

## Israel's Secret Formula for Winning Wars

By Rabbi Dr. Shuky Reiss, Tanakh Department Head and Rabbi Reuven Spolter, Herzog Global

Yehoshua Chapter 10 - <https://www.sefaria.org.il/Joshua.10>

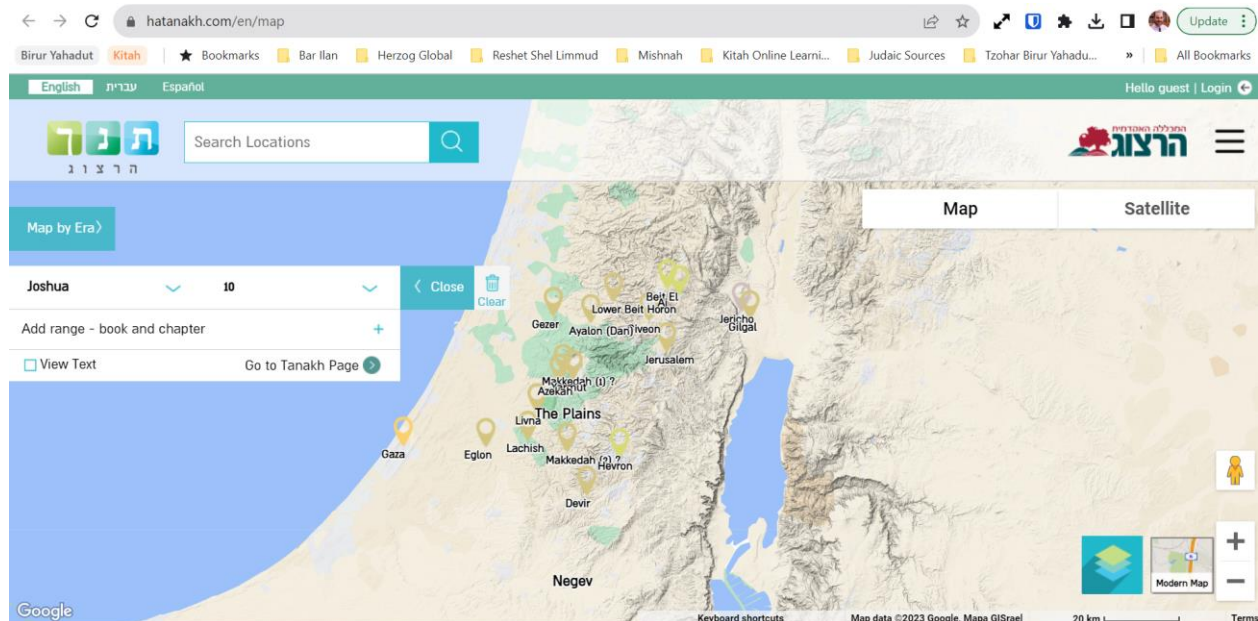
Is there a “secret formula” that helps Israel win its wars?

Let's go back to the Tanakh sources to see if we can find one.

One of the most successful wars fought by the people of Israel throughout their history is recorded in Chapter 10 of the Book of Joshua, where we learn of the war fought by Joshua and his army against the Southern Kings.

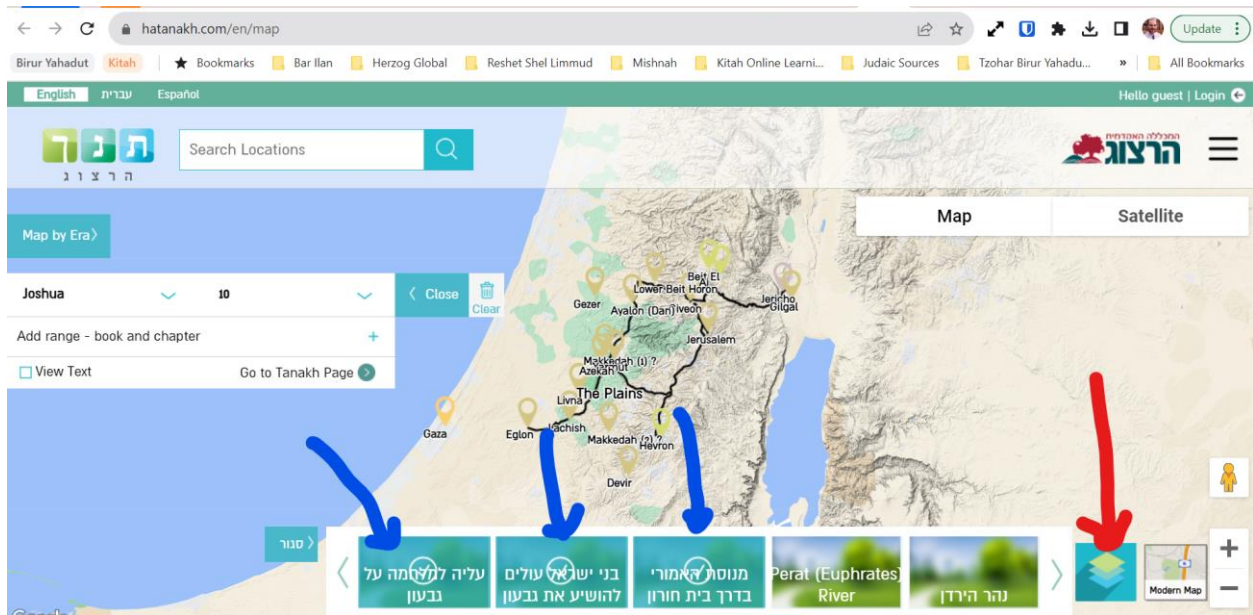
Here's a **suggested brief lesson outline** to help study the chapter. It may span more than one lesson, depending on how much time you give your students to prepare the chapter.

- Have students first study Yehoshua Chapter 10. Link to Sefaria can be found [here](#).
- The chapter includes a large number of kings from numerous cities in Israel. One good way of helping your students understand the events and geography of the chapter is by using [Herzog's Tanakh Mapping Tool](#).
- In the map, have students click on “Map by Chapter” and then choose “Joshua” and “Chapter 10”

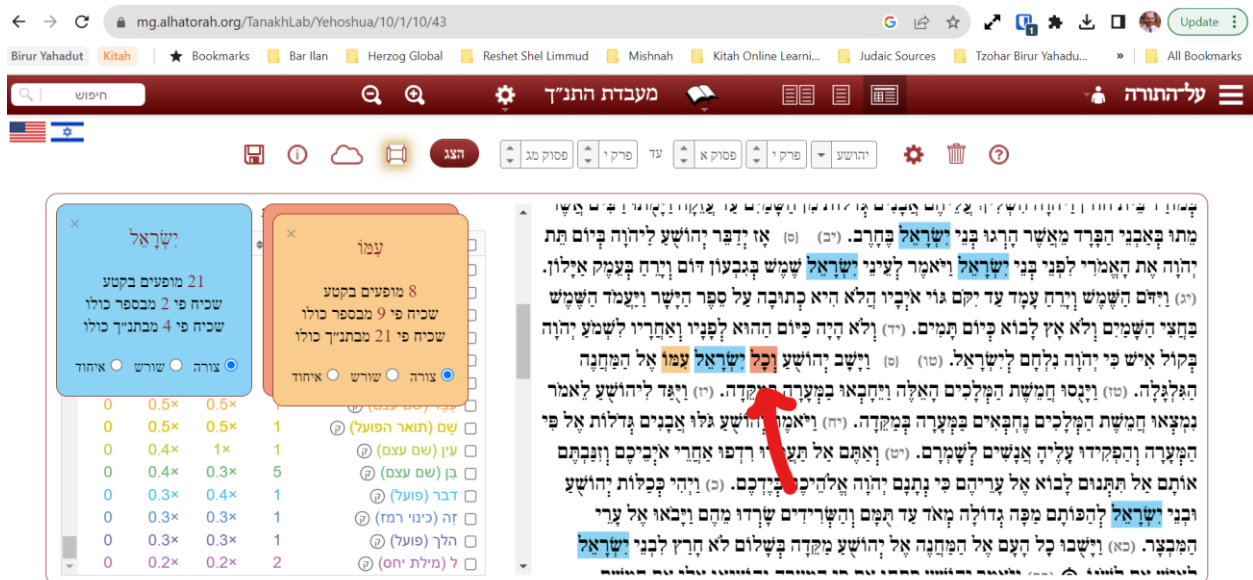


As they study the text, they can get a better understanding of the progression of the war, and also map where each battle took place. It might be helpful to have them chart the names of the Kings and their cities.

Students can also see the routes traveled during the battle by clicking on the “slides” button (Red arrow in the picture) and then clicking on the three slides shown below (marked by blue arrows).



- Once students have finished preparing the chapter together and have a basic understanding, have students open the [Tanakh Mapping Tool on AlHatorah for Yehoshua Chapter 10](https://www.alhatorah.org/TanakhLab/Yehoshua/10/1/10/43).
- Once they have opened the site, have them scroll down to Passuk 15 and click (separately) on the words **ישראל עמו**.



- Then, have them scroll down the page, where they will see this:

מגילת יהושע

מסוק מג | פירקי | פירקי | יהושע | פירקי | מסוק א | עד | פירקי | מסוק מג | הנוב

ישראל

21 מופעים בקטע  
 שכיח פי 2 מבספר כולו  
 שכיח פי 4 מבתניך כולו

צורה | שורש | איחוד

עמו

8 מופעים בקטע  
 שכיח פי 9 מבספר כולו  
 שכיח פי 21 מבתניך כולו

צורה | שורש | איחוד

קרא (פועל) 1  
 גם (תואר הפועל) 1  
 עבד (שם עצם) 1  
 שם (תואר הפועל) 1  
 עין (שם עצם) 1  
 בן (שם עצם) 5  
 דבר (פועל) 1  
 זה (כינוי רמז) 1  
 הלך (פועל) 1  
 ל (מילת יחס) 2

© 2015-2023 ALHATORAH.ORG

What emerges is the following chart:

15 Then Joshua together <b>with all Israel</b> returned to the camp at Gilgal.	טו ויָשֶׁב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה הַגִּלְגָּל.
29 From Makkedah, Joshua proceeded <b>with all Israel</b> to Libnah.	כט וַיַּעֲבֵר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, מִמַּקְדָּה—לִבְנָה.
31 From Libnah, Joshua proceeded <b>with all Israel</b> to Lachish.	לא וַיַּעֲבֵר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, מִלִּבְנָה—לְכִישָׁה.
34 From Lachish, Joshua proceeded <b>with all Israel</b> to Eglon.	לד וַיַּעֲבֵר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, מִלְּכִישָׁה—עֵגְלוֹנָה.
36 From Eglon, Joshua marched <b>with all Israel</b> to Hebron.	לו וַיַּעַל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, מֵעֵגְלוֹנָה—חֶבְרוֹנָה.
38 Joshua and <b>all Israel with him</b> then turned back to Debir.	לח וַיָּשֶׁב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, דְּבִירָה.
43 Then Joshua, <b>with all Israel</b> , returned to the camp at Gilgal.	מג וַיָּשֶׁב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, אֶל-הַמַּחֲנֶה הַגִּלְגָּל.

**How did Yehoshua and the Jewish army win such a quick and decisive victory?**

Clearly, God’s miracles – like the sun standing still in Gibeon and the hailstones crashing down on the enemy armies – played a significant role. But why did the Israelites merit these miracles in this war?

It appears that a repeating motif in these stories is very significant. The fact *that the entire nation came together is repeated seven times* in this chapter. This show of unity is what made them merit these miracles.

In contemporary times, as well, we have found that **national unity serves a crucial role in military successes in the modern State of Israel**. In the Six Day War, for example, the nation of Israel experienced great miracles and a resounding victory.

Let us pray for solidarity among the Jewish People and victory against those who rise up against us.