

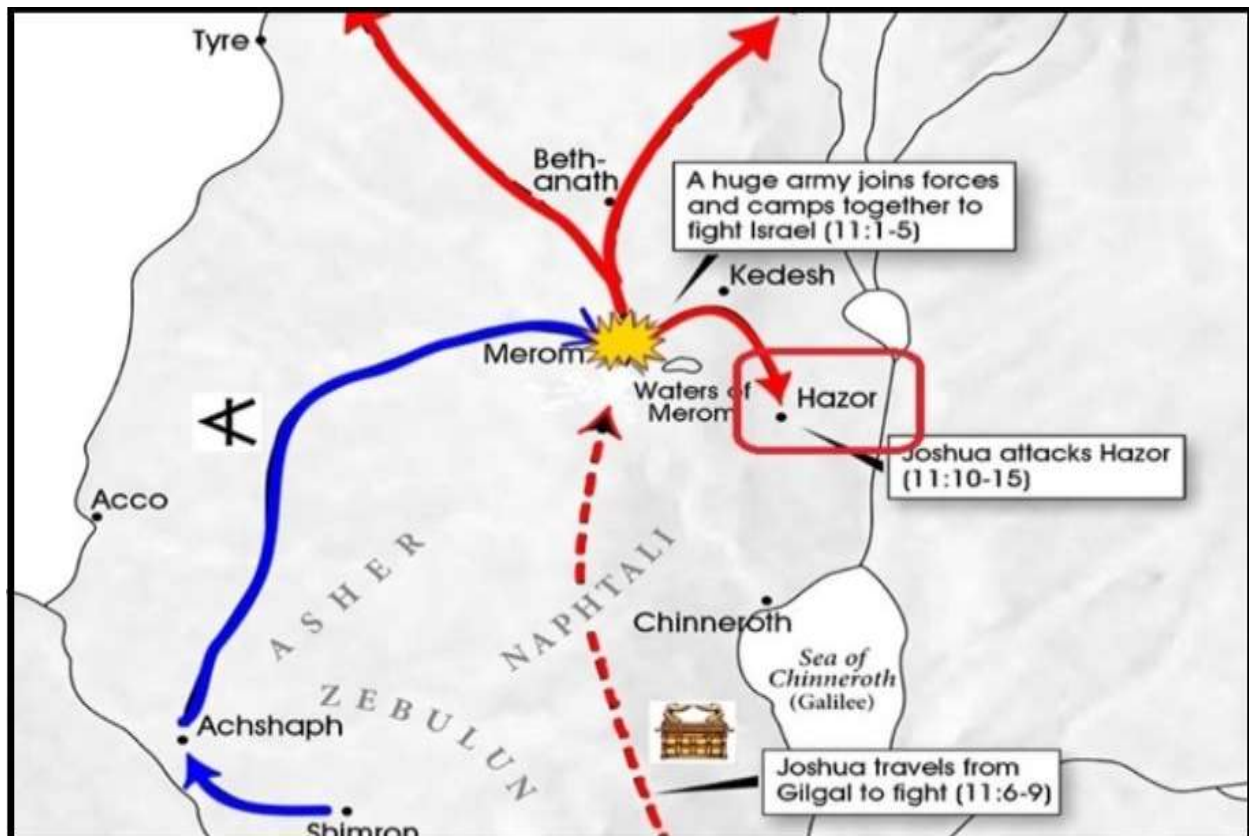
Joshua 11

Verses 1 - 5

Then it came about, when Jabin king of Hazor heard *about it*, that he sent *word* to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph,² and to the kings who were of the north in the hill country, and in the Arabah—south of Chinneroth and in the lowland, and on the heights of Dor on the west—³ to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the hill country, and the Hivite at the foot of Hermon in the land of Mizpeh.⁴ Then they came out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots.⁵ So all of these kings gathered together, and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.

Then it came about, when Jabin king of Hazor heard *about it*, he sent *word* to:

See Map 1105



Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph,

King Jabin called on many of the northern kings of Canaan to fight against Joshua

King of Madon

Madon was a Canaanite city on a hill overlooking Lake Tiberius (The Sea of Galilee)

This hill may be the location where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount.

Tradition names the location as a large hill known as **Karn Hattin** located near Capernaum along the Sea of Galilee

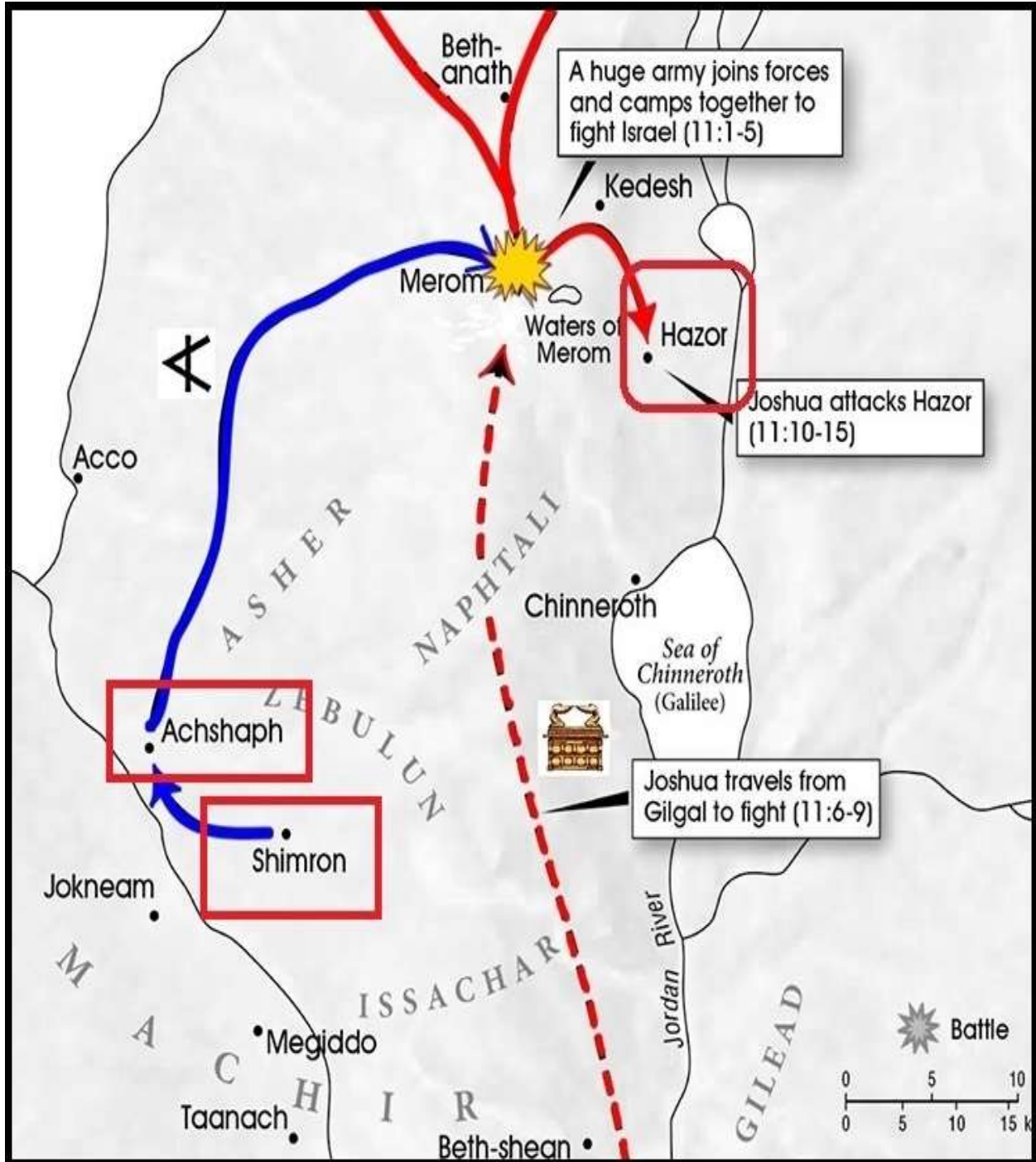
There is a modern church nearby called the Church of the Beatitudes

See pic 1110



The cities of Shimron and Achshaph were west of the Sea of Galilee.

See map 1115



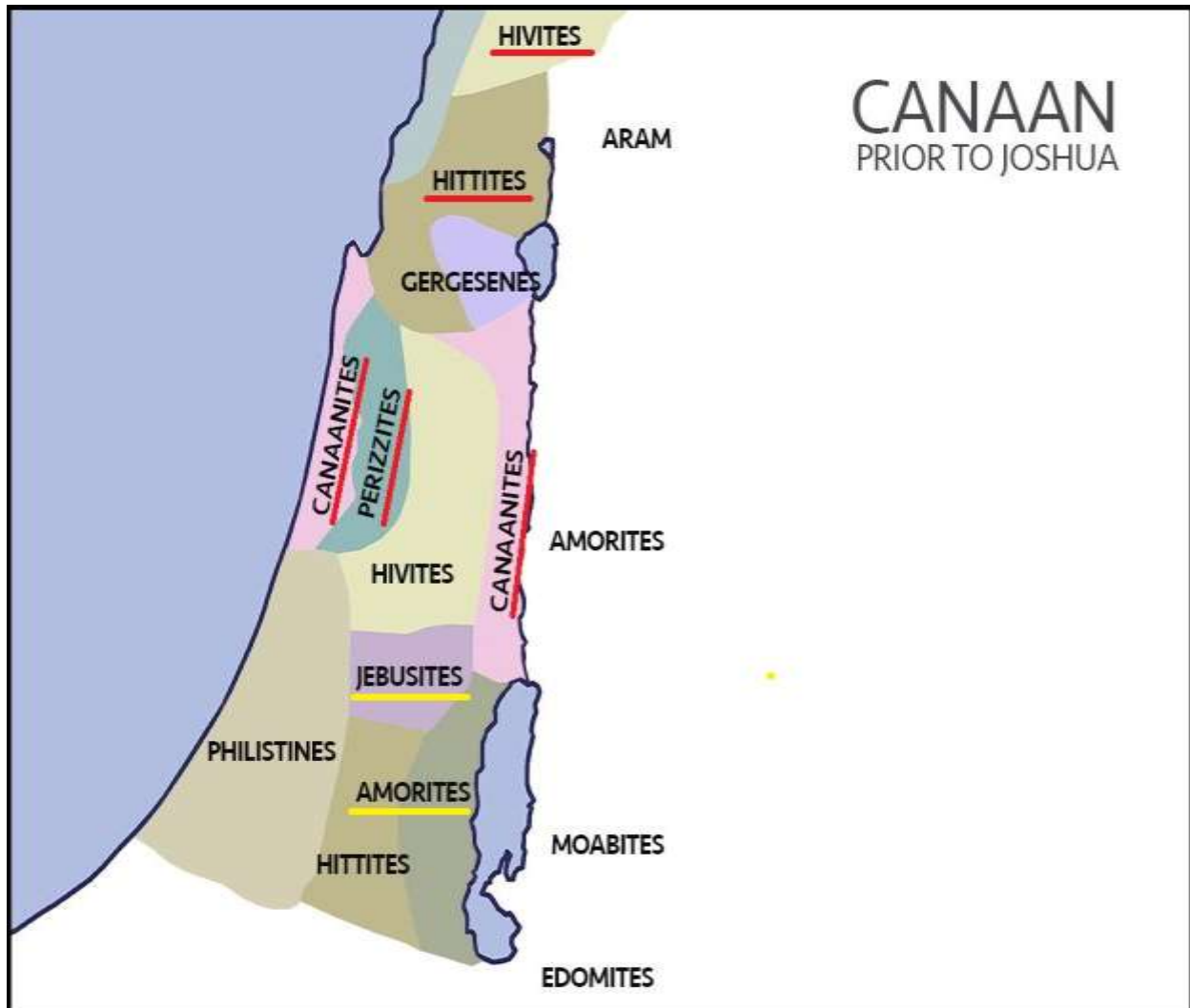
² and to the kings who were of the north in the hill country, and in the Arabah—south of Chinneroth and in the lowland, and on the heights of Dor on the west

Chinneroth is another name for the Sea of Galilee

All the other names are geographical regions in northern Canaan.

³ to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the hill country, and the Hivite at the foot of Hermon in the land of Mizpeh.

See Map 1120



Since we are discussing the northern campaign it may seem odd that the Jebusites and Amorites (yellow lines) are named here.

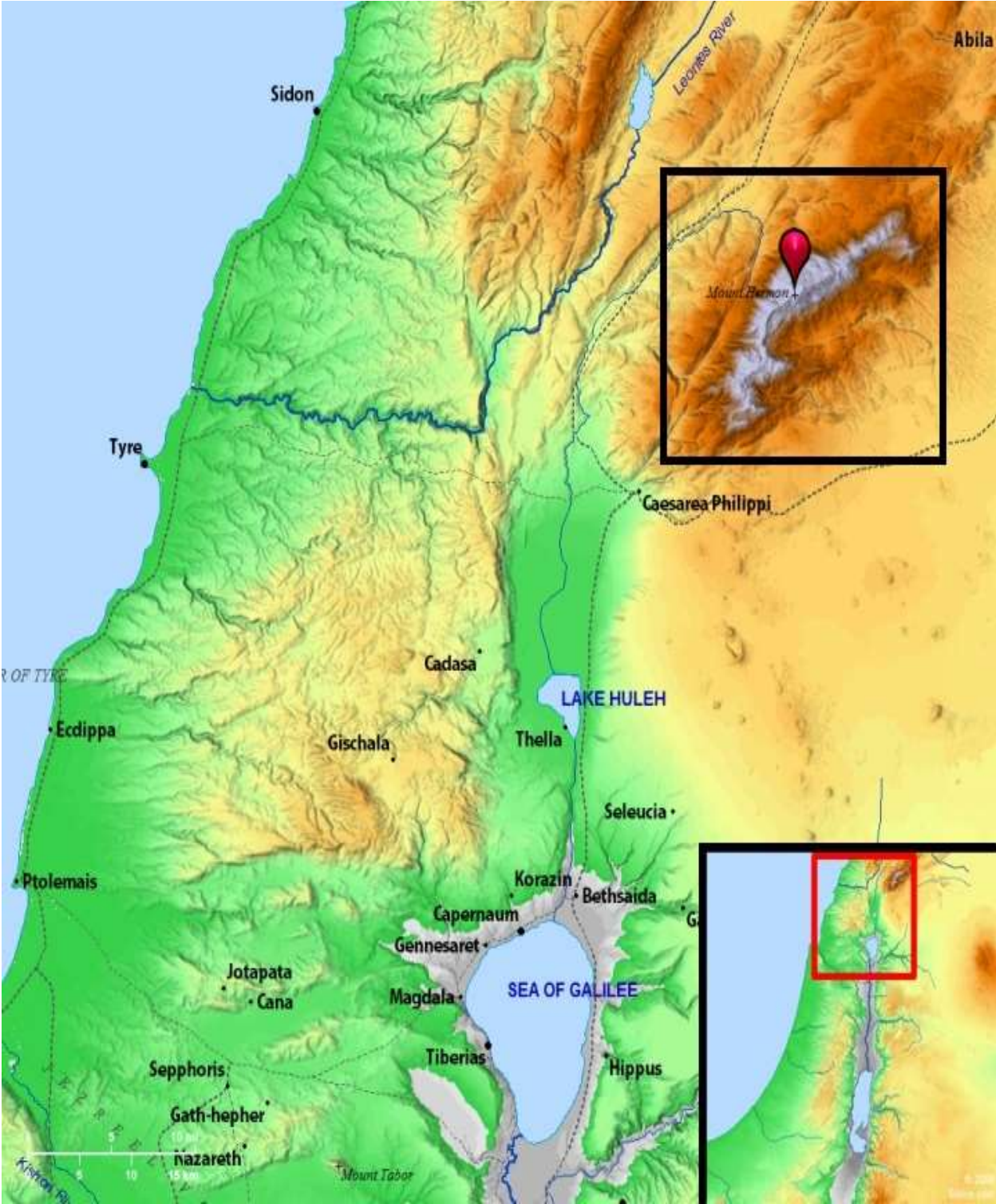
There could be several reasons for this:

1. It is quite possible that there were Jebusites and Amorites in the north but were not included in this map.
2. It is also possible the Jebusites and Amorites mentioned here lived in the smaller towns that were not targeted by Joshua during the southern campaign.

And at the foot of Hermon in the land of Mizpeh

Hermon here means Mount Hermon.

See pics 1125



Then they came out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. ⁵ So all of these kings gathered together, and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.

It would be interesting to know how many men fought in this battle

It seems horses and chariots were somewhat common at this time.

The Egyptians used chariots during the Exodus 1446 BC and the Canaanites are using them around 1403 BC.

Verses 6 – 9

⁶ Yet the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow at this time I am going to turn all of them over to Israel *as good as dead*; you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.” ⁷ So Joshua and all the people of war with him came upon them suddenly at the waters of Merom, and attacked them. ⁸ And the Lord handed them over to Israel, so that they defeated them, and pursued them as far as Great Sidon, and Misrephoth-maim, and the Valley of Mizpeh to the east; and they struck them until no survivor was left to them. ⁹ And Joshua did to them just as the Lord had told him; he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

Tomorrow at this time I am going to turn all of them over to Israel *as good as dead*; you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.

This same phrase is used by Paul concerning Abraham.

See Rom 4:18-20

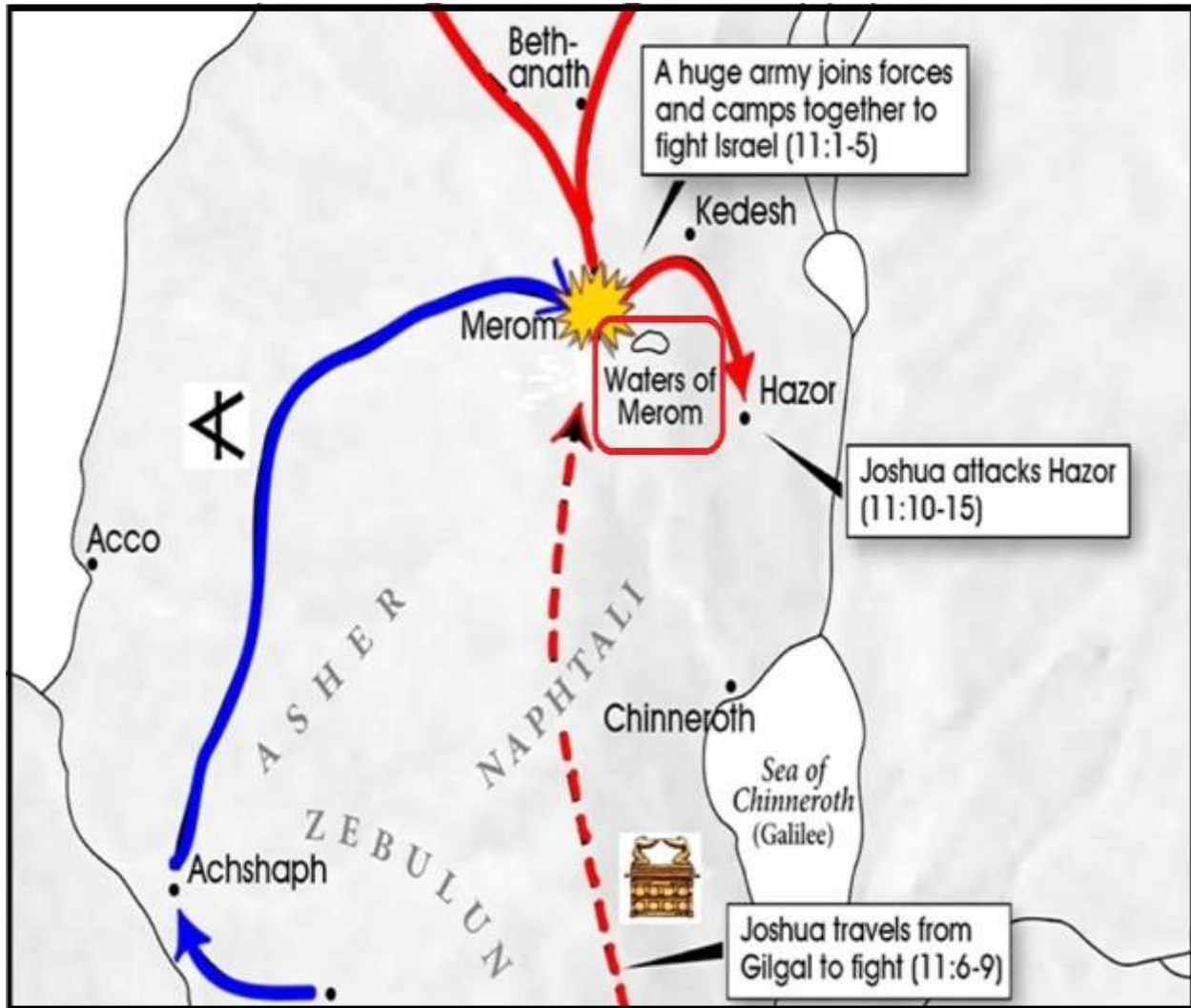
¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” ¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

Abraham had no ability to father children at that time.

In the same way, the Canaanites had no ability to wage war against Israel.

So Joshua and all the people of war with him came upon them suddenly at the waters of Merom, and attacked them.

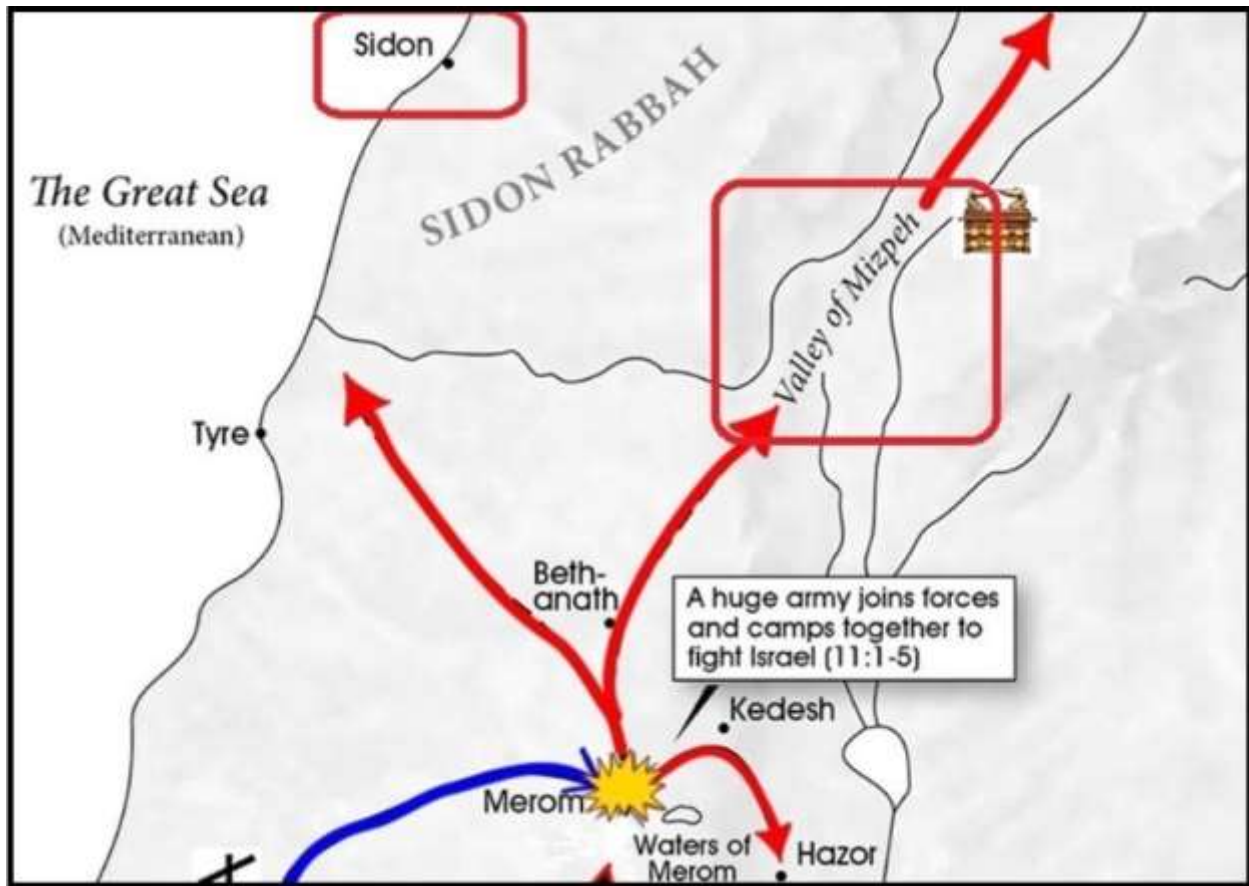
See map 1130



Israel surprised the enemy a number of times in the book of Joshua. It would seem that these were also miracles from God because most armies had scouts that gave advance warnings of any invasion.

Israel pursued them as far as Great Sidon, and Misrephoth-maim, and the Valley of Mizpeh to the east

See map 1135



The Israelites chased them for about 40 miles.

And Joshua did to them just as the Lord had told him; he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

Hamstringing the horses was done by cutting the tendons of their hind legs.

God did not want future kings of Israel to own many horses.

See Deuteronomy 17:16

¹⁶ In any case, he is not to acquire many horses for himself, nor shall he make the people return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.'

This same principle applied to Israel before they had a king.

God wanted Israel to depend on Him not the strength of their army.

Verses 10 - 15

¹⁰ Then Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor previously was the head of all these kingdoms. ¹¹ They struck every person who was in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying *them*; there was no one left who breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire.

¹² Joshua captured all the cities of these kings, and all their kings; and he struck them with the edge of the sword *and* utterly destroyed them, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. ¹³ However, Israel did not burn any cities that stood on their mounds, except Hazor alone, *which* Joshua burned. ¹⁴ And all the spoils of these cities and the cattle, the sons of Israel took as their plunder; but they struck every person with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them. They left no one breathing. ¹⁵ Just as the Lord had commanded His servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

Then Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor previously was the head of all these kingdoms

See map 1115 above.

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Cities on the plains were destroyed and burned while cities built on a mount were left standing so Israel could occupy them.

Cities on a mound would be easier to defend against future invaders.

God expects us to do what we can in advance to protect ourselves but He is there for us when an enemy is too strong for us or the unexpected happens.

¹⁴ And all the spoils of these cities and the cattle, the sons of Israel took as their plunder;

The wealth that Israel gained from these battles had to be enormous.

But they struck every person with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them. They left no one breathing.

This was commanded by God and to do anything else would have been a sin.

Just as the Lord had commanded Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

There is no doubt that God intervened to make Joshua victorious.

Here are a few examples:

1. He confused the enemy.
2. He stopped the sun and noon to prolong the day.
3. He rained down hailstones on the enemy.

However, Joshua had to be faithful to do the things that God commanded.

Here are a few examples:

1. He did not leave dead bodies on a tree past the evening.
2. He hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots with fire.
3. He killed everyone, even all the women & children

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Verses 16 - 20

¹⁶ So Joshua took all that land: the hill country and all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, the Arabah, the hill country of Israel and its lowland ¹⁷ from Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir, even as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings, and struck them and put them to death. ¹⁸ Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings. ¹⁹ There was not a city which made peace with the sons of Israel except the Hivites living in Gibeon; they took them all in battle. ²⁰ For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁶ So Joshua took all that land: the hill country and all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, the Arabah, the hill country of Israel and its lowland ¹⁷ from Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir, even as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon

This section summarizes all the territories that were defeated.

See map 1140



The war in Canaan could be divided into 3 campaigns.

1. Chapters 6-9 The central campaign
2. Chapter 10 The southern campaign
3. Chapter 11 The northern campaign

Joshua waged war for a long time with all these kings.

The takeover of Canaan took about 7 years.

See chart 1145

Chapter	Event	Year	Other
Num. 13	Caleb explores Canaan**	1444	40 years old
Deut. 34	Death of Moses	11 - 1407	Caleb is 78
Joshua 1	Joshua Installed		
2	Spies sent out		
3	Crossing the Jordan		
6	Fall of Jericho	1406	
7	Israel defeated at Ai	1406 - 1400	
8	Ai destroyed	1406 - 1400	
9	Gibeonite Deception	1406 - 1400	
10	Sothern cities conquered	1406 - 1400	
10	Sun stands still	1406 - 1400	
11	Northern Kings defeated	1406 - 1400	
12	List of Kings defeated	1400	7 years of war
14	Hebron given to Caleb	1400	Caleb is 85

**This was in the second year of the wilderness journey

For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

God hardened the hearts of the Canaanites so they would fight and die.

God determines the judgment day for every nation and individual.

God did not harden the hearts of the Gibeonites because it was not their Day of Judgment.

Verses 21 - 23

²¹ Then Joshua came at that time and eliminated the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, Debir, Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah and all the hill country of Israel. Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. ²² There were no Anakim left in the land of the sons of Israel; only in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod some remained. ²³ So Joshua took the whole land, in accordance with everything that the Lord had spoken to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. So the land was at rest from war.

Then Joshua came at that time and eliminated the Anakim from the hill country.

The Anakim were the giants that discouraged the ten spies 40 years earlier.

One of the descendants of this race, "Goliath of Gath" confronted David and was killed by him with a sling-shot to the forehead.

There were no Anakim left in the land except in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod

These were major cities in Philistia.

See map 1150



So Joshua took the whole land and gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes

The job of conquering the major cities was done but the individual tribes still had to drive out some Canaanites from the smaller towns in their area of inheritance.

This is when Israel fell into a trap.

See Joshua 17:13

¹³ And it came about when the sons of Israel became strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.

It was more profitable to keep the Canaanites as slaves but this was not what God wanted for the people of Israel.