

Title: Stop - Joshua 11 16-23

Read:

¹⁶⁻²⁰ Joshua took the whole country: the mountains, the southern desert, all of Goshen, the foothills, the valley (the Arabah), and the Israel mountains with their foothills, from Mount Halak, which towers over the region of Seir, all the way to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon in the shadows of Mount Hermon. He captured their kings and then killed them. Joshua fought against these kings for a long time. Not one town made peace with the People of Israel, with the one exception of the Hivites who lived in Gibeon. Israel fought and took all the rest. It was God's idea that they all would stubbornly fight the Israelites so he could put them under the holy curse without mercy. That way he could destroy them just as God had commanded Moses.²¹⁻²² Joshua came out at that time also to root out the Anakim from the hills, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from the mountains of Judah, from the mountains of Israel. Joshua carried out the holy curse on them and their cities. No Anakim were left in the land of the People of Israel, except in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod—there were a few left there.²³ Joshua took the whole region. He did everything that God had told Moses. Then he parcelled it out as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribes. And Israel had rest from war.

Think:

Doesn't it sometimes seem that the world just is going mad. It's a new year, you're busy getting used to a new lesson or lecture plan. Then suddenly this project or that assignment crop up and need to be completed. Before you know where you are, the end of year exams are looming, and all that, before the guys at home pile on house chores. Sometimes you just want to shout stoooooop. That must have been how Joshua felt. It seems like for years they have been at war, but did you notice that final line; "and Israel had rest from war." So finally they have some rest. The problem is that when we do finally get that time to rest we are so used to charging around at school, college and work, that we have forgotten how to rest. Well, one of Gods original commandments included a day of rest. Is it possible, that the creator of our bodies, knew that we needed that regular rest? That day might be Saturday, that day might be Sunday, but whatever you do, there should be a day. A day where you can pause and take some time to be on your own, to be with your family, to chill with friends, to wait on your God. Make it habit now, and you will be ahead of most adults in this world.

Pray:

Lord thank you that your commandments are made for our own good. Please Father help me find that space to relax and chill with you. Amen.

Action:

Think chilling is easy? Try relaxing one day this week. Try spending a day without charging into the computer room and checking your email, or messenger. Go on give it a go. Bye.