

Background information on

JOSHUA 1-12

The Israelites had come out of slavery in Egypt under Moses. The miracle at the Red Sea saw them heading through the desert for the Promised Land of Canaan, and on the way they received God's Law at Mount Sinai and established the *Tabernacle* as their portable centre of worship.

Of the 12 spies who reconnoitred the land, 10 brought back a bad report and the people had no faith for the conquest. As a result, that whole generation died in the desert.

As the Book of Joshua begins, the new generation is poised on the threshold of the Promised Land. Moses is now dead and his successor, *Joshua*, is ready to take them in to conquer it. The chapters we will look at in this *Diggers* series describe that conquest.

There is a map on the next page showing the main places mentioned.

Significance for us today

Old Testament events illustrate the Christian experience. The Passover speaks of the blood Jesus shed to achieve our deliverance. The Red Sea crossing pictures Christian baptism.

Continuing this theme, the conquest of Canaan offers lessons on *how to overcome sin and evil the enemy within us and how to live a life of victory and peace through daily trust in the Lord*. Bear this in mind throughout this series.

We will cover the 12 chapters in nine sessions, as follows:



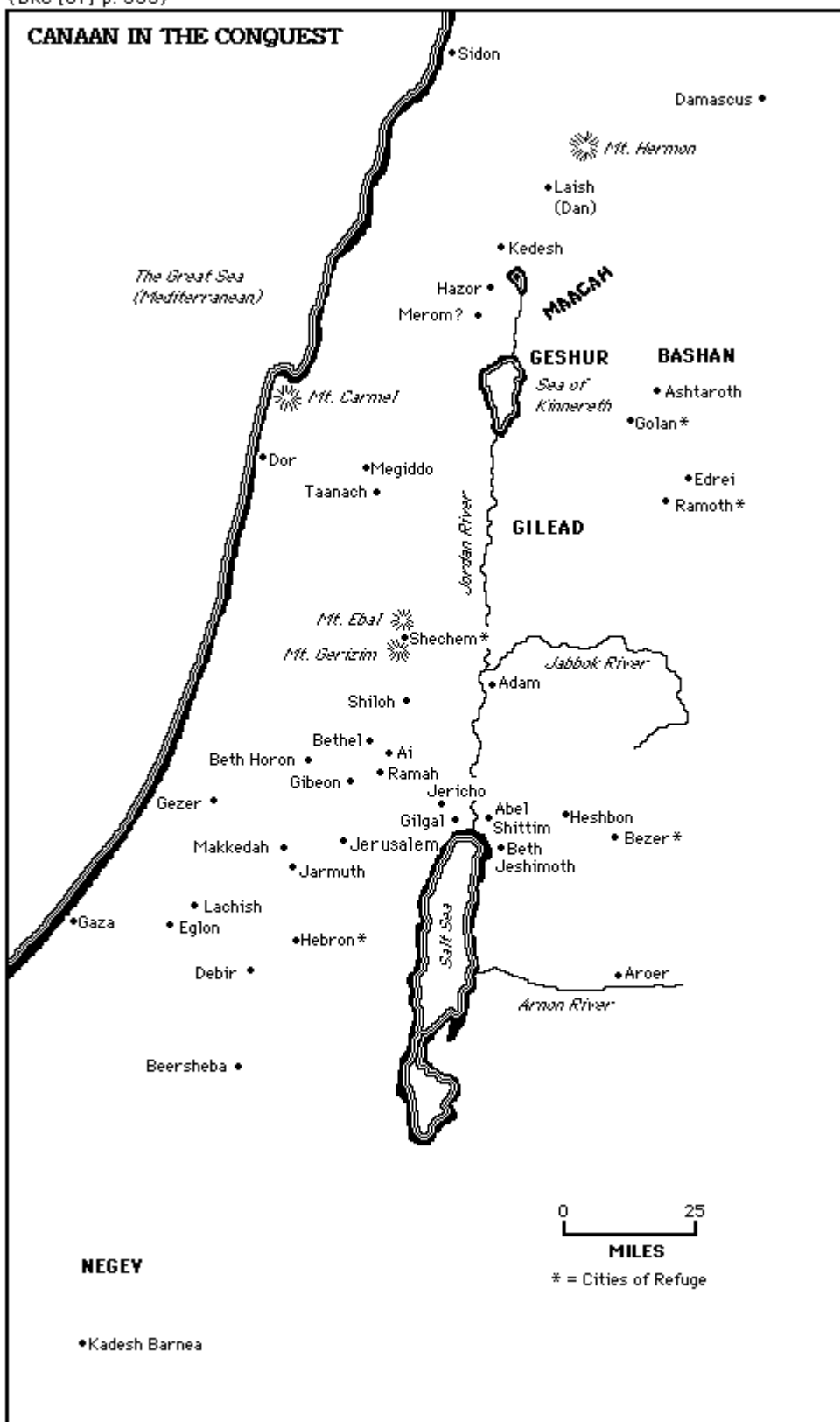
The collapse of Jericho

1.	Chapter 1	God prepares Joshua to cross the Jordan
2.	Chapter 2	Rahab and the two spies
3.	Chapters 3-4	Crossing the River Jordan
4.	Chapters 5-6	The fall of Jericho
5.	Chapter 7	The sin of Achan and defeat at Ai
6.	Chapter 8	Ai destroyed and the covenant renewed
7.	Chapter 9	Israel deceived by the Gibeonites
8.	Chapter 10	Cleaning up in the south
9.	Chapters 11-12	Cleaning up in the north

A map of Israel at the time of the conquest under Joshua

(from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Victor Books, 1985)

(BKC [OT] p. 333)



How to make the most of this Diggers study

- The Bible version being used as a basis for the series is the *New International Version* (NIV). Try to bring a copy to the sessions as it is much easier if everybody has the same version as a starting point. But by all means use other versions alongside it for reference. You may, for example, have the *New Living Translation*, the *Good News Bible* (GNB), or the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB).
- *Before* you come to each session *read the passage to be studied* several times if possible.
- *Jot down* your thoughts and observations as you go along so that you can come to the group with something to contribute.
- Read it with an eye to its *practical application* in everyday life. Remember that these chapters of Joshua include vital lessons for you and the way you live your Christian life.

