

The Bible Companion Series

POSSESS THE INHERITANCE!

*"Nay, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through him that loved us."
Romans 8:37*

The Book of Joshua

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion

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The Book of Joshua

POSSESS THE INHERITANCE!

Study Introduction

Focus Verses: Romans 8:37; Joshua 1:9

I. Some Preliminary Information

A. The Typology of the Book

1. The theme of the entire Bible is **Jesus Christ**. The Bible is like a Family Picture Album, full of pictures of God's Son!
2. Everything in the Bible points to Jesus Christ and his redemption of mankind at the cross. These are called "types" or "pictures."
3. A *type* is an Old Testament picture of a New Testament truth.

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Israel	Christians - the church
Egypt	The world
Pharaoh	The antichrist
Passover Lamb	Jesus being our Sacrifice
The Exodus	Becoming a follower of Jesus
The Red Sea	Getting Baptized
Canaan - Promised Land	The Christian's Life
Joshua	Jesus leading to victory
Amonites, Midianites, etc	Our spiritual enemies
The Rock in wilderness	Jesus at His first Coming
Stone in Daniel's Vision	Jesus at His Second Coming
Leprosy	Sin
Oil	Holy Spirit - anointing

4. Prophetically, the Book of Joshua is a picture of *the Second Coming of Jesus Christ*
5. Inspirationally, it is a Picture of two things:
 - a. The work of Jesus Christ in the life of the believer, bringing more and more of him under His control
 - b. The Christian Warfare as the Christian conquers various areas of their own life as he fights against the world, flesh and the devil
6. The Book of Joshua gives lessons How to carry on a Spiritual Warfare - it is a military Book laying out our orders as to how to engage the enemy, and win!

7. Every Christian is supposed to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ
 - a. "*Fight the good fight...*" (1 Tim 6:12)
 - b. "*I have fought a good fight...*" (2 Tim 4:7)
 - c. "*Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*" (2 Tim 2:3)
 - d. "*No man that warreth entangleth himself...*" (2 Tim 2:4)
 - e. "*We wrestle not against flesh and blood...*" (Eph 6:12)
 - f. "*Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*" (Eph 6:10)
 - g. "*Put on the whole armour of God...*" (Eph 6:11)
 8. The Book explains your new found inheritance in Christ
 - a. You have to fight to maintain it
 - b. When you get saved you don't get to rest, you get ready to fight!
- B. **The Title of the Book** - The Book of Joshua. This Book deal mainly with the life and leadership of one man - Joshua, the son of Nun
- C. **The Author** - Joshua
1. The writer of this Book is probably Joshua himself (just as Moses wrote himself) under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2Pet 1:19-21).
 2. The significance of the name Joshua:
 - a. Means *Jehovah Saves!*
 - b. Joshua is the Old Testament name for *Jesus*.
 - c. Joshua is called *Jesus* Acts 7:45, and Heb 4:8
 3. One of the original 12 spies (Num 13:8)
 4. Becomes an assistant to Moses
 5. Ultimately will be called of God to replace Moses (Dt 31:23)
- D. **The Date of writing** - 1400 B.C.
1. Israel leaves Egypt: 1450 B.C.
 2. Moses dies (after finishing Genesis thru Deuteronomy): 1400 B.C.
 3. Joshua takes over: 1400 B.C.
 4. Solomon is around 1000 B.C.
- E. **Joshua's audience**
1. To the Jews, to remember what God did to establish them in the land
 2. To the Christian (Rom 15:4)
- F. **Its Importance and Significance.** How you approach this Book will determine how you approach the Christian life, and the Second Coming of Christ (2 Tim 4:8)!
- G. **Its Theme** - "The Conquest of Enemy Territory"
1. The fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob regarding possessing the land of Canaan.
 2. Fighting the Good Fight!

H. Its Placement in the Bible

1. Part of the Old Testament - follows the Law of Genesis thru Deuteronomy
2. The placement of the Book of Joshua: *Like that of the book of Acts.*
3. The Pentateuch: Accounts of the person and works of Moses the Lawgiver.
4. The Gospels: Accounts of the person and works of Jesus Christ the Gracegiver!
5. Joshua: Details the establishment of the Jews in the land of Canaan.
6. Acts: Details the establishment of the New Testament Church in the lives of believers!

II. A Simple Outline Of The Book of Joshua**A. The Preparation (1 - 5)**

1. *To Serve* - to be a great leader, you must first be a great servant (Mk 10:44)
2. *To Fight* - fight the battles ahead instead of run from them!
3. *To Win* - win instead of constantly lose!

B. The Pulverization (6 - 12) - Fight for your inheritance**C. The Possession (13 - 19)****D. The Protection (20 - 21) - the Cities of Refuge****E. The Perseverance (22 - 24) - to finish the job, and to stay faithful to God - not be halfhearted****III. Conclusion****A. What are We Going to Find in the Book of Joshua?**

1. The salvation of Rahab the Harlot.
2. The Jordan river parting just like the Red Sea did.
3. The Fall of the great city of Jericho.
4. The defeat at Ai due to someone's "secret sins".
5. A Battle where the Sun and Moon stand still at Joshua's command!
6. The dividing-up of the promised land to the twelve tribes.
7. The 6 Cities of Refuge.
8. Two and one half-tribes attempting to compensate for being out of the will of God.
9. The death of Joshua, and Israel struggling with how to follow God without great leadership! Trying to keep God as their leader!

B. Answer the following questions from memory:

1. Who is the author of the Book of Joshua?
2. When was this Book written?
3. Give the THEME to this Book:
4. What was Egypt a "picture" of in the Old Testament?
5. What was Pharaoh a "picture" of in the Old Testament?

The Book of Joshua

Chapter One

Preparing To Serve

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I. Introduction to the Book of Joshua

- A. The Book of Joshua in the Old Testament is what the Book of Acts is to the New Testament - the living out of the commands and laws of the Law.
- B. Getting a grasp of the lessons taught in Joshua will make the Christian stronger in battle against sin and temptation in their life!

II. Chapter One - "Preparing to Serve!"

- A. Taking Stock of the Situation (Josh 1:1,2)
 1. Moses is dead. God passes the responsibility to Joshua (Dt 34:5; Josh 1:1,2)
 2. Who is this Joshua Guy Anyway? (1:1,2)
 - a. A Man Under Authority (Ex 17:8-14)
 - 1) Luke 7:1-10
 - 2) Phil 2:5-8
 - 3) Loyal to Moses, because he was loyal to God (Col 3:22,23)

PRINCIPLE: God works through authority. Those who are outside of authority are in Satan's domain and unprotected. The "umbrella principle" (1 Cor 5:5; 1 Tim 1:20)

 - 1) Government - Romans 13:1,2
 - 2) Family - 1 Cor 11:3
 - b. A Man Willing to Wait (Ex 24:9-18; 1Pe 5:6; Ps 37:34; Pr 20:22)

PRINCIPLE: Doing is always easier than waiting. God does not need a bunch of bull-headed people running ahead of Him.

Notice what happens when leaders do not learn to "wait":

 - 1) Aaron's incredible "Jack-in-the Box" idol (Ex 32)
 - 2) Saul at battle with the Philistines (1Sa 13). Looses his crown

- c. A Man With Settled Loyalty (Num 11:26-30)
 - 1) As in friendship
 - 2) As in marriage
 - 3) As in service to our country, not just to SELF
 - 4) As in our service to Jesus Christ
- d. A Man With an Unhindered View of God (Num 13:1,2, 21-33; 14:6-9). Joshua was not trusting in himself. He just knew that with God on his side **nothing was impossible** (Luke 1:37)!
- e. A Man Ready to Serve (Joshua 1:1-2)

This is how every Christian needs to be!

B. **Taking-Up the Challenge** (1:3-18)

1. The Extent of the Promised Possession (1:3,4)
 - a. Everything that was promised to Abraham (600 years prior)
 - b. Bigger than humanly possible!
2. The Assurance of Victory (1:5) God makes promises and keeps them
 - a. The conquest is always spoken of as have already taking place (past tense). (1:3,13,14,15...) - Notice God is outside of time!
 - b. Not just *A* victory is promised, but TOTAL victory! Why?
 - 1) Because of God's presence - Jesus Christ would be with them doing the fighting
 - 2) Because of our faith/confidence in God - must have that!
 - 3) Because God's WORD is the sword that defeats the strongest
3. The Challenge Ahead - to go and **Possess** the Inheritance (1:6,11)
 - a. Possess means to "take charge of," "dominate," "be in charge of"
 - b. *This is our challenge!* God has an inheritance for every believer (Act 20:32; 26:18) began at the new birth, is completed in heaven
 - c. BUT! What God has for us is not just given to us on a silver platter, it is "obtained in battle"!
4. The Means of Success (1:7-9). If you want to do God's will for your life and be successful in God's Eyes:
 - a. Be strong - firm hold on God in faith
 - b. Be VERY courageous - able to trust God through darkest night
 - c. Make this Book (God's word) your **words**
 - d. Make this Book your **thoughts** (meditation)
 - e. Make this Book your **actions** ("what would Jesus do...")
 - f. Let God go along with you (1:9) - don't kick Him out (Rev 3:20)
5. The Message to the People - "Pack Up. We're Moving Out!" (1:10,11)
6. The Conditions to Survival - No Stragglers Allowed! (1:12-18)

- a. No stragglers allowed - don't drag your feet, and be a skeptic (Jn 11:16). Keep your promises to the Lord
 - 1) Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manassas settled for only a partial obedience to God - decided they liked it where they were - didn't want to get "fanatical" about faith
 - 2) They made a promise to fight WITH their people (the other tribes) until the enemies were subdued (Num 32:16-27)
- b. We are to fight as **one** body - true Christian unity is unstoppable
- c. No "conscientious objectors" in this army! All fully convinced of the value of winning the battles ahead (Rom 8:18; Rev 12:11)
- d. Complete commitment to the battle (1:16-18)! Their rebellion had cost them 40 years already - they weren't going to allow that to happen again! This time they were headed IN!

III. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. The Book of Joshua matches in type what New Testament Book? Acts
- B. List some of the things that made Joshua great? He was a man under authority; A man of great patience; A man of Loyalty; A man of great faith; and a Man ready to Serve!
- C. What was God's particular challenge to Israel? Specifically to "go in, and POSSESS it!"
- D. Victory was promised based upon several conditions. Name one. Everybody being committed to the battle; Unity of the believers; Obedience to the Bible; and Great faith and confidence in God!

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Two

The Salvation of a Sinner

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: Romans 10:11

I. Introduction

- A. After 40 long years, the children of Israel were finally at the brink of the water Jordan. What lay ahead of them was the promised land! It had been a long hard journey through the wilderness, but now they were ready to go in and take possession of what God had promised them.
- B. There were however some obstacles ahead:
 1. A swelling river named Jordan.
 2. A fortified city name Jericho.
 3. And beyond them, the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, and the Jebusites!
 4. If you thought about it, you would get bogged-down in the length of the battle ahead, instead of the promise of victory that God gives you (Cf 1:1-9)!
- C. Before promised territory can be conquered (the abundant life), the heart has to surrender, and be conquered - by Joshua/Jesus! This is the KEY!

II. Lesson - " The Salvation of a Sinner" (2:1-24)

- A. Two spies are sent into Jericho (2:1). No need this time to send in 12, like they did 40 years ago! They had learned their lesson - the more people involved, the more likely it is for walk by sight, and not by faith!
- B. They go into an harlot's house (2:1). The only person who would allow in strangers in the night.
- C. Rahab lies to protect the lives of the spies (2:2-7). She knows all about these Israelites, and risks everything to protect them.
 1. Exodus 1:18-20
 2. James 2:25
 3. Like many did in WW2
- D. Rahab gets converted (2:8-12). Note that her faith was no good (she was not truly "saved") until she obeyed what God said - to STAY in her house, and REST until the battle was done! That was her faith - obedience!
- E. Notice what is took for her family to get "saved" (2:13-18). There is no "respectable salvation" here!
 1. Rahab's family had to go down to the Red Light district, to a house of "ill-repute." They HAD to humble themselves - there is no other way!

God will pull folks down as low as He can get them in order to get them saved. They HAVE to come DOWN, to be able to go UP!

2. This is how God works (1 Cor 1:18-29). Totally different than man's ways - so that no flesh might glory in his sight!
 - a. Here is true "salvation" - saved FROM something - from the destruction of the wrath of God against SIN (Gen 15:13-16)!!!
 - b. Salvation requires people to number themselves with transgressors, publicans, sinners, and harlots (Mt 21:28-32)
 - c. Our problem is in trying to get sinners to take their place WITH sinners. They must get *lost* in order to get *found*! (Matt 9:10-13)
- F. The spies return to the camp and give their report (2:23,24)
 1. It is always a great thing to discover God's promises are true!
 2. The inhabitants of the world "faint" because of STRONG Christians. That's why Satan's primary effort is directed against Christian unity based upon TRUTH, and RIGHT ACTIONS!
 3. These Jews would have been here 40 years earlier if they hadn't listened to the 10 faithless spies in Numbers 13 and 14. Their unbelief cost them dearly (Cf Heb 3:7-13)

III. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. What was the name of the woman in Jericho that repented? Rahab.
- B. What was her occupation and lifestyle before salvation? A harlot.
- C. What was her main concern? Her family's safety and salvation from the wrath to come!
- D. How long had the Jews been wandering in the wilderness before arriving in the Promised Land? 40 years.

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Chapter Three

Crossing Jordan - Dying To Self

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: Romans 6:11

I. Introduction

- A. Israel has left Egypt, and is right at the border of the Promised Land. Loads of people have died along the way because of unbelief. But now, it is time that every *believer* leaves behind them their old life, doubts, and fears, and faces their enemy head-on, with full confidence in their Lord!
- B. That is just what happens in chapter 3!

II. Review - Old Testament Types

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| A. Bondage in Egypt | Bondage to sin and the god of this world |
| B. Passover | Salvation from sin's penalty |
| C. Exodus from Egypt | Beginning of the new life in Christ |
| D. Crossing the Red Sea | Commitment to God and His way |
| E. Mt Sinai Encounter | Getting God's Word |
| F. Wilderness Wanderings | Struggling to believe God's word |
| G. Crossing the Jordan River | Leaving the Old Man behind |

III. Lesson - Dying to Self - Chapter 3**A. Israel Faces the Jordan River (3:1-5)**

1. First rested three days (3:1,2):
 - a In preparation for the battle ahead - not quite sure what the battle was, but they knew one was coming.
 - b In testing of their faith
 - 1) Waiting - obeying God's current instructions (Josh 1:10,11; Ps 27:14; Isa 40:31)
 - 2) Looking at the Jordan overflowing its banks - 60 feet wide (2 Cor 5:7). It was an insurmountable obstacle
 - 3) Listening - waiting for more instructions - searching the Scriptures for the next step. Growth takes place one step at a time, and requires that we constantly are looking for how to take the next step!
2. Then told to do two things (3:3-5):
 - a Follow the ark (3:3)
 - 1) They used to follow the cloud and fire in the sky looking up
 - 2) Now they are to look straight ahead at the Ark as it leads - this is the first time the Ark is leading

- 3) TYPE: The ark then is going to show us what Christ is like now (Heb 12:2; Rom 8:4,5)
- 4) The ark is going to lead the way where they had never been before (right down in the middle of the Jordan, and over to the other side)!
- b Sanctify themselves (3:4,5) - don't get ahead of God, just ready for God to lead you, and show you the way He wants you to go
 - 1) Realise you need to see the BIG picture - don't try and get so close that you can't see where you are going - you need to learn from this - not just blindly follow.
 - 2) Sanctify means to cleanse, and stay clean (1 John 1:7; 2 Tim 2:21; Jn 17:17; 1 Thes 4:3,4) so you are ready for any job!

PRINCIPLE: Too many people miss-out on God doing anything in their lives because they are not separated from the filth of the world! (TV, radio, music, filthy conversations, bad friends, etc)

B. The Crossing of the Jordan - Pictures death of the Christian (3:6-17)

- 1. A comparison:
 - a Crossing the Red Sea
 - 1) The children of Israel followed the Lord out of the old life, into the new one that God had for them
 - 2) They were watching their old life die.
 - 3) It matches when we get baptized.
 - b The crossing of the Jordan is like the Christian stepping into battle for control, by first dying to Self.
 - 1) Forgetting the past (Phlp 3:13,14)
 - 2) Forgetting the failures - of parents, and self
 - 3) Focusing on God's will - the Promised Land
 - 4) Passing through impossible situations simply because you would allow your own mind to stop you!
- 2. The ark goes ahead toward the water (3:6-8) - leads the way, not points the way!

PRINCIPLE: You are not being asked to do anything that Jesus Christ did not already do.
- 3. Remember that God's promises are "without fail"! (3:9,10)
- 4. The two requirements for the miracle:
 - a Stepping-out by faith into the water (3:11-16).

- 1) God split the Red Sea since they were immature at that time. But now 40 years have passed, and they need to grow up, so God requires Israel to act first - faith requires obedience!
- 2) So, "as" they stepped into the water, the waters moved back and "stood as an heap" on their right hand, and the children of Israel crossed-over on DRY ground. The river backed up about 20 miles, as if a dam had been put into place!
 - b Staying in place under a wall of water - the priests stood firm where they were told to stand (3:17) - that is leadership - doing what you are commanded, so that those under you can get safely through each and every battle!

IV. Conclusion - PRINCIPLES

- A. God says "**follow Me**" - don't get ahead of Him! Let Him do the leading.
- B. **Prepare for battle** - What God has for you in this life the Devil is not going to give to you without a fight! Keep Jericho as your target - don't let rivers, and other obstacles hinder you from conquering your enemies:
 1. Like your bad habits
 2. Like your physical enemies (Rom 12:19-21)
 3. Like your bad attitudes
 4. Like your lack of faith and confidence in God
- C. **Die to your Self** - A good soldier is always ready to die. No one ever WANTS to die, but in battle, a soldier must be ever ready to die. God is looking for some Christian soldiers who are willing to die to themselves:
 1. Reckon yourself to be DEAD unto sin - let the old sins DIE!
 2. Willing to do God's will for your life over your own - crossing Jordan
 3. Willing to make a fool of yourself ("Oh I would just DIE if I did that! I would be so embarrassed!") for Christ (1 Cor 1:18)!

V. Questions

- A. What was the name of the river that separated them from the Promised Land before they went in? The Jordan River
- B. What was first to go into the river before anybody else? The Ark
- C. What was the miracle that occurred at the Jordan River? That the river would stand on a heap to let Israel pass through it
- D. What did God wait for before performing the miracle? For the feet of the priests to be set out into the water - every step they took, the water backed away.

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Four

Living in the Promised Land

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: Gal 2:20

I. Introduction

- A. For 95% of modern Christians, the victorious Christian life is totally UNKNOWN to them. To most of us, being 'nominal' in our walk with God is considered to be 'normal' and anything above that is considered to be abstract, and vague, and even fanatical.
- B. What is about to happen in these two chapters has got to take place before the conquest of the Promised land can begin. For the Christian, these things have to take place before any spiritual battles can be attempted!
- C. Review of Previous Lessons:
 1. Chapter 1 - Preparing to Serve
 2. Chapter 2 - Taking-Up the Challenge
 3. Chapter 3 - Dying to Self (Part 1) The Crossing of the Jordan River

II. Background - Dying to self will involve two things:

- A. Mortifying your "flesh" - the old nature (Gal 5:24; Col 3:5-8)
- B. Separating yourself from your resulting dead corpse - leaving the old life way behind you, and living the new life in victory!

III. Lesson - "Dying to Self (Part 2)"

- A. **Reckon Yourself to be Dead** (Rom 6:11; 4:1-24) - means to make it real FIRST "in your mind" and then you can make it real in your life (Pr 23:7)
 1. Dead to what?
 - a Dead to sin's power over your life - it is not 'God' anymore!
 - b Dead to your past - Egypt is supposed to be way behind you - leave it for good - let your struggles be the times your way back to the old life are closed, and you only press forward!
 2. To do this you must do two things at each river (great trial) you face:
 - a Pull something out from the river - the trial, testing, temptation
 - b Bury some things under the river
 - c God calls them "Spiritual Memorials" or "Memory-Markers"
 - 1) The place of God's miraculous work - getting you through!
 - 2) Marking the place of someone's **death** (as in a 'tomb-stone')
 - d Going through the River will get easier and easier each time if you do these things
 3. Bring something OUT of each Trial

- a Each tribe was to remember this event and mark it with those who went through the same river on dry ground (miraculously)
 - b They were to gather large STONES from the midst of the river
 - c Those stones would then be constructed into a monument visible for all to see that this thing really happened, that God really did get them through, and God will do the same for every believer!
 - d Those stones are things that you must have learned while going through the tribulation, and can never forget!
4. Leave something back IN each trial
- a The stones you leave back there in the midst of the trial are things that need to be buried - you are not going to forget them (you will know they are there), but you will know that they are STILL there - they don't belong in the new life you have now!!
 - b Examples would include: spiritual failures, personal failures, disasters, heartaches, sorrows - all need to be buried, and left in the times of struggle!
5. Let the trial *close* the way back - no turning back. The Christian application can be found in:
- a Romans 6:4-14; Matt 16:24,25
 - b If you want to follow Jesus, there needs to be that level of commitment that is marked in your life by a memorial that says, you have come this far, and you are not going back
 - c EX of a mountain climber using spikes that he or she uses to climb to the next step - once they have climbed up a step, they remove the spike and never go back, only forward!
6. Reason for memorials, "memory-markers" - to be a sign (4:6,7):
- a To your children (4:6,7)
 - b To the world (4:24)
 - c To yourself - to remind you to stay humble before He who never fails you, and will always get you through every trial!
7. Where the memorial came from (4:8) - from *deep* in the river. No memorials are meaningful on the easy path - only in the darkest valleys, and deepest rivers are memorials forged!
- a So, just as being "born again" involves a person dying...
 - b Having victory over the flesh, the world, and the Devil involves dying again, as here. Some of us Christians need to die again, and again, and again!

- B. **Enjoy the Process of Maturity** (4:10-13) - the priests stood and watched it all happen before their eyes!
1. In the process of the death of your flesh you will have the opportunity to be able to enjoy two things:
 - a The fulfillment of the promises and miracles of God.
 - b Your own daily spiritual walk and experiences.
 2. Make the event COUNT (mean business with God) - set your focus ahead, not behind you
 3. Prepare for war! NOW you are getting ready to fight!
- C. **Walk in the Newness of Life** (4:14-24). After you are dead, the following things should take place:
1. Joshua/Jesus is magnified in your life (Phlp 1:20)
 2. Joshua/Jesus is feared by you! (2 Cor 5:9,11) - great respect
 3. You let God shut the door to the way back - He closed the river
 4. You leave the river behind you and start conquering - you can now engage the enemies of your life (2 Cor 10:4,5; Eph 6:10-18).
 5. You become a witness to others around you (4:21-24), always ready and willing to tell people what God did, and what He still does in the lives of His people!

IV. Conclusion

- A. **Notes:** The significance of this spot at the Jordan river
1. Crossing of Israel into the Promised Land
 2. Elijah stopped the river at this same spot and crossed over dry land as well (II Kings 2:6-8)
 3. Elisha did the same thing here (II Kings 2:12-14)
 4. John the Baptist baptized here (Matt 3:6) for the following reasons:
 - a To get Israel to return to their starting point as a great nation.
 - b to get them to "DIE" in preparation for the Gift of life (Jesus)
 5. Jesus was baptized here - marking the start of His ministry (Mt 3:13).
- B. **Lesson Principles**
1. What you can do by nature, is NOT spiritual, it is CARNAL!
 2. You are never going to get real victory in your life until you DIE.
 3. Dying to self involves giving-up what you want to do and letting God show you what to do.
 4. You are never going to die to self's control until you step out by faith right into the middle of the river Jordan (which represents 'trouble').

C. **Questions**

1. Joshua commanded that the children of Israel take some things out of the middle of the river-bed. What were they? _____
2. What did Israel make there by the river? _____
3. What was the purpose for what Israel made at the edge of the river?

4. Joshua then went down into the river-bed and made something. What was it he made? _____
5. This location where the River dried up was also where three other people crossed, and did some wonderful things. Name one of the people: _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Five

Preparing for Battle

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: 2 Cor 10:4,5

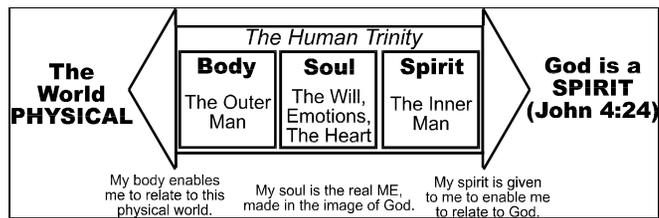
I. Introduction

- A. Even though a person may be a Christian, they still may have territory in their life that is controlled by the flesh, the world, and the Devil. It is these areas in our lives that God wants us to capture and destroy the "inhabitants" through the principles found in the Book of Joshua.
- B. Review of Previous Lessons:
 1. Chapter 1 - Preparing to Serve
 2. Chapter 2 - Taking-Up the Challenge
 3. Chapter 3 - Dying to Self (Part 1) The Crossing of the Jordan River
 4. Chapter 4 - Dying to Self (Part 2) Reckoning Yourself to be Dead
 - a. Setting up Spiritual Memorials
 - b. Walking in Victory - even before the main fighting begins

II. Lesson - Preparing for Battle (5:1-15)

A. Circumcise Your Hearts (5:1-9)

1. The world's reaction to Offensive Christians (5:1) - when Christians really walk by faith, and not by sight!
2. The Need for Circumcision (5:2-9)



- a. Outside circumcision was only a sign of an internal change (Deut 10:16), because the flesh cannot fight God's battles (Rom 8:5-8)
- b. Spiritual Circumcision occurs at salvation (Col 2:9-14), but must be reckoned (fully understood) to be of use to you
- c. Compared to divorce (Rom 7:1-20) - showing you were DEAD (Eph 2:1) to God until you surrendered, and then you are NOW to be DEAD towards this world!
- d. Circumcision is God's O.T. sign to show what He was doing on the inside

- B. Celebrate Your Salvation** - The keeping of the Passover (5:10,11)
1. PRINCIPLE: Keep your salvation sweet and precious to you.
 2. The Jews were to keep this "feast" every year to honour God's deliverance from their every enemy
 3. We remember the Lord's death at His Last Supper (1 Cor 11), and we can do it as often as we see fit - about every other month!
- C. Commence Feeding Yourselves** (5:12)
1. Special provisions are done away with. Israel had been fed miraculously for almost 40 years - almost spoon fed because of their immaturity (like in 1 Cor 3:1-3)
 2. Now they have to learn how to live by faith yes, but now by getting their OWN food - no more miracles, except in battle. From here on, plow, plant, pray, and reap your own labours
 - a. In your family - takers a lot of effort and time
 - b. In your study of this Bible - your own growth
 - c. In your finances - can't count on constant flow of miracles - just have to work, and pay your bills (Ac 20:34; 2Thes 3:10-12)
 3. God is dealing with maturity - forcing us to grow up!
 - a. When a baby, you need someone to lead you.
 - b. When you grow up, you need to be leading someone else!!!
- D. Psychologically prepare for combat** (5:13-15)
1. Use your Bravery (5:13) - Let it get sharper, and more mature, more confident that it can take on anything (Rom 8:37; Philp 4:13)
 2. Try the Spirits (5:13) - test everything that comes your way - any anxiety, or oppression (things trying to mentally hinder you)
 3. Submit to the authority of the LORD Jesus Christ in your life! Realise He is with you to defeat your enemies - don't end up fighting Him!
 - a. Submit through your search the Scriptures (5:14)
 - b. Submit through true worship of the holiness, and perfection that is found in Christ!
 - 1) That as God, He is ALMIGHTY (Ex 15:3)
 - 2) That all spiritual battles are serious business with God (Rev 1:12-17; 19:11-13) - He intends on winning!

III. Conclusion - Ready for the Fight

- A. Throughout chapters 1 through 5, God has been preparing Israel for the battles ahead
 - 1. First by preparing their leader - Joshua - no one is a born leader
 - 2. Then by preparing the enemy - instilled great fear, and surrender
 - 3. Then by getting the people to bury their past, and walk as conquerors
 - 4. Then by getting them to put some distance between their old life and new life - circumcision
 - 5. Then by forcing them to labour to feed themselves
 - 6. Then finally, to get them to follow God's leadership implicitly
- B. What is up next is Jericho - the first fight
- C. Questions
 - 1. Once Israel was in the Promised Land, what was the first thing that God wanted Israel to do? _____
 - 2. Why was it necessary that Israel do this thing? _____

 - 3. God suspended feeding the Israelites Manna when they were in the Promised Land. What were they to do from then on? _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Six

Pulling Down The Strongholds

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: 2 Cor 10:4,5

I. Introduction

- A. Even though a person may be a Christian, he or she still may have territory in their life that is controlled by the flesh, the world, and the Devil. It is these areas that God wants us to capture and destroy the "inhabitants" through the principles found in the Book of Joshua.
- B. Review of Previous Lessons and Truths:
 1. Chapter 1 - Preparing to Serve - begins with three things:
 - a God's promises - His word
 - b God's presence - Been with them from day one
 - c God's pressure - God was nudging them into battle
 2. Chapter 2 - Taking-Up the Challenge
 - a Rahab the Harlot saved
 - b Joshua spying out Jericho - first step to conquering your enemy is to know your enemy!
 3. Chapter 3 - The Crossing of the Jordan River
 - a Stepping by faith - doors only open AS you take steps of faith
 - b This river represents the deep troubles, and valleys we face
 - c EVERYBODY is to cross - not get left behind
 4. Chapter 4 - Memorials - Reckoning Yourself to be Dead
 - a Jordan closes back up - way back is closed, so go forward!
 - b Establish two memorials:
 - 1) One IN the valley you go through - never forget Jesus (the Ark) was there through it all!
 - 2) One on THIS side of the trial - never forget that you have a new life to live, resurrected, and fresh
 5. Chapter 5 - Preparing for the Battles
 - a Feed yourself - the manna stops at some point - battle with priorities (don't be a baby all your life, and lazy)!
 - b Make sure YOU are saved (circumcision) - don't count on your parents to get you right with God, or to keep you right with God
 - c Settle the battle in your heart - realise you are already a winner!

II. The First Stronghold - Jericho (6:1-27)

- A. **The Condition of the Enemy** - Scared! (6:1,2) This world lives in fear: of everything. The Christian fears only God!

PRINCIPLE: Quit running scared and turn and FIGHT - act like God is on the throne (2 Sam 10:6-12)!

- B. **The Problem with Jericho** - Them walls!

1. Sin in your life has fortified itself with WALLS.
2. For you to have victory over sin, you've got to get behind those walls.
3. Once those walls are down, you will see sin as it really is in the light of God's word! See Isaiah 14:15-17

- C. **The Battle Plan** (6:3-5)

1. Note the "sevens" (6:4) - 2nd Advent & Tribulation
2. Note the type of horns (6:4,5) (Cf 1 Cor 2:1)
3. Note the "battle" - Where's the fight? (6:5)
4. Note that armed men go first! (6:6,7 Cf Eph 6) - we need armed men
5. Note that total destruction is to take place (Gen 15:13-16; Dt 7:2)

- D. **The "special" instructions** (6:10,17-9)

1. No TALKING! (6:10) Learn to be QUIET! (1 Thes 4:11)
2. No TOUCHING! (6:17-19) the "accursed thing" Against popular opinion, there ARE things that you should NOT touch (1 Cor 7:1,2; 2 Cor 6:17)!
 - a Like people of the opposite sex
 - b Like God's money - the tithe - the FIRST fruits
 - c Like the redeemed life of yours that is God's (1Cor 6:19,20)

- E. **Six days, and no victory** (6:11-14) - this is life right now

1. The first day - nothing happened
2. The second day - nothing happened
3. 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th day - nothing happened

PRINCIPLE: Even if God never does anything for you, you still just keep marching! (See Naaman in 2 Kgs 5; Eccl 3:11)

- F. **The seventh day** (6:15,16)

1. That is the time to SHOUT!
 PICTURE: Heaven and the Millennium - that's is where the rewards are, and where full joy will be!
2. Truly walking by faith. The walls did not fall down until AFTER they shouted!

PRINCIPLE: Quit being babies and waiting for God to always make the first move in your life! If God gave clear instructions concerning something in your life, don't wait on God to give you the victory, go ahead and start living it and SHOUT. Nine time out of ten, God is not going to do anything in your life until you step out by faith. Example of crossing the Jordan. ***Thank God for what He is about to do!!!***

3. Down came those impassable walls! (6:20)
- G. **The "utter destruction" of Jericho** (6:21,24)
 1. Reason? (Dt 7:7-10; II Thes 1:6-9)
 2. Result? Complete victory over the enemy!
 3. Consequences? (Dt 7:3,4)
 4. Except for two things:
 - a Rahab and family "saved".
 - b Gold and silver - to be dedicated to God.

III. Conclusion - Lesson Principles and Questions

- A. God's ways are NOT our ways!
- B. God's timing may drag on and on, but the victory is just as sure as if it occurred already!
- C. God calls for the complete defeat of sin in your life, nothing is to be salvaged.
- D. Questions
 1. What number keeps re-occurring in Chapter 6 concerning the defeat of Jericho? _____
 2. How many day were the Israelites to march around the walls? _____
 3. Who many times on the final day were the Israelites to march around the walls of Jericho? _____
 4. What were the Israelites not to touch in Jericho? _____
 5. What did God call the things that Israel was not to take possession of?

 6. What was Jericho in relation to God - i.e., what did God consider Jericho to be? _____
 7. On the seventh day, what were the Israelites to do to bring the walls down? 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____
 8. Was Jericho utterly destroyed by God? Yes/No (circle one)
 9. Why were there a lot of people saved from destruction? _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Seven

Sin In The Camp

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: James 1:14,15

I. Introduction

- A. The very reason why America is not the great nation she used to be, the very reason why churches in America are dying, the very reason why families are being destroyed at a faster rate than new ones are being built, is because there is sin in the camp!
- B. Review of Previous Lessons:
 1. Chapter 1 - Preparing to Serve - begins with three things:
 2. Chapter 2 - Taking-Up the Challenge
 3. Chapter 3 - The Crossing of the Jordan River
 4. Chapter 4 - Memorials - Reckoning Yourself to be Dead
 5. Chapter 5 - Preparing for the Battles
 6. Chapter 6 - The First Stronghold - Jericho
 - a. **The Condition of the Enemy** - Scared! (6:1,2) This world lives in fear: of everything. The Christian fears only God!
 - b. **The Problem with Jericho** - Them walls!
 - c. **The Battle Plan** (6:3-5)
 - d. **The "Special" Instructions** (6:10,17-9)
 - e. **Six days, and no victory** (6:11-14) - this is life right now
 - f. **The Seventh Day** (6:15,16)
 - g. **The "Utter Destruction" of Jericho** (6:21,24)
 - 1) Reason? (Dt 7:7-10; II Thes 1:6-9)
 - 2) Result? Complete victory over the enemy!
 - 3) Consequences? (Dt 7:3,4)
 - 4) Except for two things:
 - a) Rahab and family "saved".
 - b) Gold and silver - to be dedicated to God.

II. Lesson - "Sin In The Camp" (7:1-26)

- A. **Sin Committed** (7:1-5)
 1. One sin hurts all (7:1) EXAMPLE: Disease in a body.
 2. What was the "accursed thing?" (Joshua 6:17-19)
 - a. Something that belongs to God is accursed, or is cursed if it is stolen (Mal 3:10), or held back
 - b. As in Firstfruits - Prov 3:9; Joshua 8:2.

- c. Achan had taken what belonged to God (Mk 12:17; 1 Cor 6:19,20)
- 3. This was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5). They had claimed to dedicate "everything" they owed to God, but held back and lied about their hidden nest, making out to be utterly poor now!
- 4. Notice that it was committed in time of spiritual victory! You don't always only sin when you are "down."

B. **The Defeat at Ai** (7:2-5)

- 1. The people trusted in their "eye-sight" (7:2) Note the pride! Never take God, His power, or blessings for granted (Cf Job)
- 2. Became spiritually "lazy!" (7:3). They did not seek God's counsel: No prayer!
- 3. Defeated - 36 men of war died (7:4,5; Num 32:23)
- 4. Their balloon "popped."
- 5. Now Joshua prays, but it is too late! (7:6-9)
 - a. Joshua loses faith - says, "God, it is **your** fault, **you** let us down!"
 - b. Joshua starts griping - says, "It is no fun anymore:"

- 1) **We** have been humiliated (7:6,8)
- 2) **We** should have been "content" to have remained out of the battle (7:7) - yet God commanded them to go into the Land, and to FIGHT! Joshua is just looking for a way to rationalise everything without looking for sin as the problem!

PRINCIPLE: God wants Christians to be *content* with material possessions, but NEVER content with our spiritual possessions!

- 3) Joshua is more interested in *Israel's name* than God's (7:9)!

C. **Sin Exposed** (7:6-12)

- 1. God rebukes Joshua (7:10-12)
 - a. You are "out of sync" - not on the same frequency as God
 - b. Plainly, there is sin in the camp (7:11,12):
 - 1) Israel took of the accursed thing - Stole what they took
 - 2) Dissembled (Cf Gal 2:12,13; Jer 43:19-23) - concealed, disguised, hid, pretended. They have hid the fact they sinned
 - c. So, quit your whining, and deal with the problem: Israel has become accursed! (7:12)

PRINCIPLE: You become what you sin is: A smoker. A Drunkard. A Robber. An Adulterer. A Gossip. A Homosexual

- d. Warning: God says, "You are going to be fighting alone if you don't take care of this situation."

D. **Sin Dealt With** (7:13-26)

1. **The remedy for sin** (7:13-15)

- a. Sanctification - Separate yourself (7:13)
 - 1) Fasting - stop being dominated by the flesh - you are more than just a belly, or emotions, or skin, etc! You are a SOUL!
 - 2) Getting away from the things that pull you down spiritually (2 Tim 2:21)
- b. Recognition - Acknowledge your sin (7:13). See it plainly, as God sees it (Ps 51)
- c. Decision - Be willing to deal with the problem quickly. Don't put it off, and wait until you feel better about yourself - repent now!
- d. Confession - Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord (1Jn 1:9).
 - 1) Don't wait until caught! (Judas Iscariot)
 - 2) You can run, but you cannot hide!
 - 3) Be sure, your sin will find you out (Num 32:23)!

2. **The rationale for sin** (7:16-21)

- a. Thinking, "I'll never get caught"
- b. Achan did three things (7:21):
 - 1) He saw - not sin, unless looking for it, which Achan WAS.
 - 2) He coveted - this is where sin grabs a person!
 - 3) He took - this is where the person grabs the sin!
 - 4) Watch the comparison

The Process of Sin	Eve Gen 3:6-8	Achan Josh 7:21	David 2 Sam 11:2-17
Seeing Lust of the Eyes	She "saw" the fruit	He "saw" the goods	He "saw" Bathsheba
Coveting Lust of the Flesh	She "desired"	He "coveted"	He "enquired" (wanted to know more)
Rationalizing - Pride of life	Wanted to be wise - like gods	Wanted to be rich - like others	Wanted pleasure - like Uriah
Taking	She "took"	He "took"	He "took"
Hiding (John 3:18-21)	She hid her sin with fig leaves, and then hid herself in the trees	He "hid" his sin in the ground under his tent	Tried to "hide" his sin by getting Uriah to take his wife, and then by having Uriah murdered

1. **The results of sin** (7:22-26)

- a. Disclosure of sin (Luke 12:2,3; John 3:18-21; Mt 12:36)

- b. Death (Rom 6:23) - Even after he confessed: Why? His confession was not until he was forced to (Cf Philp 2:9-11)
- c. Destruction of everything that was his (Rom 14:7).
 - 1) A Christian can lose everything he or she has worked so hard for (Eph 2:8-10) at the Judgment Seat of Christ!
 - 2) A Christian's sin can effect a whole lot of other people!
- B. PRINCIPLE: Achan should have died (to his old self) back at the Jordan river, but instead he kept his love for gold instead of trading it in for a love for God!

II. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. What was the name of the next city to be conquered after Jericho? _____
- B. _____
- B. How many sins does it take to hurt a country? _____
- C. What was the "accursed thing?" _____
- D. In the New Testament, there is an example of this event taking place. Name the ones who were sinning, and the Book and chapter where the event is described. _____
- E. _____
- E. What was the name of the person who sinned against the clear command of God in Jericho? _____
- F. How many Jews died in the initial battle of Ai? _____
- G. What did Joshua neglect to do before the battle of Ai? _____
- H. What was the remedy for the sin in Israel? (think hard about this)

- I. Compare Eve's sin with this person's in Joshua 7. There are three steps between anyone and sin. What are they? 1) _____
2) _____ 3) _____
- J. Who else was affected by this person's sin? _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Eight

Getting Back Into The Fight

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: Proverbs 24:16

III. Introduction

- A. For the children of Israel, Ai had been a place of embarrassment and defeat. Nevertheless, God wanted them to conquer and have victory over it as well as all the land of Canaan. For the Christian, there are many many areas of embarrassment and defeat in life, but God intends for us to conquer and have victory over even those areas that we have failed in before. The real failure in life is not the one who gets "knocked down". The real failure in life is the one who STAYS "knocked down".
- B. Review of Previous Lessons:
 - 1. Chapter 1 - Preparing to Serve - begins with three things:
 - 2. Chapter 2 - Taking-Up the Challenge
 - 3. Chapter 3 - The Crossing of the Jordan River
 - 4. Chapter 4 - Memorials - Reckoning Yourself to be Dead
 - 5. Chapter 5 - Preparing for the Battles
 - 6. Chapter 6 - The First Stronghold - Jericho
 - 7. Chapter 7 - Sin in the Camp
- C. Background. As long as sin was present in the midst of the children of Israel, no victory was possible. But, once sin had been dealt with, the children of Israel now move on to their next objective of conquering Ai and Bethel.

IV. Lesson - "Getting Back Into The Fight" (8:1-35)

- A. **The Battle at Ai** (8:1-29)
 - 1. **The Plan** (8:1-8)
 - a. This time, the plan comes from the Lord.

PRINCIPLE: Learn your lessons well. Don't keep making the same mistakes in your Christian walk over and over! Seek the Lord's will FIRST, not after everything has fallen apart like in chapter 7.
 - b. The Plan calls for:
 - 1) Courage - Life will not always be like Jericho
 - a) You must face your fears, and your past defeats
 - b) You must face your enemies

- i) Satan himself
- ii) Persecution
- iii) Bad attitudes and sins in your life
- c) You obtain courage in the same way that you obtain faith
- from the written words of God (Rom 10:17; Josh 1:6-9)
- 2) Everyone's participation (not just 3,000 this time)
 - a) Every Christian must be "battle-ready" and "on duty"
 - b) Every Christian must fill some role - not up in the "rickshaw" but down on the ground!
 - i) Frontal troops - soul-winning, answering, standing
 - ii) Support troops - training, praying, giving, helping
- 3) The **utter destruction** of the city
 - a) No inhabitant is to be left alive
 - b) The entire city is to be burned!

Application: When you deal with a sin in your life, get rid of it completely - leave nothing behind!

PRINCIPLE: If you mean business with God about sin in your life, then do what it takes to get rid of it completely!

- c. Use the "ambush" tactic

NOTE: Ai was a city of only 12,000 men, but Joshua was not going to make the same mistake as before of being overconfident. This time, Joshua is prepared.

- 1) 30,000 to lie in wait to the East of Bethel
- 2) 5,000 to lie in wait West of Ai
- 3) Joshua and his men will approach from the North drawing the men of Ai **out** of the city

PRINCIPLE: Sin cannot be dealt with until it is out in the open. You have got to get it out in the open and then fight it tooth and nail to the finish in order to get the victory!

- 2. **The Ploy** (8:9-22) - the Trick

NOTE: Israel is back! Israel is no longer running from the battle, defeated, and humiliated, but is on the offensive!

KEY: They humbled themselves in the sight of the Lord, and now He is going to lift them up (James 4:10).

- a. Everyone went to their appointed place (8:9-13):
 - 1) Joshua first lodges all night with the people
 - 2) Joshua then went into the valley all night before the battle

- b. Everything went off without a hitch (8:14-20):
 - 1) The men of Ai saw the Jews prepared for battle and came out against them
 - 2) Joshua and his mighty men made as if beaten
 - 3) Joshua then gave the signal (8:18)
- c. Everybody was involved in the fight (8:21,22):
 - 1) In the lead was Joshua
 - 2) Then the elders (mature believers), and mighty men (8:10)
 - 3) Finally, "all Israel" (8:21) - what a sad thing when God wants to encourage EVERYBODY with the victory, and so few turn up to see God answer prayer and use His saints (Cf Acts 1 where only 120 of the 500 believers turned up for prayer in the upper room - the other 380 missed Pentecost)!

This is just how a white blood cell operates in the body - surrounds the enemy infection, and draws out the bacteria, and then demolishes everything that the bacteria affected.

3. **The Plunder** (8:23-29)

- a. Required four things to take place:
 - 1) The death of all the inhabitants (8:24,25) - not just the taking control - no moderation allowed, but rather complete defeat!
 - 2) The death of the king (8:23,29) - the mastermind of the enemy must be removed.
 - 3) The burning of the city (8:28)
 - 4) KEY: The consistency of Joshua (8:26) Thank God JESUS is always faithful and consistent (Heb 13:8)!
- b. Resulted in:
 - 1) The children of Israel possessing now two cities in the promised land (Jericho and Ai)
 - 2) Ai being made a heap forever (8:28) - a pile of rubble
 - 3) The other kingdoms becoming afraid of Israel!
 - a) When the Christian goes on the *offensive* in his heart against sins, and against spiritual wickedness, it affects the devil!
 - b) When the Christian goes on the offensive against sins in the community, it affects the community - brings the fear of God back into "the equation" so to speak!

NOTE: The "stones" show up again in 8:29.

B. **The Building of an Altar** (8:30-35)

1. Time now to perform a vow made back in Deut 27 and 28. Take inventory of God's promises and realize that GOD will get you through to each place He has laid out for you (Ps 37:23), if only you would believe, and follow His commands!
2. They come to two mountains - Mt Ebal, and Mt Gerizim:
 - a. Concerning Mt. **Ebal** - the mount of **Cursings**:
 - 1) Joshua builds an alter, and a sacrifice is made
 - 2) Joshua writes a copy of the entire Law on the alter
 - 3) Joshua reads all the words of the Law to everyone starting with Genesis 1:1 all the way through to Deuteronomy 32!
 - 4) The following six tribes are associated with this mountain: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali
 - 5) This becomes the mount of Cursing (Dt 27:15-26)
 - b. Concerning Mt. **Gerizim** - the mount of **Blessings**:
 - 1) The following six tribes are associated with this mountain: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, Benjamin
 - 2) This becomes the mount of Blessing (Dt 28:1-13)

PRINCIPLE: These two mountains represent the clear choice that God's people always have: Obey God and reap the benefits, or disobey God's word and reap the consequences. The choice ought to be just as clear in your home with your family. Show your children the blessings of God as well as the cursings. They need to have a CLEAR choice! Notice that the Bible was in clear view of everyone (make Scripture part of your home décor), and was read aloud (Rom 10:17).

III. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. What battle occurs in Chapter 8? _____
- B. Why was this battle any different than its attempt in Chapter 7? _____
- C. How many people were to participate in this battle? _____
- D. Was this city utterly destroyed? _____
- E. What military tactic did Israel use to defeat the enemy here? _____
- F. Because of Israel's defeat of this city, what was the attitude towards Israel by the surrounding kingdoms now? _____
- G. Two mountains were to be clearly identified as memorials to remind the people of Israel (and us) of the two directions a Christian can go in their life. What was the name of each mountain, and what concept was associated with each mountain?
 1. Name of mountain: _____, concept: _____

2. Name of mountain: _____, concept: _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Nine

Permitting The Tares Among The Wheat

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verses: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

I. Introduction

- A. A major problem with modern Christianity has to do with our tolerance of sin, and our willingness to get along with anybody, no matter what we or they believe. To most, this is considered a "virtue." From the Bible's standpoint, it represents a costly mistake.
- B. Jesus taught about wheat and tares in Matthew
- C. That lesson goes back a bit farther, back to even Cain and Abel, but is learned by Joshua and all Israel here in Chapter 9!

II. Lesson - "Permitting Tares Among The Wheat" (Joshua 9)

A. An Attack From Without (Joshua 9:1,2)

- 1. The formation of the second United Nations - United against God's people, and God's plan (Acts 17:24-27)!

NOTE: The first UN was formed under Nimrod in Genesis 11. God did not tolerate it then, He will not tolerate it here, He does not tolerate it now (1998), and He will not tolerate it in the future (Zeph 3:8)!

- a So called, "Freedom From Religion"
 - b So called, "People for the American Way"
 - c So called, "Separation of Church and State"
- 2. The reasons for their unification:
 - a Unified for self preservation! They know God is AGAINST them (that the Bible is negative against "humanity's goodness, etc).
 - b Unified to stop God's people from interfering in their lives - AIN'T THIS THE TRUTH!
 - c Unified because it is always easier to be in "one accord" with others who are not different than you
 - 1) If you want no fighting, no trouble, no schisms, then join up with a group that doesn't believe strongly about ANYTHING!
 - 2) The main reason why fundamental independent Baptists get in more trouble than most is because they believe strongly about:
 - a) The authority of the King James Bible
 - b) Separation from the world and inner purity
 - c) Things like true separation of church and state

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- d) Demons and counterfeit spirits
- e) The eternal security of the believer

EXAMPLE: Herod and Pilot (Luke 23:12)

3. This attack against Israel is called a "Frontal Assault"
 - a It is relatively easy to prepare for
 - b You can easily spot your enemy coming at you
 - c There are clear lines of distinction between you and your enemy
 - d This was designed to keep the attention of the Jews (a decoy), while another attack was begun...

B. An Attack From Within (Joshua 9:3-27)

1. *The design of a tare* (9:4,5):
 - a They live according to their own will and craftiness
 - b They present themselves as something they are not - false ambassadors
 - c They counterfeit poverty - to touch the emotion

NOTE: "Archaic" words: wily (craftily) and clouded (patched-up) do not require re-translation, just marginal explanations!

 - d For something to be believable, it must be at least 3/4 true
 - e A tare is poisonous by nature - Its purpose is to kill if eaten!
2. *The desire of a tare* (9:6-8). To look, act, and be just like the real wheat without becoming real wheat (Matt 13:24-30)

PRINCIPLE: People want to become "Christians", but without any pre-requisites. They want to have "Have-It-Your-Way" Christianity, which is of the devil!

3. *The deceit of a tare* (9:9-13)
 - a Used the right terminology
 - b Provided "visible" proof of what they were saying
4. *The decision* (9:14-19):
 - a Made without seeking God's will on the matter
 - b Involved making a solemn vow - like a marriage - no going back if you made a mistake!
 - c Will cost them in the long run:
 - 1) These, and all kingdoms not destroyed will become the source for idolatry, bestiality, and Israel's ultimate destruction as a nation which will last until 1948 (Num 33:55,56; Josh 23:13)!
 - 2) It will cost them the confidence of the people in its leadership

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- 3) It is like Abraham's decision in Gen 16 - Ishmael
- 4) It is like Eve's decision in Gen 3
- 5) It is like Lot's decision in Gen 13:10,11

PRINCIPLE: Pray without ceasing about everything (1Thes 5:17)!

5. *The decree* (9:20-27)

- a The Gibeonites shall live as we promised

NOTICE the importance placed upon the vow made. God holds the Jews to this vow clear up to the 70 year captivity (2Sam 21).

- b The Gibeonites shall be controlled, and kept beside the temple in order to keep their idolatry from affecting Israel.

QUESTION: Did this plan work? No - this was only second best situation, and will lead to ruin.

PRINCIPLE: You cannot improve on God's plan and will for your life. If He says get rid of the sin, then don't let any stay around because you may think that you can control it, but ultimately, it will control you!

III. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. Several nations begin to group together to war against Israel. One nation however acts smartly, and seeking self-preservation, attempts to deceive Israel into letting them live. What was the name of that nation? _____

- B. How did that nation trick Israel? _____

- C. What was Israel's fault in this deception? _____

- D. Why couldn't Israel go back on their word of protection of this nation when they found out they had been deceived? _____

- E. What did Israel decide to do with these people? _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Ten

What It Takes To Win The Battle

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verses: Matt 17:19,20; Rom 16:20

I. Introduction

- A. Much to our surprise, there seems to be a vast difference between today's Christianity, and God's people as we find them in the Bible. All too often, we recognize this, but do nothing about finding out what has changed, and why we have changed. When we find ourselves in a spiritual battle, we lose and give in to temptation because we have not learned what it takes to "win the battle" God's way! Today, let's take a hour and find out what is really takes to win our battles.
- B. Review - Where Are We Anyway?
 - 1. We've come through the Wilderness,
 - 2. Walked across the Jordan river on dry ground,
 - 3. Set up some special memorials,
 - 4. Set up camp at Gilgal,
 - 5. Surrounded Jericho, and watched its walls tumble,
 - 6. Lost the first battle at Ai because of hidden sin,
 - 7. Won the second battle at Ai, and recaptured Bethel.

II. Lesson - What It Takes to Win the Battle - Joshua 10

- A. **What It Takes to Win the Battle** (10:1-14)
 - 1. **The News About Joshua Spreads** (10:1-5)
 - a. Invokes three things:
 - 1) Fear on the part of those threatened (10:2; Jam 2:19; Acts 24:25)
 - 2) Unity of common enemies
 - 3) Hatred of the friends of Joshua - we had better stick together!
 - b. Incorporates five southern Canaanite kingdoms - now comes the frontal attack - if Satan cannot attack and conquer you from within, he will resort to direct assault! Satan always tries to outnumber you (5-1 here but see Rom 8:31)!
 - 1) Adoni-zedek (Lord of righteousness), king of Jerusalem (see also Melchizedek, Baalzebub, and titles of national leaders)
 - 2) Hoham, king of Hebron
 - 3) Piram, king of Jarmoth
 - 4) Japhia, king of Lachish

5) Debir, king of Eglon

2. **Gibeon Calls on Joshua for Help** (10:6)

- a. They knew what they were up against.
- b. They knew who to call on:
 - 1) Not on their own gods (i.e., money, personalities)
 - 2) But on the One whom they believed could handle the situation (put His promises of protection to test)
 - 3) See the Book of Psalms - 34:4-7; 40:1-3; 46:1; 50:15

3. **Joshua Responds - Here Comes The Calvary** (10:7-14)

- a. The Lord uses the situation and promises victory (10:7,8)
 - 1) To us, obstacles are hindrances, but to God they are only opportunities to do the impossible!
 - 2) This will just be the means of conquering the southern portion of Canaan.
 - 3) Key: Don't do anything without God's promises:
 - a) Raising children
 - b) Building a church
 - c) Entering into the spiritual battles
 - d) Getting married
- b. Joshua executes a "sudden attack" (10:9)
 - 1) A "forced" march
 - 2) Here, immediate response to the plea for help, but God does not promise this (Dan 10:1-14)
- c. Joshua shows us The Six Keys to Winning the "Battle" here:
 - 1) **Obey the Lord's command** - do what God commands - Faith
 - 2) **Reckon that the Lord already has won it for you** (10:8) - Agree - For us, it was back at the cross (Jn 19:30; Heb 10).
 - 3) **Let the Lord fight for you** "in the midst of the battle" (implying that you have got to go through it for the Lord to bring the victory). (10:10,11) - Yield
 - 4) **Make sure that you give Him the credit!** (10:10,11; Rev 5:9-13) - Honour
 - 5) **Allow for the supernatural** (10:12,13) - Anticipate
 - a) The fact is, "We pray little, and believe less"
 - i) Supernatural strength (10:7,9)
 - ii) Hailstones in July (10:10,11)
 - iii) Supernatural faith (10:12-13)

- b) List some of the miraculous events in Scripture - events that CANNOT be explained by a sequence of "natural" events.
- i) Creation
 - ii) Birth of Isaac
 - iii) World-wide flood
 - iv) Splitting of the Red sea
 - v) Bush burning and yet not consumed
 - vi) Turning the water into wine
 - vii) The virgin birth of Jesus
 - viii) Hundreds more - why would we come to this event and say it is impossible?!
 - ix) The Bible is scientifically, historically, archeologically, and prophetically correct - and so is it miraculously correct!
- c) The Sun standing still for almost 24 additional hours and the moon standing still as well!
- i) Arguments against this ever happening:
 - "Joshua was wrong in telling the Sun to 'stand still' because the Sun doesn't really move"
 - "This is just scientifically impossible. Nobody today would believe this"
 - "If the earth stopped just like 'that', then we would be thrown off into outer space" - Wrong!
 - ii) Notice the reason for the miracle: In order to get the job done! That is what miracles are for (Acts 2:11)
 - iii) Joshua did not see it as hard for God (Jer 32:17)
- 6) **Fight until complete victory comes** (10:13; 2Cor 10:4,5; 2King 13:14-19) "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance" - Persevere
- a) Fight against wrong attitudes
 - b) Fight against wrong imaginations
 - c) Fight against wrong desires and lusts - CONFESS
 - d) Fight against wrong habits and actions
- d. Israel makes history (10:14) "**And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man:**"
- 1) Prayer changes things - You can change God's mind
 - a) God is NOT a Calvinist - a Being that cannot be changed. If He is, the what's the use of praying then?!

- b) Real praying involves only believing what God said (see 10:8)!
- 2) God delights in men who believe that He can do the impossible when we rely on Him as we obey Him!
 - a) Moving mountains (Mk 11:23; Mt 17:20;)
 - b) Plucking up trees (Lk 17:6)
 - c) Conquering sin (Rom 6:14)
 - d) Resisting Satanic attack (Jam 4:7; Eph 6:12)
 - e) The greatest impossibility to over come is that of unlovability (1 Cor 13:2) - of sinners, saints, and a Sovereign Lord
- 3) What INFIDELS say about this miracle:
 - a) That this passage of Scripture is nothing more than a "metaphore" - a nice story.
 - b) That in this metaphore may lie some interesting concepts of cosmology and perhaps even *astrology*. Indeed, it is possible, as some interpreters have suggested, that Joshua was uttering an INCANTATION to the Sun and moon to help him defeat his enemies!!!

4. Information on the miracle of the Sun standing still:

- a. The sun is NOT standing still. The sun is moving through our galaxy at 43,200 miles an hour!
 - 1) Note our modern technologically advanced newspaper wording: sunRISE, and, sunSET!!!
 - 2) Note that Joshua said, "IN THE SIGHT OF ISRAEL SUN STAND THOU STILL..."
 - 3) Note that the Moon as well is told to stand still showing you it has to be the earth (in relation to the Israelites) that is to stop rotating.
- b. God can do whatever He wants! If God is the Lawgiver, then He can suspend the laws anytime that He desires! God could not care less if anybody "really" believed this miracle or not. I know that Christians are POWERLESS today because we DO NOT BELIEVE GOD!!!
 - 1) Jesus spoke to the wind and the waves "Peace, be STILL" and they obeyed!!! Mark 4:39
 - 2) God created everything in this universe with just ONE WORD! What is so complicated about slowing it down for 24 hours?

- c. The Sun is told not to "freeze" because it does ultimately go down a day later than usual (without being told to do so by Joshua). Example of road crew being told to "stand still" until a truck passes. The effect would be that of the Sun ceasing its gravitational pull on the earth allowing it to slow down from 1004 mph, to only about 10 or 100 mph (10:13).

5. PROOFS:

- a. Prof Tooten of Yale, 1890, an atheist astronomer, checked and found 23hrs, and 20min missing from our calendar from July 22, 1406 B.C. He was not satisfied that there was a God until he could account for the other 40 minutes. A young man showed him Isa 38:7,8 where God TURNED BACK the Sun 10 degrees (40 minutes) for Hezekiah. "The Harmony of Science and Scripture", Eerdmans, 1936 pp 281-283. By-the-way, Tooten became a Christian after that!
- b. Records found in Greece, Egypt, China, and Mexico all make mention of a "long day" corresponding to the time of Joshua.

B. Dealing With Defeated Kings (10:15-43)

1. For modern Christianity, having clear victory over sin in the life of the believer is rare, but dealing completely with the SOURCE of the sin is even more rare!
2. In this chapter, we are going to learn some important lessons about how to deal with *defeated kings* once they have lost a battle in your life.
3. And then we are going to look at tallying up the victories, and bring them under the new management of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:5; we preach not only Christ Jesus, but Christ Jesus, who is THE LORD)!
4. **How to Deal With Defeated Kings** (10:15-27)
 - a. Stay near Gilgal (10:15)
PRINCIPLE: Don't let the victory go to your head.
 - b. Search for the hidden kings (10:16,17)
NOTE: These kings picture powerful, and yet hidden sins. Sins that were defeated at the cross, and yet are not conquered. You may win victory over certain sins, but not conquered the **source** of those sins!
 - c. Locating them (where do you look for them? Ps 19:12; Eph 5:12; Rom 2:16)
 - 1) Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, BUT, there are places where the devil can hide!

- 2) Specifically, look in your mind or imagination as counterfeit Holy Spirits - Don't just let your thoughts just run wild - Example of Thomas Edison.
- d. Identifying them (some modern day kings): (things that you "serve" other than Jesus Christ)
 - 1) The god of this world, Satan (2 Cor 4:3,4) The Prince and the power of the air (Eph 2:2)
 - 2) The flesh: me, myself, and I (Phil 3:18,19)
 - 3) Any authority here claiming to be above Christ (Cf Act 5:27-29)

NOTE: Deny them the authority they once had and reduce them to a manageable size such as Satan will be in Isa 14.
- e. Suppress the freedom of these kings (10:18) (Brought the Law of resistance into play here)
 - 1) Two philosophies in life (basically):
 - a) "Take the lid off and let it run" Don't try to control it, just turn it loose! Modern philosophy teaches this and has destroyed this country! "We are just going to do it anyway"
 - b) "Keep the lid on and try to keep it down" Any sin you keep down is better than when you turn it loose. The generations before us believed in controlling the flesh! Fight tooth and nail until you drop!
 - 2) APPLICATIONS: The drug war. Alcoholism. Abortion on demand. Pornography.
- f. Stay in pursuit (10:19). Satan flees but must be pursued (Jam 4:7)

NOTE: This victory of not done at once! Christ completed the victory for you at Calvary, but in your personal life you have to keep appropriating it! It means, prioritizing its power and purpose above all other powers
- g. As long as you are alive, you will never completely take care of all sin, it is a LIFE LONG BATTLE!!! But you ought to be sinning less and less.
- h. Stay in pursuit or the sin will enter into "fenced cities" (10:20)
 - 1) These are the fortified cities in your life
 - 2) Things you never want to be honest about or be rid of
 - 3) You therefore have two issues:
 - a) Crush satanic influences ASAP
 - b) Slowly rid your life of fenced cities

- i. Bring the kings to Joshua (Jesus) and let Him take care of them (10:22-25)
 - 1) By the grace of God, take control of your life!
 - 2) Quit being dominated by the things that the Lord has given you victory over (10:25)
- j. Place them back on the cross (10:26) - Mortify them (Rom 8:13; Col 3:5-10), and then put on the new Man who is ALIVE and WELL!!
- k. Bury them for good (10:27) - under the blood. Remember that YOUR King could not be kept by a stone!

C. **Obtaining Territory** (10:28-43). The territory is the land left over after the "king" (principalities and powers) have been kicked-out!

PRINCIPLE: Every inch of your life has to be fought for and turned over to the Lord or else the devil will still control it.

1. Taking possession of conquered land:
 - a. Jericho (6:1-27)
 - b. Ai (8:1-35)
 - c. Gibeon (9:1-27) - they surrendered without a fight
 - d. Chephirah (9:17) - a Gibeonite city meaning "lioness"
 - e. Beeroth (9:17) - a Gibeonite city meaning "wells"
 - f. Kirjath-jearim (9:17) - a Gibeonite city, meaning "forest"
 - g. Makkedah (10:28) - Means "a place for shepherds"
 - h. Libnah (10:29,30) - Means "whiteness"
 - i. Lachish (10:31,32) - Means "rough"
 - j. Gezer (10:33) - Means "portion"
 - k. Eglon (10:34,35) - means "like a calf"
 - l. Hebron (10:36,37) - means "union"
 - m. Debir (10:38,39) - means "speaking"
 - n. Kadesh-barnea (10:40-41) - means "holy"
 - o. Gaza (10:41) - means "strong" or "strength"

NOTE: This resulted in the possession of the entire southern portion of the Promised land (15 cities and territories) in one sweep. They were really "on a roll" and they took advantage of it for the Lord!

2. APPLICATION

- a. Identify areas in your life already conquered by the Lord (Isa 53)
 - 1) **Sins** - what you do and feel; actions that are ungodly - sowing
 - a) Fear - hesitation to do what God says, or what you know is right; fear of the unknown
 - b) Lust

- c) Anger
 - d) Lying
 - e) Idolatry
 - f) Stealing
- 2) **Sorrows** - what you experience because of godly actions - reaping
- a) The failures of the past (heavy memories)
 - b) The present (disappointments and dissatisfactions)
 - c) Shame and guilt
 - d) Health problems
- b. Reckon, or classify those areas as under new management! Occupy those areas with the new man - the new life lived fervently for Jesus
- 1) Sins are actions that go against God, and they need new actions in their place that obey God
 - 2) Sorrows are the results of our sins, and will be replaced with the fruit of godly labours for God. Sorrows in the mean time should be replaced (over stamped) with the promises and peace of God that comes automatically with our obedience.
3. Note the method of taking possession (conquering):
- a. Simply followed as the Lord went ahead of them - they simply entered into battles already being fought by God - not trying to start-up battles without the Lord in it!
 - b. Used the Sword (10:28; Cf Eph 6:17; Mt 4) - quoted Scripture at temptations and sorrows, knowing not empty phrases, but direct attacks (promises of God) on the sins and sorrows you face!
 - c. Utterly destroyed the inhabitants! Don't seek to keep some of the baggage around (2 Cor 10:5).
 - d. Willing to "dig-in" and finish the job, and not give up when it gets unpopular, and hard to battle (10:19; 10:31,32)
 - e. Everybody fought together as a team - a body (10:34; 1Cor 12:27). It is very sad when only a few Christians fight for right!
 - f. Remained consistent, and faithful to the commands of the Lord in His word - necessary to stay in the battle!
 - g. Make Joshua (Jesus) in charge of each new territory - they did not just leave each area empty again for the enemy to come back and fill-up - nature abhors a vacuum (Cf Luke 11:24-26).
4. Reviewing the victory (10:40-43) - keep a prayer journal, and a spiritual log of battles and blessings - spiritual inventory

- a. Note that Joshua did the "smiting", but the Lord did the "fighting" (10:40-42). It is always God that gives the victory, but you have got to do some "*smiting*" yourself.

PRINCIPLE: God is not going to very often give you victory over sins like smoking, drinking, bad language, bad attitudes, immorality, etc., unless you square off face-to-face with the sin and deal with it head on!!!

- b. Note that Israel always got back to Gilgal until the entire war was finished (10:43; Cf 13:7-ff)
 - 1) This kept them humble! They had to go back to the starting place, and get back with God, and stay simple as they grew.
 - 2) Gilgal was the place where they were circumcised - committed to God - dedicated - living sacrifices (Rom 12:1)!
 - 3) Always get back to the "closet" - the place where you and God find victory BEFORE each battle, and give praise AFTER each battle!

III. Conclusion to Chapter 10 - Study Questions

- A. Are the sins (kings) in your life defeated by Christ, or still active and maintaining control? Jesus' death was the conquering blow (Col 2:13-15)
- B. Are YOU trying to totally defeat the principalities and powers, or just obeying the Lord's command to suppress them until Jesus comes?
- C. Do you take spiritual inventory of your heart very often to see where the "kings" hide?
- D. Are you willing to battle on until the "armies" are defeated, or do you grow tired very quickly of the fight, and allow the devil to re-group and come at you again and again and again?
- E. Do you bring all sins and defeats to the cross, and nail them their, or do you yourself carry them?
- F. Is there much territory conquered in your life by the Lord, or dominated by the flesh?
- G. How much of the *sword* (word of God) do you rely upon for spiritual victory?
- H. Are you a rogue, or a part of a larger Christian team, called the body of Christ - the local, New testament Church?
- I. Are you finding the strength for each battle at your "Gilgal", or with little or no prayer?

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Eleven

Preparing To Possess (Occupy)

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verses: Ephesians 1:11; Luke 19:13

I. Introduction

- A. By now you should have noted that the children of Israel did not just come right into the land of Canaan and set up their homes, and begin enjoying the blessings of their inheritance from the Lord. It has been a long hard fight to "obtain the land" ever since they crossed the Jordan river.
- B. In the following two chapters, we will review the last major battles fought and won (not just endured), and then study the beginning of the process of "possessing the land."

II. Lesson - "Preparing to Possess - or, The Final Battles (11:1-23)"

A. The battle against the Northern Confederacy (11:1-20)

1. The biggest battle yet - (11:1-5) 15 sets of kingdoms. The Jewish historian Josephus says it included 350,000 troops, 20,000 chariots.

PRINCIPLE: The battles only get bigger as you go along. And not only bigger, but more complex. Israel only had foot soldiers!

2. The renewed promise of victory (11:6) Joshua goes to prayer "*What are we to do?*" God reminds him of what GOD will do! Do you claim God's Promises?
 - a. Concerning temptation: 1Cor 10:13; 2Tim 2:2; James 4:7
 - b. Concerning your needs being met: Heb 13:5; Philp 4:19
 - c. Concerning getting answers to prayer: Matt 7:7,8
 - d. Concerning getting forgiveness of sin: 1John 1:9
 - e. Concerning Christ being with you always: Matt 28:20; Heb 13:5
3. The battle plan (11:7) - Attack SUDDENLY! Just know what God wants you to do, and then do it - obedience needs no delay!

NOTE: The Lord delivered the enemy into the hand of Israel to be slain by Israel. God did not do any miracle here. It was Israel's time to learn to fight on their own!
4. The process of the battle (11:8-17)
 - a. Wrought *complete* destruction (11:8) - again, there is no stalemate, or struggle just to endure, but complete victory every battle!
 - b. They kept the Lord's command (11:9)

NOTE: They did not keep the chariots and horses! The world's weapons and strength can become a stumbling block - you don't need them.

- c. Hazor is dealt with last - Pictures Satan - he was behind it all
 - d. There is a pay-off in the battle (11:13,14) - there were "strong cities" available now ready to be occupied.
 - e. Finally, just step-by-step obedience to God's word - victories will come, if we could just be consistent (Gal 6:9)!
5. The time element of the battle (11:18) This battle took the longest (about 5 years).
6. The real reason for the battle (11:19,20)
- a. Judgement upon the Canaanites - but not a sort of predestination!
 - b. See Gen 15:13-16 and Gen 6:3. It was the end of a lot of grace.
 - c. The same situation will occur in the tribulation (2Thes 2:1-12).
- B. The battle against the "giants" (11:21-23)**
- 1. Giants are not mythological
 - a. Just as with Dragons (Ps 44:19; 74:13; 91:13; Isa 27:1) - these are leftover dinosaurs
 - b. Giants originated before the time of the flood (Gen 6:1-4)
 - c. They still show up after the flood, but in much smaller numbers
 - d. Giants were genetically different to mankind (2Sam 21:20)
 - e. One of these giants comes to mock Israel later on named Goliath from Gath (1Samuel 17).
 - 2. Joshua was not afraid of things bigger than himself (Cf Num 13:21-33)
 - 3. Joshua cleared them out of the land: Except for those remaining in Philistia (11:22)
- C. The End of the War, but not the end of all battles (11:23)**
- 1. Once the kings and the major armies were defeated, the land began to experience REST!
 - a. Rest comes with victory (Heb 12:11; Luke 2:14; Col 3:15). Too many Christians only settle for survival, and co-existence⁴, and just enduring, instead of victory. To have rest means to be able to say something is finished - that's why there are so many ulcers!
 - 1) Rest from fear of death (Heb 2:15)
 - 2) Rest from works - trying to pay off sins (Mt 11)
 - 3) Rest from failures and defeat - they come but can't overwhelm
 - 4) Rest from confusion (2 Tim 1:7)
 - 5) Rest from worry and anxiety
 - 6) Rest from fruitlessness (John 15) - emptiness of life

- b. Rest is experienced when battles are fought and won - not given into! Don't live the lie that you will find some sort of peace and rest if you ignore sins and dealing with sin in your life - it won't happen! As a Christian, you cannot ignore the devil's attacks!
2. Even though the WAR was over ...
 - a. There were still some battles ahead - "cleaning up operations" that would remove the idols left by the previous inhabitants (Num 33:51-53).
 - b. There is a lot of land to "occupy" - fill up with the new life - this is where battles occur where Satan tries to retake what was once his (Eph 5:18)!

III. Conclusion to Chapter 11 - Study Thoughts and Questions

- A. As you go along in life, you can only expect the battles to get bigger or smaller? Simpler to handle, or more complex?
- B. Does it really matter whether the devil seems to be able to "out-gun" the Christian?
- C. How much Scripture have *you* hidden away? Can you quote any promises, and trust them for your needs? You **MUST** make this part of your heart!
- D. The Lord will often drop you right into a spiritual battle, and say "Go get 'em!" When that is the case, what should you do? Wait on HIM to do the fighting? Evidently, He seems to think that YOU can do the fighting this time, and will bring the enemy right to your doorstep!
- E. Don't be afraid of things bigger than yourself!
- F. When does rest occur in the heart of the Christian?
- G. What kinds of rest can a Christian experience?
- H. Some battles take years - health battles, battles for souls (to get saved), etc. Don't get discouraged.
- I. Even though the war is over, there is a lot of work to do! What two things are left?

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Twelve

No Time To Rest (Part 1)

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Galatians 6:9**

I. Introduction

- A. For most of Christians, the battle is over. Fighting has ended, and, for the most part, we have given in to the enemy (the world, the flesh, and the devil). Christianity has become spiritually anemic. We are "tired" spiritually, and look forward to vacations "away from it all," when God all along really wants us to get refreshed, refueled, and reinforced for the battle while IN THE BATTLE! What a thought! We can get "renewed" daily IN the struggles - as a matter of fact, many times, there is no break between battles, so the key is to learn to find "refreshment" where you are at! That's what church and Christian fellowship is all about!
- B. God says, there is no time to rest, the field is ALREADY white (past ripe) unto harvest, don't delay. Joshua is old, and could well retire if he wanted to, but there is no time to rest: there is still much work to do and Joshua is committed to completing the job they set out to do.
- C. It is time to "possess the land," occupy it - for the Christian, it is getting filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18).
- D. Note the phases in obtaining their inheritance:
 1. First, claim it (Num 13 - Joshua 1:18) - know clear boundaries of conquest, not vague "ideas!"

NOTE: This is not a "Name it and Claim It" operation. GOD named it, so we need to claim it - it is not up to US to decide what we just want, but to receive what Christ has provided: salvation, sanctification, joy!
 2. Then, conquer it (2:1-11:22)
 3. Third, possess it (11:23 through to the time of the Judges) - filling it up
 4. Not just defeating the inhabitants, but moving in, rebuilding the cities, and settling in the land - setting up a whole new structure and culture - new life!

II. Lesson - "No Time To Rest (12:1-24) Part One"

- A. First step to Possession - **Remember the past victories!** Don't forget what God has done for you and through you! The Christian needs to have regular times of "memorial" (the Lord's Supper, spiritual birthday, remembrances of spiritual victories, etc).

1. Victories on the eastern side of Jordan (12:1-6). There were 2 victories under Moses (Sihon, and Og)
 - a. These were not just any old kings, and their kingdoms were "run-of-the-mill" easy kingdoms to conquer - none of these battles could be taken for granted.
 - b. Og was a GIANT
 - c. Moses gave the 2 and 1/2 tribes the eastern land
 - d. This matches the sinner's battle getting saved - there are giants blocking you from even entering the new life in Christ - the promised land. They MUST be dealt with, and conquered for you to get saved. Then begins the real battle for total surrender and possession by the Holy Spirit!
2. Victories on the western side of Jordan (12:7-24). There were 31 victories under Joshua (12:24!)
 - a. Notice that the majority of the battles on the eastern side were internal battles with their hearts, and with a FEW enemies. They were fighting themselves, and their Leader most of the time - internal enemies!
 - b. Once they get where God wanted them (the Promised Land), then, THAT is where the real fighting began! When you get where God wants you, then you will experience not only the battles, but the victories, if you will follow your Commander!
 - c. Israel battled in EVERY situation possible (in mountains, plains, valleys, etc), to show that no matter where you encounter the enemy in life, it will never be too much, nor too hard!

NOTE the defeat of the king of Megiddo (12:21) Joshua defeated this king, but it's power will show up again later in another battle in the future - the battle of Armageddon.

III. Conclusion - Study Questions

- A. The battles before we get right with God are battles with what mainly? Ourselves, our fears, and our Lord!
- B. The battles after we surrender and follow the Lord are battles with what mainly? The real enemies!
- C. To take possession of our new Christian life is referred to as what in the New Testament? Getting "filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18).
- D. A good way to begin "taking possession" of your Christian life is by what? By reviewing God's victories in our past - even just the victory of us getting saved is good enough to begin!

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Thirteen

No Time To Rest (Part 2)

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**Lesson Verse: **Galatians 6:9**

I. Introduction

- A. Christians seem to be so "tired" spiritually these days, and look forward to vacations "away from it all (including the Bible, and church)," when God all along really wants us to get refreshed, refueled, and reinforced for the battle while IN THE BATTLE! What a thought! We can get "renewed" daily IN the struggles - as a matter of fact, many times, there is no break between battles, so the key is to learn to find "refreshment" where you are at! That's what church and Christian fellowship is all about!
- B. God says, there is no time to rest, the field is ALREADY white (past ripe) unto harvest, don't delay. Joshua is old, and could well retire if he wanted to, but there is no time to rest: there is still much work to do and Joshua is committed to completing the job they set out to do.
- C. It is time to "possess the land," occupy it - for the Christian, it is getting filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18).

II. Lesson - "No Time to Rest - Part Two" (Joshua 13:1-32)

- A. The first step to Possession (Joshua 12) - **Remember the past victories!** Don't forget what God has done for you and through you!
- B. **Never Think You Have "Arrived"** (13:1-6; Cf Phil 3:12-14) - you are not now on "easy street" (Cf Eph 2:8-10).
 1. NOTE two things:
 - a. That Joshua was old but not finished fighting (about 100 yrs old)
 - b. That even in spite of all the victories, there were many more battles to be won, and land to be possessed ahead.

PRINCIPLE: God's will for your life is never exhausted; there is always further to go (Ps 150:6)!
 2. There was still land that had yet to be conquered and possessed: (For the land-grant given to Abraham, see Gen 12:7; 13:17,18; 15:18-21)
 - a. The border of the Philistines - on the southwest
 - b. The land of the Giblites - central
 - c. All of Lebanon (the hill country) - to the north
 - d. The Sidonians - also to the north
 3. Notice the renewed promise of victory (13:6). The Lord never points out the sin (or the areas to be conquered) without also providing the grace to deal with it! Conditioned upon obedience though!

- C. **Don't wait for complete victory to take place before enjoying your inheritance - divide the land and move in** (13:7-12)
1. Start dividing the land - meaning: filling up the land you have conquered - don't just leave it empty (*fill it AS you conquer it!*)
 2. Start inheriting the land - reap the benefits of your new life under the dominion of Christ. A lot of Christians don't even know what benefits there are to being a Christian that can be experienced HERE, and not just in heaven! Like: Long life - inherit it by faithful living; Sanity; and Audiences with the King
- D. **Don't Fail to Finish the Job** (13:13). NOTE: The first mention of incomplete obedience is in 13:13. Problem was that these kingdoms were not considered worth paying much attention to.
- E. **Don't try to make your inheritance material things** (13:14; Lk 12:15).
1. God started with the tribe of LEVI! Those who had the sacrifices!
 - a. Levi was the priest-tribe with no physical inheritance. For the tribe of Levi: Nothing was awarded! (repeated several times)
 - b. Christians match THIS tribe (Cf 1Pet 2:5; Heb 11:13-16).
 - c. God started with the spiritual first, and then turned to those who settled for second best (the 2 1/2 tribes).
 2. The Levi's inheritance consisted of three things:
 - a. The sacrifice itself (13:14; 1John 5:12)!!!
 - b. The Lord Himself (13:33; Gen 15:1)
 - c. Their own priesthood (18:7)
 3. This is the wonder of the New Testament doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer (Heb 4:14-16; 1Pet 2:9). We too have all those things!
- F. **Take the Place You have Chosen** (13:15-32) - Either with God's people, or on your own, in your place *of second best* - just make up your mind! God hates lukewarm people (Rev 3:14-18; 1Kg 18:21)! In reality, YOU chose whether to accept God's way, or to go your OWN way - I'm tired of my own way (Isa 53:6)!
1. These divisions were set up under Moses. Comparing Moses with Joshua, from which would you rather have received your inheritance? (Cf John 1:17) - the Law, or Grace?
 2. A quarter of the people end up on the Wrong Side of Jordan! There is division in Israel because half want to walk by faith, and the other half wants to walk by sight (Num 32:1-6). This is ALWAYS the cause of splits, divorces, arguments. Etc!
 3. This splits affects the whole nation (Numb 32:7-15) - discouraging, and defeating them, and potentially destroying them.

4. The carnal ones (Cf 1Cor 3:1-3) come up with a compromise (Num 32:16-25) that would allow them to obey only so far, and yet do their own thing.
 5. It is the carnal ones who are destroyed first and taken captive when Assyria and after them the Babylonians conquer the surrounding countries. This is always the case with us Christians as well!
 6. The tribe of **Rueben** (13:15-23). Rueben was the firstborn son of Jacob. After Levi, he gets first place. He, no his children however were very spiritual (Gen 49:3,4).
 7. The tribe of **Gad** (13:24-28) - a small tribe.
 8. The half-tribe of **Manasseh** (13:29-32). From one of the two sons of Joseph (the other being Ephraim). This tribe of people split - their home was divided (Luke 12:51-53). Christ makes us choose our course, just as any coach, or boss, or mate would - no way to have it OUR way, where we just go happily along, apathetically!
- G. **Watch Out for Balaams** (13:22). This guy gets mentioned a lot in the Bible - he is a very important enemy to understand, and stay away from.
1. For background, see Num 22:1-25:3; his death in Num 31:8. Balaam means 'Subverter'
 2. The Death of Balaam (13:22). Moses meets Balaam, and destroys him - he was a prophet, but a lost one - unsaved - ungodly, and a tool of the devil (Cf Matt 7:21-23).
 3. The Dangerous effects of Balaam:
 - a. The way of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15) - His OWN way, as was Cain's and Korah's
 - b. The error of Balaam (Jude 1:11) - that his faith and commitment could be bought and sold for a price! Most Christians today gladly sell out their commitment to Christ for a few bob, or for less persecution, or less trouble - they value things they can see more than eternity, and their faith and love for Christ!
 - c. The doctrine of Balaam (Rev 2:14) - that God's people ought to become just like the world, and therefore an abomination to God, thereby forcing God to have to destroy even His own people, as He had to do the Jews!
 - 1) Satan's primary focus is to **devour** Christians - ruin their lives so that they are no good for God to use
 - 2) Satan ruins us most by defiling us (1 Cor 3:17)
 - 3) When we are unusable, then others cannot get saved - they MUST see Christ among them (Cf Ezek 2:5)
 - 4) Ungodly Christians affect more people away from God, than godly people affect them FOR God!
 - 5) Balaam uses miracles, sex, and prophetic power to lure us

III. Conclusion - Study Questions

- A. Why does a Christian need to be filled (possessed) with the Holy Spirit? Because otherwise, their life will fill back up with worse sins than the ones that first dominated them! There are no vacuums in nature!
- B. When should a Christian get filled up with the Holy Spirit? When they are completely empty, or when they have begun the process of emptying themselves?
- C. How does a Christian get filled with the Spirit? By conquering sins and areas that are under the dominion of the devil, and then replacing that area with God - with something godly, and pure, and inviting the Holy Spirit to take charge of that area!
- D. The first step to Christian victory is to remember what? (Your past victories - when we forget what the Lord has done in our lives, we shrivel up in despair because we have so quickly forgotten them (2 Pet 1:9). If you have no past victories, then either one of two things:
 - 1. You never got saved - you need to get saved
 - 2. You have been away from God too long - you need to repent
- E. How long should a Christian hesitate before deciding their commitment to Christ? ASAP! He who hesitates, is dead!
- F. What was Levi's inheritance (there were three listed)?
- G. What was the problem with Balaam? He was not saved, could be bought (a traitor), and led others away from God using miracles and sex
- H. Are there more enemies to face before, or after salvation?
- I. The battles after salvation can be compared to what kind of fighting? Cleaning up battles!
- J. What is one of the greatest dangers to a Church? Division, where half want to live by faith, and the other half want to live by sight - the ones who try and live by faith will most often be discouraged by those who want to live by sight!

The Book of Joshua

Chapters Fourteen

I Want That Mountain!

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: Acts 20:32

I. Introduction

- A. Several sections of the Bible "seem" rather dull to the Christian primarily because they simply ARE (God seems to make sure every thing is dealt with thoroughly), but secondarily, because the words are not being "panned" (sifted for the great truths that God has stored within them). We can be sure that God never wasted a single drop of ink in His scriptures (Mt 4:4), so, in sections like what we are about to study, prepare to do some "panning" for some "nuggets" for us today.
- B. Don't look to retire as a Christian in this life, because there is so much more ahead to fight for, and claim for Christ (Mission Field, the conversion of our country to Biblical values). In other words, there is no time allowed for Christians to "rest" from seeking the lost, sending out missionaries, and serving our Lord.
- C. We are currently studying the process that God had Joshua go through in dividing the Promised Land to the major tribes of Israel (14:1-17:18). We are now turning our attention to the Promised Land itself, not at the land on the other side of Jordan.

II. Lesson - "Claiming Your Mountain" (14:1-15)

- A. **Some "Nuggets" Found in God's Design.** The Process of dividing the Land (14:1-5).
 1. Eleazar is Aaron's son (Dt 10:6), and therefore the High Priest.
 2. Remember, compare the Land to the Christian's life - the abundant life promised by Christ (2 Cor 5:17; John 10:10).
 3. God's design throughout Scripture is repeated over and over through many situations, so that the student of Scripture sees the patterns, and how they work from very possible angle (Cf Psalm 95:10).
 4. God's design for the Christian
 - a. You have an inherited "country" - place you can call home - place where you live and reside in, not run away from (14:1) Cf Heb 11:13-16
 - b. You have an inheritance that is chosen "by lot" (14:2; Prov 16:33)
 - 1) Talking about our "assignment" in life - out "lot" in life. The place that is not a holiday or vacation spot, but a place of battle, and assured victory!

- 2) You can obtain what "lot" you want in life - God will give you what you want sometimes
 - 3) But God wants to show you HIS way; His place for you! Let the Lord in His word reveal it to you
 - 4) Most Christians want things their way, but let God show you your place, your PLOT in His kingdom - what Christ GAVE you (Phil 1:29)
- c. Just as the Levites were to receive only "cities" (14:3,4) - we have a CITY of our own, just as Abraham did (Heb 11:8-10), the New Jerusalem.
- d. Everything had already been "laid-out" (commanded and explained) before by Moses in the books of the Law (14:5) - the Christian does not have to "fly blind" and just figure it out on their own - no need for new revelation! We just need to study what is given in God's word!

PRINCIPLE: The foundation to the entire word of God is "laid-out" in the first five books of Moses called the Law:

- 1) The coming Messiah (Gen 3:15, et al)
- 2) The rapture (Gen 5:21-24)
- 3) The never changing pattern of human behavior (Genesis chapters 3-11) - sin, sorrow, rebellion, religion, killing, domination, etc.
- 4) The means of salvation (by the blood of the lamb; Gen 4)
- 5) The upcoming one-world government system (Gen 10,11)
- 6) And much more...

B. Some "Nuggets" Found in Caleb's Desire (14:6-15) - Cf Psalm 37:4

1. **The Review** (14:7-11) - Of the past
 - a. Out of the 12 original spies, only two remain: Joshua, and Caleb (they had the promised "long life" attributed to obedience; 14:10; Prov 3:1,2)
 - b. There were promises made over 40 years earlier to be obtained - There is no "Sell-By Date" on God's promises!
 - c. In spite of all the years of "wandering" alongside the children of Israel, Caleb "*wholly followed the Lord*" his God
 - 1) He knew that there was a "pay-off" for obedience to God (14:9)
 - 2) Held to the promises (that is the definition of faith - totally trusting what God said to be true), and from "his heart" he spoke confidently about conquering the Promised Land (14:7)

- 3) Didn't let the pressures of the world, carnal Christians, and of even delay affect his walk with God, and faith in God!

NOTE: Other carnal Christians can affect your position as a Christian (see Joseph and his faithfulness, yet constantly going down because of others)!

- d. Caleb always gave God all the glory (14:10,11) - didn't look at himself, and promote self-esteem, and see the value of his self, etc!
2. **The Request** (14:10-12) - For a MOUNTAIN (tired of living in the valley, and on the flat level fields of life). Asked for his "assignment" to be a mountain, not an easy task! When we ask God for something, He gives it, but expects us to fight to clear it for occupation (John 16:24)!
- a. In spite of great giants - Anakims (14:12)
 - b. In spite of fortified cities
 - c. In spite of hard climbs and steep cliffs ahead - warfare (14:11)
 - d. In spite of his own age (now 85 years old)!
 - e. All by God's grace (strength, 14:12; 2Cor 12:9; Jam 4:14)

PRINCIPLE: Don't let obstacles keep you from claiming, and then possessing what God has promised you in the word of God. Never limit God, or yourself in God's plan! Also, don't self-manufacture your own plans, and then seek them in the name of God - Ugh!

3. **The Results** (14:13-15)
- a. The mountain became Caleb's - answered prayer
 - 1) The mountain was called Hebron
 - 2) This was the area that Abraham and Isaac spent most of their journey time while in the Promised Land, and where Sarah was buried
 - 3) This is the area that David becomes king over first before all of Israel - they welcomed him readily!
 - b. The surrounding area had rest from war - complete victory.
 - 1) Over the giants - Caleb ends up fighting THREE giants (Judges 1:20)
 - 2) Over wandering - remained his for centuries until the time of captivity
 - 3) Other areas still had a lot of battles to fight, but Caleb established peace in his "lot" long before anyone else, because:
 - a) He completely obey and followed the Lord
 - b) He WANTED to finish the job - didn't play around!

- c. Judah gets first in line for inheritance instead of the other tribes (chapter 15) - because Caleb set the pace! Caleb was of the tribe of Judah (14:6).

III. Conclusion and Study Questions and Thoughts

- A. The Promised Land is easily compared to what for the Christian? The abundant Christian life!
- B. Our place as a Christian in both heaven, and in this life is called our what? Our lot, and our inheritance.
- C. A Christian's "lot" is our assignment as a Christian, and is obtained by what? By battle, and occupation.
- D. Do Christians need additional revelation from God to know our future, and our place as Christians? No
- E. How many of the original 12 spies gave a good report of the Promised Land? Only 2, Joshua and Caleb.
- F. Why had both Joshua and Caleb lived so long?
 - 1. Because they both had wholly followed (obeyed) the Lord
 - 2. Because obedience to both parents and the Lord brings long life
- G. Don't let the pressures of the world, of carnal Christians, and of even delay affect your walk with God, and faith in God!
- H. Caleb always gave God all the what? The glory for everything that happened in his life!
- I. Caleb asked Joshua for what to be given him? A mountain!
- J. What waited for him on that mountain? Giants, fortified cities, battles, stress, and God's GRACE, and VICTORY!
- K. Caleb's area had something no other area had after Caleb was through with it - what was it? Rest from war!

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Fifteen

Judah's Inheritance

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Psalm 78:55**

I. Introduction

- A. We are studying things that happened about 1600 years B.C.
 - 1. Creation was around 4000 BC
 - 2. Noah, 2600 BC
 - 3. Abraham lived around 2000 BC
 - 4. The Exodus was around 1600 BC
 - 5. Joshua was about 1550 BC
 - 6. David and Solomon was 1000 BC
- B. Many battles have taken place, and many victories won. Now comes the detailed work of filling up each area, each plot of land with God's people
- C. Everything had to be checked, and cross-checked as each tribe, group, and family received their inheritance.
- D. Chapter 15 begins the description of the detail that went into the division of the land.
 - 1. Makes the Bible verifiable by archeology
 - 2. Makes the land of Canaan permanently owned by the Jews. They could claim it, every square inch

II. Lesson - "Judah's Inheritance" (Joshua 15)

- A. **The Use of Landmarks** (Cp Dt 19:14; 27:17; Prov 22:28; 23:10). To mark-off property - private ownership
 - 1. The Salt Sea (Dead Sea)
 - 2. Cities (Kadesh Barnea)
 - 3. Rivers (the River of Egypt, Jordan River)
 - 4. Springs (15:9)
 - 5. Landmark stones (15:6)
 - 6. If someone changed or moved the landmarks, they were violating God's LAW - transgression, trespassing, cheating (Jam 2:11; 1Jn 3:4)
- B. **Judah's Land** (15:1-12)
 - 1. They got to receive their land first! The first-born, Reuben, had already settled for second best out, on the other side of the Jordan river.
 - 2. The largest plot of land
 - 3. To be room for over 375,000 people (Num 1:26,27)
 - 4. Located on the Southern coast of the country
 - 5. Contained several key cities and peoples

- a. Jerusalem
- b. Bethlehem
- c. Hebron - where Caleb was
- d. The Philistines
- e. From this tribe, and area, Christ would come

C. Caleb's Inheritance (15:13-19)

1. Ends up fighting 3 giants, the sons of Anak (a very well known giant)
2. He sets out to conquer more than just one mountain
3. But he needs help - knows his limit, and knows the importance of others being involved in the conquest
 - a. Those who only receive life on a silver platter, are usually spoiled
 - b. Best to include as many as possible
 - c. Offers a challenge
 - 1) To conquer - to be true men of God - not wimps!
 - 2) Includes a special reward - not given lightly - no parent offers their daughter without tests
 - d. Othniel (Caleb's nephew) rises to the challenge
 - 1) His name means "the Lion of God!"
 - 2) Othniel is Israel's first Judge after Joshua dies (Jud 3:7-9)
 - e. A Woman's View (Josh 15:18,19)
 - 1) The land was hers as much as her husbands
 - 2) The land needed something more - water
 - 3) Her husband disagreed when she moved him to ask for it
 - 4) She went and asked anyway - she had the right to ask
 - 5) Caleb gave her not just one, but both sets of springs nearby

D. The Tally of the Cities of Judah (15:20-63)

1. 115 cities and surrounding villages belonged to the tribe of Judah
2. But notice that Judah did not completely take over Jerusalem - the Jebusites did not leave quietly (15:63), and became harder and harder to get rid of the longer they were allowed to stay!

III. Conclusion and Study Questions and Thoughts

- A. What were landmarks used for? To mark off property lines.
- B. What tribe was first to receive their inheritance land? Judah
- C. What is so special about the tribe of Judah? From this tribe would Messiah be born.
- D. Who answers Caleb's call for help in conquering more territory? Othniel
- E. Who wanted lands with water? Caleb's daughter, Othniel's wife

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Sixteen

Ephraim's Inheritance

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Ephesians 1:6**

I. Introduction

- A. Currently studying the allotment of land in the Promised Land to the 12 tribes of Israel
- B. In Chapter 15, Judah got their "inheritance" - permanent place that God gave them forever
- C. Here, the two sons of Joseph receive their inheritance. But, when you think about it, these two shouldn't be counted the same as the other 12 sons of Israel. We are going to learn a great truth about "being raised up."

II. Lesson - "Ephraim's Inheritance" - Joshua 16

A. The Children of Joseph (16:1)

1. There were 12 sons, and therefore 12 tribes of Israel
2. Leviticus receives no earthly inheritance
3. So God takes Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and raises them up to the level of the original sons
 - a. Joseph loses out, but his sons get in on his level
 - b. The same is true with Jesus
 - 1) Jesus is the firstborn Son of God
 - 2) A believer is a son, daughter of God
 - 3) At salvation, Jesus steps out of the way, and God raises the believer up to the level of His Son (Eph 2:1-6; 1:6; Rom 8:15-17)

B. The Borders of the Tribe of Ephraim (16:1-9)

1. Centrally located in the Promised Land
2. Just north of Judah, and Jerusalem
3. Included:
 - a. Bethel
 - b. Jericho
 - c. Shechem
4. The land would be room enough for over 200,000 people (Num 1:36,37)

C. The Failures of Ephraim (16:10)

1. Did not drive out the Canaanites - a choice
2. Decided on a compromise
 - a. Use them. Take advantage of them - they seemed to be worth keeping around. They decided to use the devil to live for God - CAN'T BE DONE!
 - b. Examples of this include:
 - 1) Anger - keeps people in line
 - 2) Bitterness - so that no one tries to hurt you
 - 3) Adultery in the mind - so when your mate is not so loving
 - 4) Drink, or certain drugs to use for depression instead of prayer, and a life lived for God!
 - c. This only is a time-bomb waiting to explode
 - 1) God's people would get used to these ungodly heathen - not win them, but tolerate them
 - 2) God's people would then intermarry with them
 - 3) Their hearts would ultimately be turned away from God, as it happened to Solomon (Dt 7:1-6; 1Kings 11:1-4)
3. This seems to be a common event among the people of God - only a half-finished job for the Lord
 - a. We would never tolerate it of someone working for us
 - b. We desire our kids to do their best, and finish what they start
 - c. Why is Christianity any different?!

III. Conclusion and Study Questions and Thoughts

- A. How did Ephraim and Manasseh get raised up to the position of a Son of Israel, when they were Grandsons?
- B. Give the general location in the Promised Land for:
 1. Judah - South
 2. Ephraim - Central
- C. Name one of the failures of the tribe of Ephraim
 1. Did not drive out the Canaanites
 2. Compromised
 3. Used the devil to do something for God
- D. When we compromise with sin, what is the end result? Our heart (love, desire) is ultimately turned away from our God

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Seventeen

Manasseh's Inheritance

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Genesis 32:28**

I. Introduction

- A. Power with God. Having the necessary strength and power to finish a job for the Lord. We know how to push ourselves for the job, or for the promotion, or for the award at the end of a sports event - but what about for the Lord?
- B. The tribe of Manasseh is next in line, and going to teach us about getting the job done - conquering ourselves, and utilizing what power to do it.

II. Lesson - "Manasseh's Inheritance" - Joshua 17

A. **Manasseh is a Divided Tribe** (17:1)

1. Half are outside the Promised Land, half are in
2. The other half never get heard of again
3. If you are only half a tribe (half of your family is for God), go ahead into the battle, and possess your life for Christ (1Thes 4:4)
4. Those in get twice the size of land as Ephraim

B. **Machir** (17:1)

1. Was a man of war (2 Tim 2:1-4) - not a free-loader living on the victories of others
2. His children conquer Gilead and Bashan outside of the Promised Land

C. **The families of six sons of Manasseh get their portions.**

1. Each tribe got a plot of land, then each family in that tribe got a smaller division, and then each sub-family, all the way down to individuals, each getting a portion of land.

Abiezer; Helek; Asriel; Shechem; Hephher; Shemida

2. To protect the land

- a. Property was passed on through the sons
- b. Protected the family structure, and marriage

D. **Special Case Scenario** (17:2-6)

1. One grandson (Zelophehad of Hephher) had six daughters - no sons, and so had no one to inherit the land when he died - What should they do?
2. Instead of giving up

- a. They search the Scriptures for the answer to their dilemma
 - 1) Found out that God already dealt with this
 - 2) Found out there are no surprises to God (Num 26:33; 27:1-11; 36:1-13), and there ought to be none to us.
 - b. They ask (Jam 4:3) - go right to the top
 - c. They ask according to God's word - didn't try and do it their own way - that Book deals with everything!
 - d. Joshua HAS to abide by the words as written - as does Jesus
 - 1) Concerning salvation
 - 2) Concerning any NEED
 - e. The land is sub-divided into 10 families now
 - 1) Five to the male sons
 - 2) Five to the female grand-daughters - raised up to inheritors, again replacing Hephher - all co-equal heirs (Rom 8:16,17). Why? Because THEY ASKED (James 4:3)!
- E. **The Borders of Manasseh** (16:7-11). Was to be room enough for over 160,000 people (Num 1:34,35)
- F. **The Failures of Manasseh** (17:12,13)
- 1. The same as the failures of Ephraim, and all the tribes
 - 2. They thought it would be easier, and quicker than it turned out to be - they "could not" (Forgot Ex 23:29-33)
 - 3. Thought compromises were the solution
 - 4. Became arrogant and boastful in their desires for more land
 - a. Nothing wrong with wanting more
 - 1) Just need to be able to handle what you have
 - 2) If you try and take on more, then you surely will be defeated
 - b. They feared what they had and wanted other land
- G. **The Cure for Sin in the Hearts of God's People** (17:15-18)
- 1. Get in a good fight - when at war, everything gets prioritized real quick (1Tim 6:12; 1:18). Be on the battlefield for the Lord instead of swamped by the world!
 - 2. Reality check (17:17) - you HAVE the power IN you (1Jn 4:4)
 - 3. Face your problems anyway! No excuses as a Christian (Rom 8:31)

PRINCIPLE: Take time to identify areas in your life where you have incomplete obedience, and correct them, or else they will conquer you.

III. Conclusion and Study Questions and Thoughts

- A. What should the Christian do whose house or family is divided (some for the Lord, and some against)? Go on into the full Christian life!

- B. Concerning spiritual warfare, how should Christians, and especially men be known as? As Men of War!
- C. Has God left blank spots in the Bible, areas that His word does not cover and leave us hanging and on our own? No.
- D. Why did the granddaughters get land portions like the men, and like their grand-uncles? Because the word of God told them they could, and because they asked!
- E. What was the failure of Manasseh? To defeat and drive out the Canaanites.
- F. Why couldn't they drive them out - (trick question)? There was NO reason why they couldn't - they had the ability, just not the patience.
- G. What should a Christian be busy doing so to keep them focused? Be in the spiritual battlefield, and not in the world!
- H. If a Christian does not conquer sins specifically dominating their lives, what will happen? Those sins will grow in power until there is no room for God, and that Christian becomes taken captive, as the Jews do in the Book of Judges!

The Book of Joshua

Chapters Eighteen

Dividing the Remaining Land (Part 1)

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Deuteronomy 6:17**

I. Introduction

- A. The normal, everyday, standard, run-of-the-mill Christian living today is tired of "fighting the good fight", and has not gone into his or her relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ looking for anything more than salvation from hell. They become spiritually content with their present life, and have little or NO desire to grow in their relationship with Christ and find out what God has in store for them. This is the picture that we get when we come to these seven remaining tribes: not having a diligent desire to possess their inheritance.
- B. God's commands are serious, and require our serious attention
 1. You MUST be born again (John 3:3)
 2. Your heart MUST be right with God, AND people
 3. Your life MUST be busy doing something for God
 4. You MUST take the time to pray and study your Bible
 5. Etc
- C. Review of previous lessons – Only 3 tribes have begun to fill-up their land
 1. Judah received their land first – with Caleb – but did not utterly drive out all the inhabitant
 2. Ephraim was next
 3. Then Manasseh
- D. Now, there is a big meeting called, and God is starting to push the people:
 1. Timing is important – wait too long to grow, and all your previous victories are filled back up with your enemies again.
 2. Attitude is important – not being diligent in our attitude will result in not only other people losing steam, but our children will not stay focused in THEIR lives

II. Lesson - "Dividing the Remaining Land (18:1-19:51)"

- A. **Assembly at Shiloh (18:1-9)**
 1. The Tabernacle
 - a. Place where man met God at a blood-sprinkled Mercyseat
 - b. Contained 7 articles of furniture
 - c. Traveled with Israel - no permanent place on earth
 - d. Will stay here at Shiloh until David comes and become king

2. This place called Shiloh
 - a. Partial fulfillment of prophecy, but wrong timing Cf Gen 49:10 - Shiloh is a PERSON, a KING!
 - b. Located in Northern Israel - becomes source of strife
 - c. Explains the woman at the well in John 4 who was back to trying to worship God at Shiloh instead of at Jerusalem
3. Joshua's rebuke (18:2,3) - You are TOO slow!
 - a. The remaining tribes were tired of fighting
 - b. They were content just sitting around - laziness, content with unfinished business
 - c. They were losing their desire to go in and possess the promised land themselves
 - d. They had developed attitudes of: slackness, indifference, carelessness, negligence

PRINCIPLE: A wise man will hear rebuke (Prov 9:8)! Christians today don't look forward to *spiritual things* for the most part. We don't strive for what God has for us in each day, nor do we look forward to our home in heaven, and for possessing God's blessing in this life! Christians need to receive the rough parts of Scripture with "meekness" as much as they do the good parts (James 1:21)

- e. This applies to NT Christians:
 - 1) As it did to the Corinthians (1Cor 3:1-3) They had remained spiritual babies for well over 20 years
 - 2) As it does with us (Cf Heb 5:12-14)
 - a) There ought to be TEACHERS here – leaders!
 - b) There ought to be Christians NOT having the same old problems, month after month, and year after year
 - c) We, as an army ought to be conquering more spiritual territory in our lives, and in the devil's territories
4. Spies (surveyors) sent out once again - 3rd time (18:4-9) – to get a "vision" (Pr 29:18)
 - a. They wanted a description of the land in order to know exactly what to possess.
 - b. Wrote what lay ahead for them into a Book.
 - c. This way, the remaining tribes would read the description of their inheritance and get back in the fight!

APPLICATION: The word of God surveys what lies ahead for the Christian in order for him or her to set their affections *there* instead of being content here.

B. The division of the land to the last seven tribes (18:10-19:48)

1. To Benjamin (18:11-28) – Their name means “*Son of my Strength*” or “*My Right-Hand Man*” as named by Jacob when his wife Rachael died in his birth.
2. Located between Judah on the south, and Manasseh just above it
3. The area included 36 villages and cities
4. Enough room for over 150,000 people (Num 1:36,37)

III. Conclusions and Study Questions

- A. How serious should sinners take the commands of God? Dead serious
- B. How serious should Christians take the commands of God? The Same!
- C. There are two things important to growth: timing, and attitude
- D. What was the problem with the remaining seven tribes of Israel? Slackness, indifference, carelessness
- E. How should Christians take rebuke from the word of God, and from a man of God? With great respect and acceptance as a thirsty man
- F. What church is an example of the Jews’ laziness? The Corinthians
- G. What is it that Christians need to begin again to press forward in our conquest of the abundant Christian life? A clear vision from God’s word of what lies ahead for us!

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Nineteen

Dividing the Remaining Land (Part 2)

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **1 Corinthians 12:18**

I. Introduction

- A. The land of Israel is like the Church, with people being saved, and placed into it with their particular talents and abilities so that the whole body fits together (Eph 4:16) and works together for the glory of God!
- B. Six Tribes to go.
- C. Each one of these tribes is like a state, or a county

II. Lesson - "Dividing the Remaining Land (18:1-19:51)"

- A. **To Simeon** (19:1-9) – “*Answer to Prayer*”
 1. 13 cities
 2. Located INSIDE Judah’s lot, because Judah could not fill –up all their land by themselves (19:9)
 3. Had up to 300,000 people in their tribe (Num 1:22,23)
- B. **To Zebulon** (19:10-16) – “*Abiding*”, or “*By My Side*”
 1. Located West of the Sea of Galilee
 2. Had 12 cities (notice the *other* Bethlehem, 19:15)
 3. This tribe consisted of up to 300,000 people (Num 1:31,32)
 4. This, and Naphtali are where the Lord Jesus will spend a lot of His time ministering (not just in Jerusalem area; Isa 9:1,2; Matt 4:13-16)
- C. **To Issachar** (19:17-23) – “*My Reward*”
 1. Located just South of Zebulun
 2. Contained 16 cities
 3. Consisted of up to 300,000 people (Num 1:28,29)
- D. **To Asher** (19:24-31) – “*Blessed*” or “*Pure Happiness*”
 1. Located on West coast, next to the Mediterranean Sea, West of Naphtali and Zebulun
 2. 22 cities
 3. 200,000 people (Num 1:40,41)
- E. **To Naphtali** (19:32-39) – “*I Have Prevailed*”
 1. Located West and North of the Sea of Galilee
 2. 19 cities
 3. 250,000 people (Num 1:42,43)

The Bible Companion Series Dividing the Remaining Land (Part 2)

PRINCIPLE: All these tribes had an inheritance from the Lord - not just Judah and Ephraim (biggest tribes). Same goes for Christians. Our job then is to help everyone go in and possess their inheritance!

- Heaven - salvation
- Real liberty in Christ (Gal 5:1)
- Finding the will of God

F. **Finally, to Dan** (19:40-48) – “*The Judge*”

1. Placed right between Judah and Ephraim at first.
2. Needed room for 300,000 people (Num 1:38,39)
3. They as a tribe move North and take Leshem (19:47). Wanted their "own place" not the place God had for them (Isa 53:6; Act 2:47; 1Cor 12:18)
4. The beginning of Israel's apostasy (Jud 17:1-13; 18:1,2,14-31) – Develops into:
 - a. An independent priesthood
 - b. Idol worship with the Lord connected with it
 - c. Male "priests" being called "father"
 - d. The wearing of vestments (2 Kings 10:22)
 - e. Worship of the Queen of Heaven (Jer 44:18,19), Baal (1Kg 18)

G. **Joshua's Inheritance** (19:49-51)

1. Time to take care of their leader (19:49)
 - a. FIRST to Jesus Cf I Tim 1:17; Rev 11:15
 - b. To the church leader (1Ti 5:17,18; 1Th 5:12,13; Heb 13:7,13,24)
 - c. Relates to government leaders, as well as business leaders. Give honour to whom honour is due (Rom 13:7)
2. Joshua deserves his choice of land (19:50) - Cf Phil 2:13
3. Joshua builds his inheritance - a city (19:50) Cf Jn 14:1-3; Rev 21:1-3
4. The inheritance is AMONG the people – not above them!
5. One of these days, we will be able to honour OUR faithful leader (Rev 5:9-14; 19:11; Heb 2:17)

III. Conclusions and Study Questions

- A. A tribe can be compared to what modern thing? A county or state.
- B. What area did the Lord spend most of His time in? The areas of Zebulun and Naphtali, near the Sea of Galilee
- C. What went wrong with the tribe of Dan? Wanted their "own place" and not the place God had for them
- D. Why did the people of Israel offer Joshua the pick of the land? To take care of him and honour him for all his labours and service for the Lord as he led them. To honour his faithfulness. As we will OUR Lord!

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Twenty

The Cities of Refuge

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Ps 46:1; 1Thes 1:10**

I. Introduction

- A. Refuge is a great concept. We have so much “refuge,” places of safety all around us – our homes are safer, our cars are safer, our highways are safer, our microwaves are safer, our food is safer (NOT), and so we are being led to believe.
- B. A place of perfect refuge is still the most pressing need of the human heart. We know we have sinned, and we know we are in trouble with God. All the religious clap-trap in the world can’t seem to remove the guilt and shame that plagues our conscience.
- C. What we need is a place of refuge – not a church, or a garden, but a place that the hymn writer called “Near to the heart of God!”
- D. That is what the following chapters deal with. In the Old Testament, they were sinners just as we are still today, and so many lived so very far away from the Temple in Jerusalem, and needed protection from the wrath that they so deserved. That protection was found in six places called Cities of Refuge – cities where courts were set-up to hear the cases of crimes, and to know the certainty of offenses, and make judgments for justice.
- E. Our modern court of law owes its very existence to the Biblical pattern laid-out here in Joshua 20.

II. Lesson - "The Cities of Refuge" (20:1-9)

- A. The Provision of cities for places of refuge from wrath (20:1,2,7,8; Cf Exodus 21:12-13) Six cities (3 on the East, 3 on the West of Jordan), basically equidistant from each other. Each seems to refer to Christ (Heb 6:17,18)
 1. Kedesh in Galilee (Naphtali). Means *to separate, consecrate, make holy*
 2. Shechem (Ephraim) – Means *diligent, ready to sustain, bear burdens*
 3. Kirjatharba, Hebron (Judah) – Means *bringing together*
 4. Bezer (Reuben) – Means *protection, fortress, security*
 5. Ramoth (Gad) – Means *exalted, raised high*
 6. Golan (Manasseh) – means *The way, the passage*

NOTE: These six cities will become some of the most important cities throughout the rest of the Old Testament. They will be mentioned more often than all others except for Jerusalem.

B. The Purpose of the cities (20:3-9)

1. For the Protection of the innocent. Innocent until proven guilty is the bedrock of individual freedoms.
2. Protected until the death of the high priest - To allow for a cooling off period
3. Provides for a judicial hearing of the facts in a court setting, with judges present for fairness – among elders, mature, wise folks – not the immature folks
4. A high court was to be set up to evaluate the murder cases - There was no be no self-styled vigilantism (Dt 19:15-21).
5. These courts were for violent crimes and offenses against life. Every city and village had their own lower courts to handle thefts, and small crimes.
6. See Numbers 35:9-34 for God establishing this in the Law

C. The Principles of Operation – How the cities worked

1. God places a high price upon the life of a human
2. Manslaughter, and unintentional homicides are able then to be separated from pre-meditated murders
3. It is not for the protection of murders. A murderer MUST be killed - Acts 25:10. Without just punishment of murders, the heart of man will only grow more wicked (Mt 24:37; Gen 6:5,10).
4. Protection and judicial hearing is to be applied to both the national (Jew), and the stranger in the land (Gentile) – the Law, and God’s grace was not exclusive to just the Jews (Rom 3:29). It is just FROM the Jews that the message was to be proclaimed (John 4:22)
5. An accidental death must be protected from the “revenge of blood” (family revenge).
 - a. The next of kin was responsible for responsible for their “brother’s” welfare (Cf Gen 4:8,9)
 - b. Justice was not served until payback, revenge executed (Gen 4:10-13; Lev 24:15-21; Rom 13:1-4; Cf Rom 12:17-21)
6. Old Testament atonement could not cover several things: murder (Num 35), adultery (David in Psalm 51)
7. New Testament atonement CAN! Therefore, we have a better "refuge" (Heb 6:17,18) because we have a better HIGH PRIEST!

III. Conclusions and Study Questions

- A. The Cities of Refuge are the foundation for what modern judicial system?
Our protective courts of law.
- B. What freedom is the fundamental right of every person brought before a court – the assumption that a person is innocent until proven guilty.
- C. How many cities were appointed? Six.
- D. What do the meanings of the names of the cities have to do with Jesus?
They seem to match His character.
- E. These Cities of Refuge were not for what two groups of people?
 - 1. For small crimes
 - 2. For the protection of true murderers
- F. What is an “avenger of blood?” The next of kin of the person slain who would have the responsibility to kill the slayer of their family member.
- G. Under the Old Testament, what sins were not forgivable by the blood of a lamb? That of murder and adultery
- H. Why is it any different in the New Testament?

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Twenty One

Cities for the Levites

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**Lesson Verse: **Hebrews 11:16**

I. Introduction

- A. Everybody up to this point in Joshua has their inheritance marked off, and people are beginning to build and occupy the land.
- B. Joshua has been given an inheritance in chapter 19.
- C. The only people without any place to lay their head are the Levites. These people were not to receive land, but they needed homes, and permanent places that they would live in. Not rental apartments, but houses with a bit of land for their cattle.
- D. Where were the Levites going to get their cities from, since all the lands had been divided up already?

II. Lesson - "Cities for the Levites" (21:1-45)

- A. **The Cities for the Levites** (21:1-42) - Their "Real" Estate
 1. These cities came willingly from the 12 tribes (20:3). All offerings were to be from willing hearts (Cf 2Cor 9:7; Lev 1:3). The gifts were to be from *their* inheritance (what they had received from the Lord), not from more land somewhere else. God had already commanded it to be done (Num 35:1-8), the choosing of which cities was to be their own – Question: Would the cities be the refuse, slums, or what kind?
 2. The Levites would dwell among all the people – not live separate. The cities were not all grouped together up in a corner away from the rest of the people, but spread out AMONG the people, and it was the desire of the people for this – not just the command of the Lord.
PRINCIPLE: 1 Cor 9:14 - God wants his people to take the responsibility for taking care of God's man, the church building, God's people in times of need. It should NOT be placed upon the Government!
 3. A total of 48 cities were provided (each 5000 cubits in diameter = 10,417 feet)
 - a. Calab's city of Arba, or Hebron was given away – just after he had conquered it (21:10-13) – gave away his best (1Chr 21:24; Pr 3:9,10), to Aaron's family
 - b. The three sons of Aaron are then allocated their cities
 - 1) The Kohathites – 23 cities (21:4,5, 9-26)
 - 2) The Gershonites – 13 cities (21:6, 27-33)
 - 3) The Merarites – 12 cities (21:7,8 34-40)

- c. The cities of refuge were given to the Levites to take charge of, and be responsible for (21:13,21,27,32,36,38).

PRINCIPLE: Who would be better suited to direct the fleeing soul to the place of refuge than the one who had the Sacrifice! Same goes for Christians! Christians should see themselves as those to whom people could come to, to find the Refuge!

NOTE all the emphasis on "cities" here. Why? Because there is coming another "city" of "refuge" to be run by "priests" (Rev 21)

B. Rest From The Battle - Just Before The Storm! (21:43-45)

- 1. God's promises are ALWAYS "FAITHFUL and TRUE" (Rev 19:11)
- 2. The "rest" came from the Lord. It came AFTER fighting, NOT in place of fighting and conquering!

PRINCIPLE: You CANNOT make peace with your sins and have any peace in your life. You have got to FIGHT them and conquer them.

III. Conclusions and Study Questions

- A. Where were the Levites going to get their homes from when it came time for them to decide where to live? From the other tribes – not from new land
- B. What was the quality of the cities given to the Levites? The best of the cities.
- C. How many cities were given to the Levites? 48
- D. What six cities were included in the 48 cities given? The six cities of refuge.
- E. Therefore, where were the Levites invited to be living? Among the people, not away from the people.

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Twenty Two

The Misunderstanding

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**Lesson Verse: **1Corinthians 3:3**

I. Introduction

- A. The battles seem to be over – as far as enemies are concerned. Israel has fought and won.
- B. It is time to demobilize – turn to building, and growing their families. Can't just fight on and on – we all need victories, and we all need to build where we have conquered
- C. Israel splits up, the 2 ½ tribes are sent home to their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan River, and the remaining tribes are sent to theirs.
- D. But a great misunderstanding occurs, and war seemed imminent, even amongst brethren. But war over what?

II. Lesson - The Misunderstanding (22:1-34) - Rebellion?

- A. **The Dismissal** (22:1-4) – De-mobilization of the army begins
 1. The two and a half tribes are sent home to their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan River.
 2. They had kept their part of the agreement (Josh 1:12-15). Joshua was proud of them – they had kept ALL that Moses had commanded.
 - a. Faithful to their brethren – need to be faithful to Christians
 - b. Faithful to fighting the bigger battles, for others – remember, they had already obtained their inheritance years before, and had been fighting for the other 9 ½ tribes (Gal 6:1)
- B. **The Warning** (22:5,6) – Take Diligent Heed (Be Very Diligent to):
 1. Continue to Obey God's commands
 2. Continue to love the Lord
 3. Continue to live (walk) His ways (will)
 4. Continue to cleave to God – cling, depend upon Him
 5. Continue to serve God with all our energies
 6. We are far too sporadic, and haphazard – need consistency!
- C. **The Blessing** (22:6-9) - faithfulness pays off
 1. Joshua was pleased – he blessed these who settled for second best
 2. God blesses us here, as well as in heaven
 3. The victories they had won, were investments for back home – like investing in heaven
 4. Earning what they desired – the right to live where they wanted
- D. **The Problem** (22:10-29)

1. The building of "another" altar (22:10)
 - a. The ones who settled on their own course, usually end up doing most things their own way – a little TOO innovative
 - b. These tribes come up with additional things to help their spirituality, instead of trusting that GOD had thought of everything
 - c. They build themselves their own altar – a big fancy altar
 - d. Did this without consulting the other tribes – lack of communication or respect for people's perceptions
2. Righteous Indignation - Zealous for truth (22:11-20) This was warranted, and needs to be evident AGAIN in us!
 - a. Heard about the altar – didn't check up on them adequately yet
 - b. The altar was reason enough for Israel to prepare for war – why?
 - 1) Altars are usually for sacrifice
 - 2) Altars were used in worship
 - 3) There was to be only ONE altar, in the Tabernacle (Cf Ehp 4:3-6; Heb 13:10; 1Cor 10:20)
 - c. Israel asks for an explanation (22:13-20), or rather proof that the 2 ½ tribes had not rebelled against God
 - 1) They had come to their own conclusion a bit too quick
 - a) Accused them of sinning
 - b) Accused them of rebelling
 - c) Accused them of false worship
 - 2) They connected what they imagined with all their past
 - a) Peor. Baalim's treachery and deception was still plaguing them, even after 24,000 people died (events like this cause Christians to be on guard for sin in the camp)!
 - b) They figured that if they did not do something fast, as a congregation, then God would start judging – the responsibility on the Church-body to keep itself pure (1Cor 11).
 - c) When you have a bad track record like Israel did, it is very hard not to think, "Here we go again!"
 - 3) Israel offers the 2 ½ tribes of their own land among them, if the other side of Jordan is causing them to sin (22:19) – a great offer – not just telling them to "do right" but offering to do whatever it takes to help them live right.
 - 4) Israel reminds the 2 ½ tribes of one man's sins affecting the whole congregation (22:20) – Achan!

3. The explanation (22:21-29)
 - a. We have **not** turned our back on the Lord God of gods
 - b. The altar is for our children's sake.
 - 1) We don't trust you guys, just like you don't trust us.
 - 2) Using visible events and circumstances as measures of closeness to God (i.e., the Jordan River)
 - 3) The potential was for Israel's children to discourage the 2 ½ tribes from following God later on – children do that!
 - c. It is a *witness* to every generation that we belong WITH God's people, wherever they dwell, and that the Lord is God – it is like:
 - 1) The Bible – the fact we all say the same thing (1 Cor 1:10)
 - 2) The Holy Spirit in every believer's life
 - 3) The transformed, and holy life that we all have – no other God can transform like Jesus!
- E. **The outcome** - a witness is established, that the Lord is God (22:30-34).
 1. A visible monument to remind all generations on both sides of God's faithfulness, and people's commitments to Him.
 2. Joy in the congregation – glad that they had done right, and not brought judgment against the WHOLE congregation – again, if just a few sin, it can affect the whole body!
 3. The 2 ½ tribes called the altar '**Ed**' which simply means *Witness*
 - a. Not primarily that they are Israel as well
 - b. But most importantly, that the Lord, He is God!
 - c. That witness ought to be the brightest in our lives as well!

PRINCIPLES: Are you zealous for THE truth, or are you just a "pacifist" when it comes to RIGHT THINGS (Isa 59:14,15)? Are you a witness to the world, as well as to other Christians that the Lord is God?

III. Conclusions and Study Questions

- A. Does God reward the 2 ½ tribe's faithfulness? Yes
- B. What does God want us to be faithful doing? Obeying God's commands; cleaving to the Lord; Walking in His ways; Serving with all our energy
- C. What was wrong with the 2 ½ tribes building an altar of their own? Nothing, except that they just did it, without command, or consultation – easily misunderstood.
- D. Should the rest of the tribes have prepared for war? Yes, but needed to make sure what was going on, and not just race to conclusions.
- E. What was the altar for? As a reminder to their children that only Jehovah is God.

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Twenty Three

Joshua's Last Words (Part 1)

Focus Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Verse: Psalm 16:5,6

I. Introduction

- A. Someone ought to study all the "last words" of the great saints in the Bible: David takes a whole chapter in 1 Kings; Jacob takes up all of Genesis 49; Paul takes up 2 Timothy; Solomon uses Ecclesiastes 12; and Joshua takes up two whole chapters at the last of his book (chapters 23 and 24).
- B. These last words of Joshua just before his death represent the re-establishment of the Old Covenant – but this time, IN the Promised Land.
- C. If you remember, the last words of Jesus just before His death represent the establishment of the NEW Covenant – IN the New Life that was in His blood. It is IN that new life that we can begin to discover the full measure of that relationship between God and men!
- D. A covenant is an agreement between two parties. It is not all one-sided. Both parties have a responsibility towards each other, and the agreement:
 1. As with a job - you enter into a covenant with your employer
 2. As with marriage
 3. As with salvation (Luke 6:46-49)
- E. God has given us a goodly heritage - a great new life - protect it!

II. Lesson - "Joshua's Last Words" (23:1-16) Getting Back To The Basics

- A. **Develop Your relationship with your Creator and Sustainer** (23:1-13)
 1. You have seen what God has done for you in the past
 - a. God *Himself* fought for you - brought you out of Egypt, and into this land
 - b. Joshua had divided up the land for possession as an inheritance
 - c. God will continue His plan with you - notice the prophecies of Joshua - constant reminder that this is not an ordinary Book!
 2. Therefore, we need to do 3 things:
 - a. Be very courageous to do right - takes courage – be not ashamed of living what this Book says (23:6), and don't pick and choose!
 - 1) Ps 119:80
 - 2) Rom 1:16; 5:5; 10:11
 - 3) 1Pet 4:16
 - 4) 1Jn 2:28
 - 5) 2Tim 1:8, 12
 - 6) 2Thes 3:14

- b. Come not among your enemies (23:7) - seems to be out of fashion today for Christians to do anything that might cause division (Mt 10:34-39)
 - 1) Stay separate (2Cor 6:17)!
 - 2) Stay simple (Rom 16:19; 1Cor 14:20)
 - 3) Don't discuss the names of other gods like they were not that big - devils conquer and overthrow entire nations!
- c. Cleave unto the Lord (23:8) - As a marriage vow
 - 1) The heart is so important to surrender and keep surrendered
 - 2) I do not believe you can be a Christian if you have no love for Christ. If you find it hard to keep the First Commandment, then maybe you don't know the Saviour!
- 3. You have the same promise of victory for the future - Therefore: Love the Lord - only HE is worthy of your total devotion
 - a. No enemy will be big enough to ruin you (5 will chase 100)
 - b. Whatever you face, you will win in the long-run!
- 4. Else, if you don't keep your heart right with God:
 - a. You will forfeit the promises - our heart will be our victory, or our undoing
 - b. God will turn against you like He did these nations (1Pet 5:5)
 - 1) Blowing leaves will so scare you and chase you
 - 2) Life will become a nightmare of fear and anxiety

PRINCIPLE: God has two sides! Love and Judgement. God's mercy balances the two. Stay on His good side!

B. God's relationship with You (23:14)

- 1. Moses (as all people) failed, and fails to meet their needs
- 2. But, God is faithful "not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass"

C. Standard consequences for corporate sin (23:15,16) This is what all nations that "forget God" (Ps 9:17) have to look forward to.

- 1. Just as you can count on blessings from God for obedience (Gal 6:8,9)
- 2. You can count on correction - and God is serious enough to drive you "off the map" so to speak - He will go as far as it takes to humble you
- 3. The sin of the few can affect the whole congregation

III. Conclusions and Study Questions

- A. Define what covenant means: _____

- B. What was God's primary covenant with Israel? _____

- C. Who did the majority of fighting against the inhabitants of the Promised Land? _____
- D. Why did God warn Israel to stay away from the influence of their enemies?

- E. If a Christian stayed in love with God, and obeyed God, then God promised that how many believers would be able to chase 100 enemies? _____
- F. If a Christian does not keep their relationship with God close, and love Him most, what happens to all the promises of God concerning your enemies? _____
- G. What happens to all nations that forget God? _____

The Book of Joshua

Chapter Twenty Four

Joshua's Last Words (Part 2)

Focus Verse: **Joshua 1:9**

Lesson Verse: **Joshua 24:15**

I. Introduction

- A. Commitment is an outdated thing these days. Whether in marriage, or on a job, or to friends - the only thing people are committed to today are themselves - wickedness!
- B. Our commitment must be to "Do God's way, all the way!"
- C. That is Joshua's last plea to Israel before he heads home. Joshua knows the heart and will of the people of God - that it is stiff, and numb. But there are always those who are soft and surrendered, and they always make it worthwhile to the Pastor, and the spiritual leader.
- D. Joshua has been like Jesus in many ways, but he also is much like a pastor:
 1. Living the example of the Christian life (1Tim 4:12)
 2. Leading the people into the full life - not driving them
 3. Interceding for the people when they went astray - times of great prayer
 4. Correcting them on their journey as God's spokesman - full authority
 5. Instructing them and guiding them by God's word
 6. Encouraging them to go further than they thought they could (17:17,18)
 7. Trying to get them to stand on their own, stable and strong against their enemies, even though without him (1Tim 1:11,12)
- E. Well, now it is the last chance Joshua can have an impact on the lives of these precious people, and he is not going to mince words.

II. Lesson – Joshua's Last Words (Part 2) Joshua 24

- A. **The Re-establishment of the Old Covenant (24:1-28)**
 1. ***A Review of History.*** Joshua asks, "Do you remember what it was like on the other side of Jordan?" (24:1-13) – The same question needs to be asked to the Christian: Do you remember what it was like before salvation?
 - a. Your great-great grandparents serving other gods in Chaldea
 - b. Abraham claiming all this land, and receiving Isaac as part of God's promises
 - c. Isaac receiving Jacob as a great gift from God
 - d. Even Esau was taken care of by God - gave him a place - Seir, and gave him sons and his own kingdom

- e. Jacob went down to Egypt. The captivity in Egypt
 - 1) Remember how it really was back then. Slavery, taskmasters, death, very hard work, no hope except God's promises.
 - 2) Realize that they couldn't hold you - you were bound on the outside, but free on the inside - and one day you would be free on the outside as well! Same is true for the Christian.
- f. How God redeemed you and brought you:
 - 1) By miracles and disasters
 - 2) Through the Red Sea, drowning the Egyptians (an army couldn't stop you)
- g. God brought you to this land just outside Canaan (hunger and thirst in the wilderness couldn't stop you)
- h. Balaam and Balak (they couldn't stop you)
- i. You crossed over Jordan (it couldn't stop you)
- j. You have inherited a land that was not yours (24:12,13)
 - 1) Not by your own strength
 - 2) Not by your own technological abilities
 - 3) Not by your own labours - all free!

PRINCIPLE: The river Jordan represents that decision to live the separated and victorious Christian life. Remember what it was like before that decision was made and compare it to how God has taken you and done mighty things through you!

- 2. ***A Resolve of the Heart.*** With every responsibility there is accountability. God requires that each person individually, and every leader of the home and community commit to the following (24:14,15):
 - a. Fear the Lord – a very New Testament truth! (See also Mt 10:28)
 - b. Serve Him in sincerity and truth – not just with lip-service (Isa 29:13; Mt 15:8)
 - c. Put away all other gods - If you have a problem with "other gods", then choose now who ye will serve. You cannot serve two masters. Note that:
 - 1) A Godly man will make the Scriptural decisions for his house ("as for me AND MY HOUSE...")
 - 2) This command by Joshua is having to be made in spite of 20yrs of bondage in Egypt, 40yrs of wandering in the wilderness, and 20yrs of fighting for possession of this land! You'd think Israel would learn some of these things by now?
- 3. The people respond (24:16-18) - *We will serve the Lord from now on because of all that He has done for us.* Pretty good response – the question is, will they remain faithful to their commitment? See Ro-

mans 6 for the Christian's commitment. They remembered all that God had done for them - it is good to remember (Ps 103).

4. The Old Covenant is re-established here on stone (24:19-28).
 - a. It will only prove that they cannot keep their promises, their vows (24:19) because they are by nature sinners.
 - b. Joshua pushes them to make this decision very serious - not flip-pant (24:20-23)
 - 1) Confess with their mouth their commitment
 - 2) Visibly destroy the gods, and idols that they still clung to (Acts 19:17-20)
 - 3) Their commitment was tied to a Book (24:26)
 - c. Notice that the New Covenant is promised in Jer 31:31; and is established in the New Testament in hearts (Heb 13:20). The New Covenant is also confirmed in the New Testament blood of Jesus Christ (Matt 26:27,28).
- B. **The death of Joshua** (24:29-31) and the high priest (24:33). The end of an era. Three basic eras, or time periods in view here:
 1. Bondage - 400 years in Egypt
 2. Moses - 40 years
 - a. Redemption - by the Passover Lamb
 - b. Exodus
 - c. Temptations and testings - battles with self (internal enemies)
 - d. Choice - whether to accept God's will or reject it concerning going in and conquering the Land
 - e. Wilderness Wanderings
 3. Joshua - 25-30 years - notice that Joshua, like Moses was commended by God as "the servant of the Lord!" (24:29)
 - a. New generation
 - b. Battles with external enemies
 - c. Conquering the Promised Land
 - d. Possessing the Land
 - e. The burial of Joseph's bones. Joseph's bones *finally rest* in the Promised Land (24:32). They weren't allowed to be buried until the land was both conquered, and filled (Gen 50:25,26; Ex 13:19; Act 7:15,16).
 4. Principle: A lot of your old baggage will not "disappear" until you have learned to fill up your life with the Holy Spirit, and walk in the Spirit!
- C. Joshua's legacy, and after-affect lasted into the next generation (24:31)

- D. But each generation must be persuaded, or else chaos sets in (as is demonstrated by the Book of Judges) - it is the order of things. Every generation must be reached with the gospel (Ps 78:1-6; 71:18; Dt 11:19)

III. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. Name 3 ways that Joshua is an example of what a pastor is to be like.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
- B. When Joshua asked whether the people of Israel were going to follow the Lord God, or the gods of the Egyptians and Chaldeans, he made it clear that who was going to follow the Lord? _____
- C. The Old Testament/Covenant was established on what substance? _____
- D. _____
The New Testament/Covenant was established in what substance? _____
- E. _____
What Book in the Bible follows the Book of Joshua? _____

The Book of Joshua

Summary Questions