

## **SCCC – WARS TO CLEAN MY HEART**

### **S – Scriptures**

“When Joshua was told that the five kings had been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah.”  
Joshua 10: 17

### **C – Consideration**

Joshua and the army were in a battle against their enemies, proceeding to conquer the kingdoms as they advanced in the Promised Land. The enemies were terrified as they saw God’s power fighting for the Hebrews. First was the city of Jericho and then Ai. The Gibeonites resorted to a ruse, and Israel ended up making a treaty with them, and they became slaves to serve in the Temple. Then, the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Jahia, Lachish, and Eglon made a coalition. Their five kings joined forces to fight against Israel. After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The Lord threw these kingdoms into confusion, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah. Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp and gave a command, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me.” This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.” Then Joshua put the kings to death.

### **C – Commitment**

Years ago, I preached a sermon about these wars that Israel had fought. The Ark of the Covenant was inside the Land; therefore, the enemies had to be removed. This is a picture of the heart of a person when he/she becomes a Christian. The Holy Spirit enters to live in us; consequently, like Joshua, He is in a relentless battle inside of us against a major enemy and his allies: Our old nature. Jesus had said: “For from within the hearts of men come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery...” Paul explained to the Galatians, “For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.” It is also stated in Colossians chapter three, verse five, that the five major adversaries likewise are looking for a Makkedah cave to hide in our hearts. Paul refers to them as “...sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” These evil kings want to rule our lives, with corruption and wickedness, however, as Joshua was commanded to do, so are we. In the second part of the verse, he wrote, “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...”

### **C – Call**

My God, your word tells me that darkness and light can’t dwell together. It is impossible to serve two, three, or six masters. You must reign sovereignly, and I must obey the Holy Spirit and put to death immorality, lust, evil desires, and greed that make me an idolater. Help me

to clear my heart from all these wicked rules and allow You alone to govern my life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.