



## **NEWSCAST 6. JOSHUA**

Under the leadership of Joshua a new generation of Israelites, toughened by a rigorous desert upbringing, cross the Jordan and crush the Canaanite city-states in a lightning series of attacks. Their initial success can be ascribed to both their faith in God and an effective combination of strategies which enabled them to conquer heavily fortified and walled cities.

Joshua's tactics always included elements of surprise. The very fact that the Israelites crossed the Jordan and attacked from the east instead of coming directly from the south was itself unexpected; both Moses and Joshua used spies to gain intelligence reports for surprise tactics. Stratagems, such as the psychological warfare at Jericho, were constantly being employed. Soon, Joshua's victories succeeded in gaining an effective foothold for Israel in Canaan.

But the Israelites were not invading an unsophisticated, primitive land. The name 'Canaanite' was synonymous with 'merchant' — thus reflecting the Canaanites' reputation as traders. Canaan already had a well-established urban culture, which for years had benefited from Egyptian control and protection. However, by the time the Israelites invaded Canaan, Egypt's military presence was negligible, and the city-states were consequently weakened. As the super-powers of the day — the Egyptians and the Hittites — had recently signed a non-aggression pact, neither of them intervened in Canaan to impede Israel's conquest of its Promised Land.

**Biblical references: Deuteronomy, Chapter 34. Joshua Chapter 11**