

Title: Are You Nuts? - Joshua 11 1-15

Read:

¹⁻³When Jabin king of Hazor heard of all this, he sent word to Jobab king of Madon; to the king of Shimron; to the king of Acshaph; to all the kings in the northern mountains; to the kings in the valley south of Kinnereth; to the kings in the western foothills and Naphoth Dor; to the Canaanites both east and west; to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites in the hill country; and to the Hivites below Hermon in the region of Mizpah. ⁴⁻⁵They came out in full force, all their troops massed together—a huge army, in number like sand on an ocean beach—to say nothing of all the horses and chariots. All these kings met and set up camp together at the Waters of Merom, ready to fight against Israel. ⁶God said to Joshua: "Don't worry about them. This time tomorrow I'll hand them over to Israel, all dead. You'll hamstring their horses. You'll set fire to their chariots." ⁷⁻⁹Joshua, his entire army with him, took them by surprise, falling on them at the Waters of Merom. God gave them to Israel, who struck and chased them all the way to Greater Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim, and then to the Valley of Mizpah on the east. No survivors. Joshua treated them following God's instructions: he hamstrung their horses; he burned up their chariots. ¹⁰⁻¹¹Then Joshua came back and took Hazor, killing its king. Early on Hazor had been head of all these kingdoms. They killed every person there, carrying out the holy curse—not a breath of life left anywhere. Then he burned down Hazor. ¹²⁻¹⁴Joshua captured and massacred all the royal towns with their kings, the holy curse commanded by Moses the servant of God. But Israel didn't burn the cities that were built on mounds, except for Hazor—Joshua did burn down Hazor. The People of Israel plundered all the loot, including the cattle, from these towns for themselves. But they killed the people—total destruction. They left nothing human that breathed. ¹⁵Just as God commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it. He didn't leave incomplete one thing that God had commanded Moses.

Think:

"Josh don't worry about that lot. Hey there may be thousands of warriors ganging up against you, but don't worry." That's what God told Joshua. Now my first thought would be, "are you nuts, let's get out of here." But that is not Joshua's view. He calmly accepts what God has said to him and trusts his Lord. And surprise, surprise God comes through. Doesn't it wind you up when someone has the faith that God asks them to have, and then God rewards them for it. It does me. Maybe you are having trouble at school, maybe home life is hard, maybe college is just too demanding for words. And you pray and ask God to help, but it seems to be taking forever. What do your leaders say? I know what they say, they say "trust God he will look after you." What are your thoughts? If it's anything like me, you are thinking, "Ahhhhh.... I know God will look after me, but at the moment it's very, very scary." That's a real feeling, from a real Christian, and actually you can bet that's how Joshua felt to. That's how I feel right now as we go through our own hassles here at the aftershock team. So don't be surprised if that's how you feel and don't feel guilty if that's how you feel. What's the answer? Well I hate to say this, but you, like us, will have to trust your God, but that doesn't mean you have to be alone. Find someone to pray through the situation with you, just like we are, and I am sure Joshua did to.

Pray:

Lord when we are scared we know in our minds that you are there for us. Please Father help us know that fact in our very being too. Amen.

Action:

Do you have a prayer request? Do you feel alone? Then go over to aftershock.org.uk and select prayer request from the menu on the front page. Bye for now.