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Day 75 – March 16

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## **Conquering the Land (1400 – 1100 BCE)**

### ***Three Burials***

### ***Additional Conquests***

### ***Failure to Complete Conquests***

**Readings: *Joshua 2:8-9; 13:13; 15:13-19, 63; 16:10; 17:11-13; 24:29-33; Judges 1:1-36; 2:1-5***

### ***Reflections:***

- The deaths of Joshua and Eleazar parallel the deaths of Moses and Aaron. The apostolic and the prophetic/priestly leadership model that God uses to lead are replicated in these two leaders as it was in Moses and Aaron. We will notice that no new obvious leaders emerge and within time the people do their own thing and then ultimately cry out for a king (human model of leadership) rather seeking God's leadership through his called ones.
- Joseph's bones bring closure on the story of Israel coming out of Egypt and show God's faithfulness through the generations. It should strike the reader that Moses is not buried in the Promised Land and in fact no one even knows where he was buried.
- A terrible series occurs in this next section. Adoni-Bezek has his thumbs and toes cut off and is killed because he did the same thing to seventy kings or local warlords and made them eat like dogs under his table. This is an awful story revealing how terrible the world becomes when people live by the principle of an eye for eye.
- It is an interesting reference to the Israelites failure to clear the plains because the people there had iron chariots. God is supposedly with them and yet here is a time when for a practical reason it appears they fail. God's blessing and leadership doesn't make everything automatic. This inconsistency isn't explained but is simply stated. Was God still with them if they lost that battle? The text leaves that question unanswered.
- The little story about Acsah seems to simply explain why their descendents had that land.
- Ephraim's capture of Bethel reminds the reader again that in this whole region everyone was to be wiped out.

- Israel does not clear the land as Judges 1 indicates. This sets the stage for the story of Judges when Israel gets fully involved with the pagan culture of that region. The first verses of Judges 2 explain why this happened. The Israelites decided to stop fighting against these people and made peace with them and allowed their altars to remain intact. This may have been part of making peace. The person giving this message is the angel of the Lord and this shows that now there is no Moses or Joshua to lead the people. God wanted to lead them directly yet as we will see by the end of Judges the people don't want the Lord's leadership. They will want a king like the other nations had.
- The people weep at the end but they still are not willing to be fully obedient. Here is a good lesson. Many tears of repentance do not mean anything if not backed up by the actions of repentance.