

Week 6: The Conquest of Canaan

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

Joshua 1:9



After thirty years of wandering in the Sinai Desert, the Israelites have stumbled upon the border of Canaan. Moses, their great leader, has died. It now falls to his assistant, Joshua the son of Nun, to take his place and lead the conquest of the Promised Land: Canaan. Joshua, however, knows what his people will come face-to-face with on the other side of the Jordan River. Sent by Moses as a spy into the land alongside Caleb the son of Jephunneh, he's seen the immense strength of Amalekites, the Jebusites, the Hittites, the Ammorites, and the Canaanites. Their walls are solid, their men giants, and their kings fierce. His own people, by contrast, are a rabble, wearied by long years under the desert sun, slowed by elders and children, and inexperienced with the blade. Of his men fit for battle, few have ever held a sword, let alone fought in combat against a breathing enemy. By human standards, they don't stand a chance. Fortunately, however, the Israelites aren't relying on human standards.

Readings:

- Numbers 13; Joshua 1-13; 23-24
- Reading on Canaan: <https://www.ancient.eu/canaan/>
- Reading on the Gods and Goddesses of Canaan: https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cana/hd_cana.htm

