempt to take the city
             3. God caused this outer wall to fall on the Syrians and kill their remaining military force
      11. Benhadad surrendered – vs 31-33
      12. Ahab signs a treaty with Benhadad – vs 34
   5. The Aftermath
      1. God rebuked Ahab for letting Benhadad live – vs 42
      2. Ahab became depressed – vs 43
      3. It was during this depression that Ahab tried to buy the vineyard of Naboth – I Kings 21:1-2
5. God Defeats Moab with a Pool of Water – II Kings 3
   1. The Participants
      1. Israel
         1. Led by Jehoram son of Ahab – vs 1
      2. Judah
         1. Led by Jehoshaphat – vs 7
      3. Moab
         1. Led by Mesha – vs 4
         2. Tributary to Israel – vs 4
         3. Rebelled against Israel – vs 5
         4. No army – vs 21
      4. Edom
         1. Likely joined only because Israel and Judah wanted to march through their land – vs 9
   2. The Reason
      1. Rebellion by the Moabites – vs 5
   3. The Location
      1. The Wilderness of Edom – vs 8
         1. South of the dead sea
         2. This path would bring them up to Moab on the opposite side from Israel
   4. The Battle
      1. Israel and Judah joined forces to crush the rebellion of Moab – vs 7
      2. Jehoshaphat recommended travelling through Edom in order to take Moab by surprise – vs 8
      3. Edom must have been experiencing a drought because they could not find any water for their army – vs 9
      4. Jehoram became distraught – vs 10
      5. Jehoshaphat suggested finding a prophet of God – vs 11-12
      6. Elisha mocked the king of Israel but helped them because of Jehoshaphat – vs 13-14
      7. Elisha told them to fill the valley with ditches to hold water from God – vs 16-17
      8. God filled the valley with water – vs 20
      9. The Moabites thought the water was blood – vs 21-22
      10. They assumed that their enemies had already been destroyed and rushed forward to gather the spoil – vs 23
      11. Israel and Judah defeated the Moabites easily and pursued them into Moab – vs 24-25
      12. Mesha tried to rally his men for an attack against the king of Edom – vs 26
      13. Mesha sacrificed his oldest son in a desperate attempt to gain favor from his god – vs 27
      14. Israel and Judah were so disgusted by the sacrifice that they left – vs 27
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Moab later joined forces with Ammon and attacked Judah – II Chron 20:1
6. Judah vs. Moab and Ammon – II Chronicles 20
   1. The Participants
      1. Judah
         1. Led by Jehoshaphat – vs 2
         2. Small army – vs 12
      2. Moab – vs 1
         1. Probably still led by Mesha
         2. No longer tributary to Israel
      3. Ammon – vs 1
         1. Previously defeated by David – I Chronicles 20:1
         2. Now strong again and seeking vengeance
      4. Mt. Seir
         1. These were the Edomites – descendants of Esau – Deut 2:5
         2. The same people who fought with Judah and Israel against Moab in a previous battle – II Kings 3:9
   2. The Reason
      1. Vengeance
         1. This battle probably took place after Judah and Israel attacked Moab in II Kings 3
   3. The Location
      1. En-gedi – vs 2
         1. A city on the western shore of the Dead Sea
         2. Southwest of Hebron
         3. Within the borders of Judah
      2. The Cliff of Ziz – vs 16
         1. About five miles north of En-gedi
         2. A steep pass along the road from En-gedi to Jerusalem
      3. The Wilderness of Tekoa – vs 20
         1. Halfway point between Jerusalem and Ziz
         2. 10 miles from each, or about a single day’s march
         3. Judah probably camped here for the night
   4. The Battle
      1. Jehoshaphat heard that the enemy was already within his borders – vs 2
      2. He proclaimed a fast throughout Judah – vs 3
      3. All of Judah came to the temple – vs 4
      4. Jehoshaphat prayed for deliverance – vs 5-13
      5. God answered his prayer – vs 14-18
      6. Judah began marching to Ziz and stopped at Tekoa for the night – vs 20
      7. Jehoshaphat appointed people to lead singing as they marched – vs 21
      8. God turned the Moabites and Ammonites against the Edomites and they killed each other – vs 22-23
         1. God probably used the fact that the Edomites had previously helped Judah and Israel in their fight against Moab
         2. It is very likely that some of the soldiers would have recognized each other from the previous battle where they fought as enemies
         3. The battle may have started when a soldier from one nation recognized a soldier from the other nation who had previously killed one of his brothers
      9. By the time Judah arrived, all three armies were completely destroyed – vs 24
   5. The Aftermath
      1. Judah was greatly enriched by the spoil – vs 25
      2. Judah celebrated by praising God – vs 26-28
      3. No other nation dared to attack Judah during the reign of Jehoshaphat – vs 29-30