

JOSHUA

CHAPTER 12

Kings Defeated by Moses

Now these are the kings of the land whom the people of Israel defeated and took possession of their land beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon, with all the Arabah eastward: 2 Sihon king of the Amorites who lived at Heshbon and ruled from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and from the middle of the valley as far as the river Jabbok, the boundary of the Ammonites, that is, half of Gilead, 3 and the Arabah to the Sea of Chinneroth eastward, and in the direction of Beth-jeshimoth, to the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, southward to the foot of the slopes of Pisgah; 4 and Og king of Bashan, one of the remnant of the Rephaim, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei 5 and ruled over Mount Hermon and Salecah and all Bashan to the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and over half of Gilead to the boundary of Sihon king of Heshbon. 6 Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the people of Israel defeated them. And Moses the servant of the LORD gave their land for a possession to the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

12:1–24 A conclusion to the first section of Joshua, and a summary of the victories of the Israelites and the cities whose kings had been defeated (see map No. 3 at the end of the Study Bible). (CSB)

12:1 *land beyond the Jordan.* The unity of the nation is reaffirmed by the inclusion of these lands in Transjordan. (CSB)

Lands to the east of the Jordan. (TLSB)

Arnon Gorge. Marked the border with Moab to the south. (CSB)

Mount Hermon. The upper limits of Israel's land to the north. (CSB)

12:3 *Sea of Chinneroth.* Also spelled "Chinnereth." Canaanite name for the Sea of Galilee. (TLSB)

12:4 *Og king of Bashan.* Og and Sihon (v. 2) met defeat under the command of Moses, a long-remembered tribute to God's mighty power (see Ne 9:22; Ps 135:11). (CSB)

12:6 *Moses ... gave.* Stresses the legitimacy of the Reubenite and Gadite claims to this land. (TLSB)

Manasseh. Half the tribe of Manasseh was given land on the eastern side of the Jordan. The other half was given land on the western side (13:8–13). (TLSB)

12:1–6 This list of defeated enemies serves as a reminder that no power, no matter how great or glorious, can withstand the power of the Lord. Through the power of God, Moses gave the land to the Lord's chosen. So Christ, the Son of God, by His power hidden in the cross, gives us the promised land of the new heavens and the new earth. • May the Lord work in us a faith that looks not to the powers as they are now but to His eternal power to save. Amen. (TLSB)

Kings Defeated by Joshua

7 And these are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the people of Israel defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir

(and Joshua gave their land to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their allotments, 8 in the hill country, in the lowland, in the Arabah, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the Negeb, the land of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites): 9 the king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one; 10 the king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one; 11 the king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one; 12 the king of Eglon, one; the king of Gezer, one; 13 the king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one; 14 the king of Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one; 15 the king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one; 16 the king of Makkedah, one; the king of Bethel, one; 17 the king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hopher, one; 18 the king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one; 19 the king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one; 20 the king of Shimron-meron, one; the king of Achshaph, one; 21 the king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one; 22 the king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one; 23 the king of Dor in Naphath-dor, one; the king of Goyim in Galilee, one; 24 the king of Tirzah, one: in all, thirty-one kings.

12:7–24 *west side of the Jordan*. A second tabulation repeats the names of kings whom Joshua defeated (chs 2–7) and adds a considerable number not mentioned previously. This summary credits Joshua with victories over the Canaanite rulers. It does not claim that he “took possession of their land,” as Moses had done east of the Jordan (v 1). These victories took seven years. (TLSB)

12:7–8 (*and Joshua ... Jebusites*). Parenthetic note anticipates the following chapters. Joshua was commanded to take this action, even though “there remains yet very much land to possess” (13:1). The detailed catalog of the division of the land shows its importance, for the land symbolized that better country that God has prepared for His people (Heb 11:16; Rv 11:15). (TLSB)

12:7 *the land ... on the west side*. Canaan proper (9:1; 11:16–17; 24:11; Ge 15:18–19). (CSB)

12:12 *king of Gezer*. Had been defeated in the siege of Lachish (10:33), but the city itself was not captured by Joshua, nor were the cities of Aphek, Taanach, Megiddo or Dor (vv. 18–23; see Jdg 1:27–31). (CSB)

12:7–24 How remarkable that Joshua, once a slave in Egypt, becomes a conqueror of all of these kings! It is because the Lord is with him. How remarkable that the Lord is also with you and will strengthen you to overcome all that would enslave you. • May the Lord keep us faithful to the one true King, who reigns in grace. Amen. (TLSB)