

## **Joshua Overview**

The Book of Joshua starts another major division in the Hebrew Scriptures/Word of God

1. Books of Moses
2. Books of History (Joshua to Esther)
3. Books of Poetry
4. Books of the Prophets

The Book of Joshua is historical...e.g.

In the British Museum is a tablet dated about 1400 BC written  
by a Canaanite king to Pharaoh of “a stateless people who come down out  
of the mountains and attack the cities”

but it is not primarily a history book...it is a book of Divine revelation

Primary Author is Joshua (Ch 24:26)...“Jehovah is salvation” = Jesus (Greek)

1. From tribe of Ephraim...firstborn son of Nun (1 Chron 7:20-27)
2. Born in Egypt...a slave  
As firstborn son, his life was in danger on 1<sup>st</sup> Passover had he not had faith  
in the Lord to protect him by blood of the lamb
3. Eyewitness of the mighty hand of God (10 plagues, Red Sea)
4. Israel's military leader (Ex 17, the Amalekites...the flesh)
5. Moses' servant/assistant...accompanying Moses  
up Mount Sinai (Ex 32) and in the Tabernacle (Ex 33)  
(skilled with the Sword of the Spirit as well)
6. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Moses laid hands on him in Deut 34),  
possessed a very strong faith and great courage
7. One of 2 faithful spies who opposed the 10 faithless spies exhorting the  
people to trust the LORD Who is bigger than the giants in the land  
(Num 13)...
8. One of only two ex-slaves (now in their 90s) to enter and conquer the land
9. When the conquered land was divided into inheritance, Joshua took  
his share...last (Ch 19)
10. Appointed by the LORD, not chosen by the people...following  
Israel's Commander-in-chief, the Captain of the Lord's host  
(Ch 5:12-14)

A foreshadow of when the Captain of our salvation returns...  
to wage war against His enemies

God's people are expected to be soldiers

- disciplined
- determined
- strong
- courageous
- trained
- equipped
- on the march
- well acquainted with difficulty and suffering
  - not pampered, spoiled weaklings
  - bearing the family likeness of Captain of Lord's host

The book of Joshua tells us how to be victorious soldiers

The Book of Joshua is a New Beginning for God's people...  
after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness

It speaks of

- the life of God's people, not their death ("crossing over Jordan")
- victories and defeats...successes and failures...holiness and sin

Outline

- I. Promises (Ch 1)
  - a. #1: cross over the river and claim the land (Ch 1:3-4)
  - b. #2: Conquer the enemies (Ch 1:5)
  - c. #3: Apportion the land into tribal inheritance (Ch 1:6)
  - d. Eastern tribes affirm their promise to help their brethren
- II. Promise #1 fulfilled (Ch 2-5)
- III. Promise #2 fulfilled (Ch 6-12)
  - a. center
  - b. south
  - c. north
- IV. Promise #3 fulfilled (Ch 13-22)
- V. Farewell (Ch 23-24)

Places in the history of Israel are places in our lives

1. Egypt

Israel: the place of bondage, oppression, and a great deliverance

Unbeliever: the world...in bondage to sin, death and the devil

Rom 3:23

Believer/Christian: the place of salvation by the blood of the Lamb

John 1:29, Heb 2:14-15

## 2. The wilderness

### Israel:

- the place of unbelief and disobedience where there was no rest
- Egypt is still in the heart...the people were looking back where they had come from, longing for the good 'ole days... not remembering the pain and suffering of bondage
- death, defeat, and discouragement at every turn
- frustration and misery, whining and complaining were rampant

### Christian:

- the place of unbelief and disobedience where there is no rest
- not growing spiritually...going around the same mountain time and time again
- misery, defeat and discouragement at every turn
- frustration, whining and complaining are rampant...emotional
- Rom 7
  - indulgence of Self
  - walking by flesh and by sight
  - unfruitful
    - cares of this world
    - deceitfulness of riches
    - poisoned by the doctrine of demons
    - independent...own terms, own strength

## 3. The land of Canaan

### Israel:

- the place of
  - conflict/war and victory,
  - faith and obedience,
  - inheritance and rest
- the people are marching forward, conquering their enemies and claiming their inheritance

### Christian:

- a place of conflict...and victorious life (John 10:10b)
  - joy
  - peace
  - contentment
- Rom 8 and 2 Peter 3:18
  - denial of Self
  - walking by the Spirit and by faith
  - Spirit-filled, Spirit-led...whatever, whenever, wherever
  - fruitful
  - dependent...His terms, His strength
  - more than a conqueror

In Israel's conquest of the land we will see parallels to the Christian's victory as he/she matures in Christ...

leaving behind the old man and the old ways of Self  
in favor of the new man and the ways of God

By following Joshua/Jesus, we are more than conquerors

Jesus Christ is the Captain of our Salvation and our inheritance

Because we know Jesus is able and the Holy Spirit is the power of God, we have faith in the Word of God and trust Jesus more than we trust our physical senses or our emotions

The victorious Christian life is a series of conflicts and victories as we trust our Captain...one enemy at a time

Some battles take but a minute, others may take years  
The difference is not the size or the power of the enemy  
(even a giant to us is a gnat to the Lord)  
but is the "speed" and degree of our submission of our will to our Captain

So...before we even get started:

Where am I? Which place?

Where do I want to be?

How do I get there?

Surrender

- in order to get out of Egypt
- in order to get out of the wilderness
- in order to march into Canaan

Note: We need not wander in the wilderness like Israel!  
By faith, we can leave the world and enter into Canaan

## **Joshua Chapter 1**

v1-2 Moses my servant is dead:

After the last words of Moses and his eulogy by the Lord last week...  
a matter-of-fact statement: Moses My servant is dead.

No servant of God is indispensable...  
the Master alone is indispensable  
God's servants live and die...  
His work continues

His work with/thru the children of Israel continues with Joshua,  
the son of Nun  
(so identified because Joshua was a very common name)

The pre-invasion/surge sermons have been delivered.  
The Law has been given to the children of disobedience  
(the 1<sup>st</sup> generation were delivered out of Egypt but had no faith in  
the Lord to defeat the giants in the land)

Now, it is time to get down to business  
There is much work to be done

v3-4 Every place that the sole of your foot:

Promise #1 from the Lord to Joshua:  
cross over the river and claim the land

After a 40 year delay due to faithlessness, it is time to enter the  
Promised Land

There is much unfinished business in God's land and plan...but the Lord

- works at the right time...when man's heart is right
- will leave nothing undone

We have to get on the same page with Him...be in one accord with Him

Note: The nation of Israel will not attain these boundaries until the reigns  
of David and Solomon 400-500 years from now

v5 not any man be able to stand against:  
Promise #2 from the Lord to Joshua: Conquer the enemies

The Lord Who cannot fail gives Joshua the same assurance of  
victory He gave Moses  
No man, either external to the nation of Israel or internal within the  
nation of Israel, will prevail against Joshua  
And He will neither leave nor forsake His servant

The Lord has given us the very same promise –  
Matt 1:23, Matt 28:20, Heb 13:5  
So we can also be assured of the victory we have in Jesus Christ...

- salvation from the wrath of God
- deliverance from our enemies
- an inheritance of eternal life

The world, our life in this world, is full of giants...  
circumstances, resistance, trials, and tribulations that make us feel  
like grasshoppers

- financial stress... "When will it end?"
- work visas... "When will it ever happen?"
- moral failure in USA
- Egypt: land, bank account, flat

We can "Fear not" and conquer when we believe God's assurance to us

v6-7 Be strong and of good courage:  
Promise #3 from the Lord to Joshua: Apportion the land inheritance

Israel already owned the land... God had promised it to AIJ & descendants  
But their victorious conquest of the land (against overwhelming odds)  
and their lives at rest in the land depended on their faithful  
obedience to God's Word

They must step out in faith and take what God has promised to give them

The same can be said of the Christian life  
The Christian walk will look overwhelming and daunting at times.  
Maybe even impossible.

But Jesus proclaimed on the Cross, "It is finished!"  
Victory is ours... we just need to walk by faith in that victory

Therefore,

- be a conqueror...be more than a conqueror thru God Who so loves us that He sent His only Begotten Son to deliver us from death and hell and to lead us into everlasting life
- be wholly, 100% courageous...because if God be for us, who can be against us?

2 requirements to walk in victory with Jesus Christ

1. courage – “steadfast of mind” ala Dan 1:8
2. uncompromising obedience

And those things in the face of great temptation and opposition

Biblical Christianity is not a crutch for the weak man, it is a personal faith of the strong and courageous

v8 This book of the law:

Joshua’s success thus far and his future success is due to his faith in the Word of God – God said it, He meant it...He is able

Our Guide in the Christian walk: The Word of God, the Bread of Life

- in the heart, transforming the mind, and out the mouth...  
heart, mind, and tongue are connected
- to be continually meditated upon...  
pondered, the object of reflection and application (Ps 1)...  
ingested and made a part of us...”eat”  
NOT in the sense of emptying the mind...  
a doctrine of demons that has poisoned the Church

Our prosperity is spiritual, not material (Eph 1:3, Matt 6:19-21)

Wealth is to be measured by God’s standard, not the world’s

It breaks my heart to see “poisoned Christians” wandering in the wilderness...deceived and defeated, worldly

- landscaper’s solicitation – a worldly prosperity, a deception
- other books used as guides filling bookshelves
  - *The Shack*
  - *Purpose Driven Life*
  - Christian psychology
  - Self-help (Steven Covey’s *7 Habits of Effective People*)

v9 Be strong and of good courage:

This is something we need to hear repeatedly because we are carnal, sold under sin but the Word of God is spiritual.

2 Tim 1:7

1 John 4:18

The promises of God are not pillows upon which to rest our pretty little heads, they are prods to get us on the march!

The LORD thy God is with thee:

Joshua was just a man of like passions as us...including fear  
v6-9 is his reminder that God was with him

Evidence that He was

- Dividing the waters of River Jordan at flood stage (Ch 3)
- Appearance of the Captain of the Lord's host (Ch 5)
- The walls of Jericho come tumbling down (Ch 6)
- Against overwhelming odds, the conquered the land

Joshua is commissioned to

1. cross the river and claim the land
2. conquer the enemies
3. divvy up the land

He is told "what" (3 Promises) but not "how"

God's people live on promises, not on explanations

We are on a need-to-know basis with the Lord...

He will tell us what we need to know when we need to know it

Christian brother and sister –

Do not fear, do not be confused, do not be discouraged!

The Lord is with you...He is in you!

You can't shake Him and He isn't leaving!

He is right there everywhere you go...everywhere He leads you

So march in the victory that has already been won by Him!

Eph 1:3 is true

Rev 3:8 is true

1 Cor 16:9 is true

John 19:30 is true

We believe “in Canaan”...but where do we live?

1. Egypt

- enslaved to Satan, dead in sin
- worldly...in the world and of the world
- dead in the spirit

2. The wilderness

- delivered from bondage but still fearful and faithless
- wandering in circles, seeing the same scenery time and again
- saved but by the seat of the pants! (1 Cor 3:15)
- frustrated because have not yet put into practice what God has invested in us (rebellion)
- believing in Jesus but not trusting Jesus
- paralyzed by our limitations against the giants in our life
- self-willed, unwilling to submit to the Word of God
- dryness of spirit

3. Canaan

- armored up, Sword in hand, living life on the frontlines
  - by faith and not by sight
  - in the Spirit and not in the flesh
  - governed by the Word of God and not by emotions
- having a faith tested and an intimate possession through conflict
- unconditionally surrendered...victorious
- fighting...not lounging or sleeping
- empowered in the spirit, free in God's infinite power to put the giants underfoot

1 Cor 10:6, 11

We are to learn from history...so let's learn

Required to “advance”/mature – courage and obedience...faith in action

Let's not be asked Ch 18:3!!!

Last time...if the Lord came back today, where would He find you?

- in Egypt...dead in your sin
- in the wilderness...walking around in circles, murmuring to yourself
- in Canaan...fighting the good fight, living victorious Christian life

Book of Joshua to Israel is as Book of Acts to Church

- after the foundational books at the beginning...
  - Joshua after the five books of Moses
  - Acts after the four gospels.
- the people of God successfully carrying out the mission that God laid upon them when He set them apart for Himself
  - Israel, the mission was conquest and occupation of Canaan
  - the Church, the mission was The Great Commission.

Huck on flight from London to Cairo

- Seated next to Muslim man married to a woman in Wales, going to Cairo to visit his family
- On approach, the interrogation begins – “What are you doing in Cairo? With whom? Where does he live? Has no one ever given you trouble?”
- “I know many Christian in Wales but they do not know the Bible.”
- Started the conversation about the Bible and Jesus
- Huck showed Mo Acts 20:28...God is Spirit so how can this be unless it is Jesus?
- Mo grabbed Huck’s Bible, read it out loud
- Huck quoted John 6:44
- Mo went to it, read it out loud, put the Bible down, and said, “I believe this is happening to me right now!”
- Mo was questioning Islam; his father-in-law has been teaching him out of the Bible; the Lord set Huck next to him to seal the deal

This time...Joshua’s Staff Meeting

v10-11 Joshua commanded the officers...Prepare:

Joshua has been encouraged by the Lord

Now, led by the Spirit of God, the God of order, he is getting organized

Scene: Joshua’s staff meeting

Israel, 2-3M strong, the people of the God of order...  
has been organized

Moses got the Word of God out and issued marching orders  
quickly because a chain of command was in place

Deut 1:15

Now that chain of command is used for military purposes

Joshua did not assemble the officers to get their opinions about what the nation should do but to communicate to them God's orders to him

There is a great need for Godly counsel

Prov 11:14

Prov 15:22

Prov 24:6

This is not one of those times...this is a time to receive orders from the Commander-in-Chief and to obey/implement them  
Israel will not conquer the land by following some committee but obeying the clear commandment of God

Let's next consider that command: Prepare

1. What will be necessary – food (still manna, daily bread)

Note: Why did Granny, Jed, Jethro, and Ellie Mae on the *Beverly Hillbillies* say “victuals”?  
Must have been reading their KJV Bible

If you were a stranger in the camp of Israel picked up during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness looking west at “this” Jordan River, at flood stage...

- up to a mile wide and 10-20 feet deep
- flowing very rapidly
- very cold from the snowmelt on Mount Hermon

what would you think was needed?

Boats!

Enough boats to make the D-Day invasion of Normandy look almost trivial  
(2-3 M people + livestock vs 156K troops)  
“How in the world...?”

But neither Joshua nor his military officers second-guessed the Lord – He Who could part the Red Sea would have no trouble parting the Jordan River, regardless of season

They were to do what they can do,  
God would do what only He can do

As you head off to (spiritual) war, are you facing an impossible barrier?  
Prepare that which is necessary...your daily bread...  
but leave the obstacle to God

2. It is a word of encouragement to his military staff and to the people

There are no tones or hints of doubt in Joshua's command  
"You will cross that swollen river, a formidable barrier!  
You will conquer and possess that land!  
The LORD is giving it to you!"

Echoes of [Num 14:6-9](#)

Joshua was "shouted down" 40 years earlier but now everyone is with him!

Warren Wiersbe: "It is unfortunate but true that sometimes the only way a ministry can move forward is by conducting a few funerals."

In my Christian walk, I have only moved forward with Jesus in victory when I have

- denied my self, picked up my cross, and followed Jesus...
- surrendered to will of God after having "shouted down" the Holy Spirit...
- reckoned the old man dead on the cross

The people may have been a cauldron of conflicting emotions

- Fear – "The task ahead is impossible!"
- Anticipation and excitement – "Finally! After 430 + 40 years, it is time! It is happening...the promise of God is coming true!"

To settle their hearts and minds, Joshua gives them the Word he received from the Lord  
Rom 10:17

Can you sense the excitement in the air?  
Can you sense what is in the air here at CCA?  
Revival!  
Not a numeric concept...  
a relational concept  
We are moving forward to do battle!

Note: Joshua and Caleb are the oldest people in the nation.  
You know Caleb is “Amen”-ing everything Joshua  
is saying  
The Church needs the exhortation and  
encouragement of its senior saints  
The young need the guidance and encouragement to  
move forward from those with deep spiritual  
maturity that comes only with much time  
and experience in walking with Jesus

Another case (Book of Acts) of wilderness, crossing over a river,  
getting prepared for an assault in hostile territory:

[ VoM North Korea, Part 1 ]

Prepare: The Bread of Life

At flood stage...how in the world...?

[ VoM North Korea, Part 2 ]

Encouragement: Truth written in the heart

v12-15 Reubenites...Gadites...half tribe of Manasseh:

At his staff meeting, Joshua now turns his attention to the officers of the  
“East Siders”

He reminds them of their vow to Moses in Num 32:1-33...  
land (desirable for much cattle) for peace (all 12 tribes)

Joshua knew the unity of the children of Israel was vital to success...  
being of one accord with the LORD was essential if they were to  
conquer enemies greater and mightier than they

The warriors of the 2½ tribes will go BEFORE the others...  
unencumbered by women, children, and livestock, they will be a  
strong forward guard

In Ch 4:13 we learn that 40,000 warriors crossed over  
But those 2½ tribes had 136,930 able-bodied men, per Num 26  
The other 96,930 stayed on the East Side to protect the women,  
children, and livestock surrounded by hostile neighbors

How long will the warriors of the 2½ tribes be away from their  
rest?  
They return home in Ch 22...perhaps 25 years later

The request of the 2½ tribes was a concession on Moses' part in exchange for their commitment to not enter their rest until the entire nation had

The 2½ tribes made "a good deal"...but not the "best"

- settled for what they saw vs continued toward what they did not see
- separated from their brothers and sisters because they were too concerned about making a decent living
- far from the place of worship...Shiloh, then Jerusalem

They are like Christians who settle for "good" instead of "best"

- get close to God's intended inheritance/blessing/rest but falling short of it...opting for what they can see
- separated from brethren living together in unity
- willing to serve the Lord and help their brethren for a while, but when their task is done they go home to pursue their own interests

Our Objective of fighting the good fight in Canaan:  
entering into the Lord's rest

Heb 3:12 – 4:11

How? By faith...denying self...decreasing...submitting...  
unconditional surrender

v16-18 they answered Joshua:

The "they" may be

1. the officers of the 2½ tribes
2. the officers of all 12 tribes at the staff meeting

In the context of the entire book, I tend to think "they" are the officers of all 12 tribes

Their response:

1. "Whatever, wherever!"-style obedience
  - No hidden agendas, no contention
  - No conditions, no reservations, no hesitations
  - Not like the men in Luke 9:57-62  
(something personal came before the Lord)
  - Not "too big" to be used by God...in need of humbling, breaking, and emptying in order to be useful

2. “We will pray for you.”
  - THE very best thing we can do for those who lead is to pray for them always
  - Corrie Ten Boom: “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”
3. “Remember what God said.”
  - A discouraged leader cannot lead to victory
  - A discouraged army cannot fight victoriously the good fight
  - We must encourage each other...with the Word of God

Joshua has a healthy leadership team

- in one accord with him and the Lord, dedicated and faithful  
He did not have to explain or defend his orders...  
they were simply carried out  
“I find doing the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about His plan.”
- not serving for their own gain
- praying for him
- encouraging him as he encouraged them
- know they face a fierce fight...but a victorious one because God is with them

With leadership like this, a ministry can make a difference in the world!

The Church needs “healthy” men of God to lead His people...  
families, churches

- broken by the Holy Spirit
- unconditionally surrendered to Jesus Christ
- filled, empowered, and emboldened by the Holy Spirit
- desiring glory only for God and not themselves
  
- Uncompromisingly obey
- Diligently and fervently pray
- Remember the Word of God...written in heart, memorized

Then, we will see the River part and walls fall down before us

## Joshua Chapter 2

Last time...Joshua's staff meeting

This time...recon...and souls to save before judgment falls

v1a Joshua...sent out...two men to spy secretly:

Ch 1:1, 5, 9

Then Joshua sends out 2 spies?!

Does he not believe what the Lord just said to him?

Is he already "getting cold feet" and having second thoughts?

This is NOT a lack of trust on Joshua's part...it is an effective tactic by a brilliant strategic and tactical military leader

Any military officer worth his salt will tell you the value and necessity of reconnaissance...gathering military intelligence about the enemy before sending in the troops

Jericho is a key objective in Joshua's strategy to conquer the land –

- cut Canaan in half with a East to West campaign
- with that buffer against the north, conquer the south
- conquer the north

Joshua needs intelligence about the city and its inhabitants

So he sends in some "eyes"...the first 2 Mossad agents

Men who are strong and of good courage...

walking by faith with their God

v1b came into a harlot's house:

Behind enemy lines...the 2 spies go to a whore house?!

Is this a "spy who loved me" fall into immorality or another smart tactic?

There is absolutely no hint of immorality by the Israeli spies...  
they are astute, shrewd soldiers

In order to gather G2, they are strangers needing to be conspicuous...  
going to the house of a harlot would (normally) raise no eyebrows  
from the locals

From their places of hiding and with keen observation, they find such a  
house in Jericho

But can't you hear the hue and cry, the scorn and criticism, of the pious  
and self-righteous?

"Why would two of God's chosen people even think of going to  
the house of an adulteress named 'proud'?!

Oh the shame!

Oh the appearance of evil!

Why did they not just walk around town and trust the Lord to  
protect them?"

The self-righteous would judge and condemn the spies and Rahab based  
on the outward, having no knowledge of the inward...  
oblivious to the beam sticking out of their own eye

v2-3 it was told the king of Jericho:

Canaan was populated by city/states like Jericho, each with its own king

Jericho, looking over the Jordan River and seeing the camp of Israel  
(a Cross, per Num 2), is on Red Alert..."Severe",  
the highest level of Homeland Security threat level

So strangers who would normally be inconspicuous are now very  
noticeable...especially since the army of Jericho is doing racial  
profiling

The king sends some of his soldiers to Rahab's house to arrest the spies  
The two Israeli spies...unnamed in Scripture...have their cover blown and  
are in great jeopardy

They are now at the mercy of a woman of ill repute.

"We've been ratted out, boys!

Smile and wave, boys, smile and wave."

v4-6 hid them...men went I know not:

But...Rahab does not turn them over to her city/state's soldiers  
Instead, she...

- commits treason
- tells a bold-faced lie to the soldiers

Oh my, can you hear the self-righteous now, further condemning Rahab as traitor and a liar!

I am sure they sound like the Pharisees when Jesus fellowshiped with publicans (traitors) and sinners (liars etc)

Do they condemn Abraham, Isaac, David, etc, who lied?

The heroes of faith...have warts

The Word of God just tells it like it is...and only God is good

Why did Rahab

- commit treason?  
Canaan is under the judgment of God...does she know?  
Jericho is under a death sentence...ditto?  
Whom does she fear more – her king or the King of kings?
- lie?  
Do the ends justify the means?  
(situational ethics vs absolute, unchanging Truth)  
No. Lying is wrong  
  
But sinners can only sin...Rahab is being true to her nature  
Clearly, Rahab is “conflicted”...  
there is an inner turmoil raging

The Israeli spies did not ask Rahab to lie for them or to commit treason for them.

They were at her mercy...under the protective covering of their God

Rahab had a great hiding place for the spies...

as does she and every other adulterer, traitor, liar, prideful sinner

Blessed *is he whose* transgression *is* forgiven, *whose sin is* covered. (Ps 32:1)

Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble;  
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance  
(Ps 32:7)

v7 the men pursued after them:  
Not suspecting why Rahab would lie to them, the soldiers believed her and take off!

They hurriedly heading east to the Jordan River and the crossing places...  
the logical escape route for two spies whose cover has been blown

As soon as they were outside the city gates, the gates were closed and locked – those outside are locked out and those inside are locked in

v8-9 I know that the LORD hath given you the land:  
Whispering to the Israeli spies...  
because up on the flat roof sound carries and the ears of Jericho's population are perked...  
especially after seeing the Security Police at her house...  
Rahab drops a bombshell!

This immoral Gentile/pagan woman declares that she knows for certainty that the God of Israel has given the land of Canaan to His people, the children of Israel

Rahab knew more than the 10 faith-less spies did (Num 13)...  
with a mere fraction of their knowledge of God

How does she know that Jericho and Canaan are under the judgment of the God of Israel?

- A revelation like Matt 16:17?
- A logical conclusion from all the evidence available to her?

She goes on to give the spies some valuable military intelligence:  
The inhabitants of Jericho have “melted” for fear of the Jews

Just as God had promised!

Ex 15:3, 14-16

Deut 2:25

Deut 11:25

post-Red Sea parting

v10 we have heard how the LORD:

How did Rahab know the Lord had given the land of Canaan to Israel?  
Because He has loudly testified that fact...and provided very convincing evidence

- He goes before Israel
- He fights for Israel
- He parted the Red Sea and annihilated the world's most powerful army
- He utterly wiped out two very powerful kings on "that side" of the Jordan

She has listened carefully to the news and has the intellectual honesty to see the obvious

She used the brains God gave her, did not "check her brains in at the door"

v11 our hearts did melt...any more courage:

One of the tactical objectives of the two spies is to learn about the combat readiness level of the inhabitants of Jericho

Rahab give it to them:

- their hearts are turned to putty
- they suffer from debilitating discouragement
- their "breath" (courage) is taken away, can scarcely breathe

Then this immoral, idol-worshipping, Gentile woman drops another bombshell!

The God of Israel is

- THE Lord...One True vs multitudes of false
- your God...a personal, loving, protective God
- Elohim...vs El
- God in heaven
- God in earth...comes down into time and space, comes down to the level of man

Note: The god of Jericho's current inhabitants...  
Allah:

- does not enter space and time
- never came to earth (or Garden of Eden or Paradise)
- does not lower himself to man's level
- does not help his worshippers or any other man

How did she know about the God of Israel?  
Who revealed God to her?

This is a very powerful profession of faith  
Heb 11:1, 6  
Gen 15:6  
“I believe!”

Implied in her profession of faith is repentance from her

- idol worship
- pride
- immorality
- wicked, fallen nature

This idol-worshipping, proud, lying adulteress is...  
saved by grace thru faith in the God of Israel

She has responded with faith to the revelation she has been given and has  
surrendered her life to the God of Israel

She is...

- forgiven
- our sister!

[1 Cor 6:9-11](#)

v12-13 since I have showed you kindness:

“I am at your mercy...as you were at my mercy.

I beg you, in the name of the Lord, be merciful to me as I was merciful to  
you and give a sure sign of it!”

And save alive my family!

‘Snatch, rescue’ us from certain death!”

Rahab is saved by grace thru faith...now she pleads for her entire family

- parents
- siblings
- of course, not husband or children

v14 Our life for yours:

Matt 5:7

“Turnabout is fair play”...God is fair and just

If...

- you deal faithfully with us, we will deal faithfully with you.
- you are a doer of the Word and not a hearer only,  
deceiving yourself and us

v15-16 let them down by a cord:

A covenant secured between the two parties, it is time for the Israeli spies to split  
Rahab throws a rope over the wall and they shimmy down  
She lives in a high tower, a refuge...  
so does every forgiven sinner who abides in Christ

Her counsel to the spies:

“Go to the mountain, hide yourselves 3 days before you go back.”

From Jericho, where are the mountains? West  
From Jericho, where is the camp of Israel? East  
The spies must go deeper behind enemy lines in order to hide in  
the many caves in those mountains ala Qumran

Why did she say 3 days?

How did she know Ch 1:10-11?

simultaneous with the 3 days of preparation

v17-20 We will be blameless:

The Israeli spies make sure everyone is on the same page before they head to the hills

“We will be clear of our vow to you if you say as much as one word about us and our little visit here.

And this is how we will make good our word to you:

Tie this scarlet cord in this window.

Gather your family together.

Stay inside...we will have no time to run around searching for anyone.

If any of you go outside, you will die and it will be your fault, not ours.

But if you stay inside, and you are harmed, it will be our fault.

We are pledging our lives for your lives, in exchange for you risking your life for us.”

So...during the invasion of Jericho, who is going to Rahab's house on the search and rescue mission?

These 2 spies, guaranteed!

The “true token”, sure sign, of the spies’ mercy to Rahab (v12) and their snatching her and her family from certain death is...

- a scarlet (blood) cord
  - reminiscent of the Passover in Egypt (Ex 12:21-23)
  - which speaks of Jesus...
    - the blood of the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us
    - a Worm squashed for us (Ps 22:6)...  
producing the scarlet color that turns white (Is 1:18)
  
- hanging from the window in her house
  - her high tower, her refuge from danger
  - also reminiscent of the Ark
  - Both of which speak of Jesus
    - The only Refuge from the wrath of God (Ps 18:2)

The spies themselves became the surety for Rahab and her family...  
as Jesus became the surety of salvation for us  
Heb 7:22, 25

Maybe this is “The Spy Who Loved Me” after all!

For those of us who feel like Rahab...a forgiven sinner...

- How thankful are we for the covenant of salvation before the judgment of God falls on this evil world?
- How much comfort do we have in the pledge of another’s life for our lives?
- How convinced are we that Jesus will return for us before He destroys His enemies?

In the meantime, any sinner we encounter during our campaign to conquer Canaan who

- is honest enough to consider the evidence available to them
- responds to the revelation given them
- repents and surrenders
- confesses faith in Jesus Christ

shall be

- saved, rescued from certain death (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- protected by the blood of the Lamb
- bound by the cord of His blood along with the rest of us

And we do have time for search and rescue missions...that is our mission!  
The invading army of which we are a part should get bigger every day

Last time...reconnaissance and repentance...a covenant of salvation by grace thru faith

This time...the faith of Rahab and the faith of the nation Israel

v21 so be it:

Upon hearing the terms from the 2 spies, Rahab says, "Amen!"  
And she immediately secured the scarlet cord in the window as she was instructed...a doer of the word, not just a hearer

This is an act of saving faith...faith in action...  
faith producing a work that is evidence of her faith

James 2:23-25

Heb 11:31 (one of only 2 women in Hall of Faith...Sarah)

Matt 1:5-6 (one of only 3 women in the genealogy of Jesus...all Gentile)

1 Cor 1:27-29

Rom 5:20 where sin abounded, grace did much more abound

Now what have the self-righteous to say?

Nothing...except maybe, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

Consider the faith of Rahab

- Her faith gave her courage
  - to abandon her life
    - 1 Thes 1:9 turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
  - to take in and hide the "enemy" spies at great risk to her own life
  - to hang a scarlet rope out her window before an impending attack...rather conspicuous
- Her faith gave her confidence in the face of judgment
  - not faith in faith or positive confession
  - not faith in feelings
  - not faith in "the rope"
  
  - faith in One God Whom she knew was True
  - faith in His promise, supported by evidence/facts
- Her faith gave her compassion for the lost (her family)
  - As soon as she was clothed in righteousness of God she longed to see others wearing the same spotless garments
  - Prov 11:30 he that wins souls *is* wise.

Rahab had little knowledge but more than enough upon which to act...  
and she was given the assurance of her salvation

The assurance of salvation is not based on what we feel (emotions)  
or upon our performance but on Who we know  
No one becomes a Christian by thinking, feeling, or doing...  
but by being in Christ...a position, not a performance

One cannot be born a child of God...one must become one,  
born-again, a new creature

The decision is not to become perfect but to be forgiven  
Jesus died for us to forgive us by grace thru faith.  
As long as He lives, our salvation is secure

Like Rahab, we have been given the assurance of our salvation...  
read 1 John ("know" appears 39 times)

Rahab had a saving faith

Evidence of saving faith: changed lives...  
thinking, feeling, and doing radically differently...  
a result of a fundamental change effected by the Creator

v22 found them not:

The enemy is searching furiously for the Israeli spies...for 3 days.  
But they are too well hidden

As are we...our lives are hid with Christ in God

v23-24 returned...told him all things...Truly the LORD:

The spies cross back over the Jordan and give their scouting report...  
reporting what God has been saying all along  
And Joshua does not say..."I told you so!!"

Now, the nation Israel is ready to obey the Word of God...  
they will march by faith into victory

## Joshua Chapter 3

v1a Joshua rose early in the morning:

Attention all you servants of the Lord...especially you night owls!  
As you read your Bibles, please take note of how much work the Lord  
does early in the morning!

The phrase “early in the morning” appears 39 times in Scripture

- Job
- Abraham – 3 times
- Jacob
- Moses – 4 times
- Joshua – 4 times
- David – twice
- Jehoshapat – twice
- Hezekiah – twice
- The women who went to the tomb of Jesus
- Apostles to the Temple to teach
  
- Matt 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.
  
- John 8:2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

Don't be sleeping when the Lord likes to act!

The self-discipline to commune with the Lord then will be rewarded  
Who would not arise early to commune with the Lover of your soul?

v1b-4 When you see the ark of the covenant:

Early on this morning, the Lord wanted His army to get ready to cross the  
Jordan River

Step 1: Get closer, 10 miles closer...set up camp at the Jordan River  
Need “fresh legs” when it is time to invade

Step 2: Move out, in formation, when the Ark of the LORD moves out  
All eyes on the Ark

Central to the movement of Israel is the Ark of the covenant...  
containing the Law and symbolic of His very presence  
(mentioned 15 times in Ch 3-4...shadow of Jesus)

The Lord's Army was commanded to maintain about 3000 feet  
buffer (skosh over ½ mile) between themselves and the Ark  
They are to invade the land of Canaan but they were not to invade  
the Lord's holy "personal space"  
He is their Father and He is near...  
but He is not "dude".  
He demands respect and reverence

Israel was to follow Him (the Ark) into their land!  
They didn't know where they were going any more than we  
know where we are going...but the Lord did.  
The Lord still knows exactly where He is going  
He is better than any GPS!  
The Lord leads us

- into the unknown
- on our New Adventure in faith

v5 Sanctify yourselves:

Step 3: Make yourselves completely pure and clean...because tomorrow  
our wonderful God will show you why He is wonderful!

Does that mean go take a bath in that cold rushing water and put on  
your Sunday-best clothes like it did on Mount Sinai?  
Yes, but it also means a spiritual cleansing

The Lord thru Joshua tells His Army to get prepared...  
their hearts vs their weapons  
He moves thru and blesses clean people

What defiles His people?  
Bitterness, pride, lust, idolatry, evil thoughts, false witness

Matt 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the  
mouth come forth from the heart; and they  
defile the man.

This hideous filth...sin...must be washed away before we  
move forward and receive God's blessing

How? Confession and repentance and He will make us clean  
1 John 1:9...sometimes it takes a good scrubbing that hurts  
When we come clean, God cleanses us  
Oh, if only Adam had come clean!  
Well, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam make clean possible...by faith

Let's stop here and look back over what we have covered thus far in Joshua...

The children of Israel are poised to invade and take that which has already been given to them

But...they had to wait for 3 days!

When you are excited and (think) you are ready, is anything harder than waiting?

Why did Israel have to wait?

1. A "grace period" was given to those who chose to be separated (Ch 1)  
For those like the 2½ tribes who are settling for "good" instead of "best"

For the Christian who does not consistently assemble with the believers on Sunday morning or other fellowship opportunities

For the Christian who is giving up and says to the Captain of their salvation, "Lord, I can't go any further, I can't do this anymore. This conflict is too big and too intense for me."

Christians suffer many wounds in this war, from the devil and sometimes from friends.

It is not how a man begins his Christian walk that counts, it is how he finishes....please reconsider your self-imposed separation!

Persevere until you hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Lord!"

2. Souls needed to be saved before utter destruction came (Ch 2)  
Even if there is just one righteous person, judgment is stayed (Lot in Sodom)

In fact, the most unsavory of people in man's eyes in Jericho was the most precious in the eyes of God...because she had faith in Him

God is slow to anger and longsuffering with this wicked world because there are still righteous to be rescued

3. God wanted clean people thru whom to act (Ch 3:5)  
Are we clean enough for God to use?  
Are we humble enough, faithful enough, to be sent into battle?

Alan Redpath: "The level on which God meets men depends on the level on which we as Christians are prepared to meet our Lord."

Waiting on the Lord is when so much of God's plan is accomplished  
Testimony: Loving Hands

How many blessings do we miss out on because we are impatient?

v6 Joshua spoke to the priests:

“Get into position.”

What is their position? On point

The Lord and His priests are on point for the invasion

Who is on point for the invasion into the world?

Jesus Christ and the Church, whom He has made kings and priests

v7-8 This day I will begin to magnify thee:

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to follow a “superstar”

Who took Michael Jordan’s spot on the roster?

Who has ever filled the shoes of Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame?

What man/woman can replace a mother/father who has died?

To Israel, Moses was everything...all they had known

”This Joshua is pretty good, but that Moses....

- God was with him!
- He really was the servant of God.
- He was larger than life.”

So the Lord is about to fix that...that all Israel would know

- God is now with Joshua
- Joshua is indeed the servant of God
- Joshua larger than life also

This “people comparison” is man’s heart issue, not God’s

God merely replaces His servant with another servant

But people tend to look at the servant rather than the servant’s God

Additionally, the Lord might well be short-circuiting possible future rebellion against Joshua

When an army is at war, rebellion against authority and division in the ranks can be disastrous...it helps the enemy

The Lord may be moving to ensure Joshua did not face what Moses faced

- Aaron and Miriam (Num 12) jealousy and envy
- Korah and gang (Num 16) rebellion, coup attempt

How will the Lord make large Joshua in the eyes of Israel?

“When it is time to invade, tell the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant to go stand in the Jordan...and stand still.

(And then...psspsspsspss....)

BTW...this is a radical thought – standing still before the Lord!

depending on Him vs self

listening, ready to respond vs “going” with the noise of the world

v9 Come hither:

Joshua has his orders and has been briefed by the Lord about the wonders  
He will do among His people the next day.

So Joshua summons all the troops:

“Come here! Let me tell you what the Lord just told me!”

Can you sense the excitement?!

And notice...Joshua did not magnify himself, he magnified the Lord  
True spiritual leadership points to Jesus, not to themselves

And notice also in what Joshua is about to say...

He is not delivering a feel-good message or a faith-in faith doctrine

He is simply reminding the people of the promises of God and  
encouraging them to trust the Lord and obey His Word

v10-13 know that the living God...will without fail:

“This is how we will know that the living God (gods of heathen are dead)

- is with us
- will not fail

We can have full confidence in our attack because

1. The Lord of the entire earth (not just a god of a city) goes  
BEFORE us  
The God Who was before the beginning and is beyond the  
end is bigger than that impossible barrier we see
2. Give me 12 men, one from each tribe.  
Why?  
Wait. Again.  
We are on a need-to-know-basis with the Lord.  
He will tell us what we need to know when we need to  
know it, OK?
3. As soon as the soles of the priests bearing Ark are standing still  
in the Jordan...now get this...the waters upstream are  
going to stop and pile up into a huge heap!”

Ever seen a “heap” of water?

Water does not heap, unless it is frozen.

The Lord is going to part the waters of the Jordan River!

Sound familiar?

Those shoes of Moses aren't quite so big now

v14-17 And it came to pass:

Well guess what?

It happened just like God said it would happen!

He said it, He did it.

God made good His Word/promise...in a wonderful way!

Adam/Adamah is about 16 miles upstream from Jericho and

The Dead Sea is about 4 miles downstream...

dry ground for about 20 miles!

Sound familiar?

No carts or livestock got bogged down in the mud...there was no mud

No people got chilled in the snowmelt or drowned in the rushing waters

None were left behind, all crossed over

Sound familiar?

What had appeared to be impossible was accomplished easily...

the Lord of all the earth made it possible and easy

Question: Did the people of Jericho see this from atop their walls?

Whoa!

Archaeologist Nelson Glueck did surface excavations at Zaretan and, after compiling and analyzing the data, wrote this:

“The actual archaeological facts agree completely with the conclusions to be derived from a careful examination of Joshua 3:16. This verse was meant to be taken literally, to the effect that the Jordan River was dammed up from Adamah to Zaretan, enabling the Israelites to freely and easily cross on dry land to the west side of the Jordan.”

Let's not magnify Moses or any other servant...let's magnify the Lord!

But let's consider the priests bearing the Ark of the covenant...

a demonstration of great faith and courage

The Lord did not divide the water until the priests stepped in the water.

What was the response of the people? Faith...follow the Ark!

Unbelief/fear:

“Let’s go back where it is safe.”

“We’ve waited this long, let’s wait longer until we can wade across the river.”

Faith:

“Let’s go forward to where God is working.”

Blind faith believes something in the absence of evidence

Saving faith

- obeys in spite of consequences
- is active, not passive

Lesson: Many times God is waiting for us to step out in faith before He acts on our behalf.

You cannot be set in your ways and walk by faith and see God act  
Step out in faith, see if the Lord will do something wonderful!

Sometimes you just gotta get your feet wet to see God’s wonders...just what we are doing in Egypt

And sometimes you just gotta get your feet wet by following the Lord across an impossible barrier to the other side:

- a foul, unhealthy, or sinful habit
- an unholy, consuming lust
- an unloving spirit
- a critical, judgmental spirit
- a stubbornness, making you unresponsive to the moving of God’s Spirit
- a master in the Blame Game...  
with a quick-draw pointer finger
- over-sensitiveness and fragile feelings, making for life on an emotional roller coaster
- irresistible urge to defend yourself when wronged by another
- jealousy over the success of others
- a bitterness that has defiled you and those around you
- a blinding arrogance
- anything that cripples your testimony

With Jesus going before you, face that impossible barrier and say  
with full confidence,  
“Lord, I cannot.  
But I believe You can.  
I will follow You.”

Following Jesus, even into a “swollen river” (impossible barrier) is  
worth the “risk”  
In fact, the far greater risk is to not follow Jesus

So...

- Focus!
- All eyes on Jesus!
- Step out in faith
- Get your feet wet

The Book of Joshua is Jewish history given to us as an example...  
an example of victory by faith in the Word of God  
The Lord saved us to make us soldiers and to lead us by faith to conquer in  
His name and for His glory  
Salvation is only the beginning, not the end, of our newness of life  
He brought us out of bondage that He might bring us into our  
inheritance (Deut 6:23)

Throughout Scripture God honors men and women...and nations...  
who believe His Word

Time is urgent...it's time to march!  
The march, begins...  
in our own hearts, not the person's next to us

## Joshua Chapter 4

Last time...the faith of Rahab and the faith of the nation

This time...Memorial stones

What do you suppose Ch 4 is about?

Jesus

In the Church today, there are sermons that are

- motivational
- positive “feel good”-ness
- exalting of man

Some are quite powerful...there are many gifted speakers in pulpits in the world

But me...I thirst to hear more about Jesus

1 Cor 2:1-3

v1-3 Take...twelve stones:

Once the nation of Israel is completely on the “west bank”...  
the bank promised to them by God...  
we now learn the reason for Ch 3:12

The Lord tells Joshua that the inaugural action once in the land of Canaan  
is the 12 men, one from each tribe, are to

- go back into the dry ground of the Jordan River to where the priests are standing upon a firm foundation
- select a stone
- carry it back to camp

v4-8 Joshua called the twelve men:

Notice that Joshua does not question the Word of God...  
he simply obeys

The 12 men are instructed to select a stone too large to carry in their  
arms...large enough that it must be “shouldered”

And, the “Why?” is answered: these stones will be Memorial Stones

A landmark/reminder for future generations of the wonderful  
thing the God of AI&J did for their descendants when He  
led them into their Promised Land

A testimony that God was with them and that He cannot fail when  
an impossible barrier was removed and that which was  
unthinkable became both possible and easy...

A witness that the Living God honors faith in Him and works on  
behalf of those who trust Him.

The 12 men do just what they are told...obedience meant “shouldering” a  
large stone about 4 miles to their lodging place in Gilgal (v19-20)

Do we ever forget that God is present and involved in our daily lives?  
Do we ever forget the wonderful things God has done on our behalf?  
Do we ever forget that God is bigger than the problem we are now facing?

Do you have Memorial Stones that give testimony of God’s wonder and  
involvement/presence in your life?

- Nathan, Kathryn, Matthew  
(when I was barren)
- Loving Hands Journal  
(“A miracle!” Exceeds our wildest dreams...freedom!”)
- Keep a journal of His speaking to you, His revelations, etc

v9 Joshua set up twelve stones:

Then Joshua personally ventures back into the dry ground of the Jordan River and sets up a 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial with 12 different stones

Location of Joshua's memorial:

In the very same area as [John 1:19-34](#)

The site of the baptism (standing up out of the water) of Jesus Christ

Bethabara = "ferry house" ie a crossing place/ford as in [Ch 2:7](#)

At flood stage, who could see this memorial?

Only the all-seeing God of Israel

The children of Israel would have to see with eyes of faith

At other times, the children of Israel could see where the Ark stood firm while the waters of the Jordan retreated into a heap

The memorial stones set by Joshua were to remind God's people that they have made a clean break with the past and there should be no going back into the wilderness, the place of unbelief and death

A truly regenerate, born-again believer in Jesus Christ can choose to retreat into the wilderness...

- independent, reliant upon Self
- giving in to the flesh
- believing a lie of the father of all lies
- heart-breaking folly

Stop!

Look up!

See the Memorial Stones...see Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who became a man and came to earth to minister to you with His ministry of reconciliation and to defeat death on your behalf

Jesus is the witness of God, the "border" between unbelief and death and faith and life

v10-11 the ark stood...until...passed over:

The children of Israel are in complete and immediate obedience to the Word of God

They did not dally or dawdle, they were focused and not distracted (“Hey, look, a kitty” or “Squirrel!”)

But the most important thing about the crossing of the Jordan River... the Lord is

- First and Last
- Beginning and End
- Alpha and Omega
- Author and Finisher

Jesus goes before us and after us...on point and the rear guard

v12-13 forty thousand prepared for war:

The crossing includes 40,000 men of valor from the 2½ tribes, faithful to their vow to Moses

Do you wonder what the balance of those 2½ tribes were thinking as they watched these events?

“Whoa! Did you see that!  
There goes God, before our brethren!  
Maybe we should have gone with them!  
Maybe this is good land...but it may be better over there.”  
We feel very lonely all of a sudden.”

Lesson:

- Go with God, no matter where He leads
- Don't settle for “good” instead of God's “best”

v14 LORD magnified Joshua:

Just as He promised, the Lord “lifted up” Joshua... and the entire nation received and respected him as long as he lived

1400 years later, another Joshua (Jesus) would be lifted up

- out of the waters of baptism in the Jordan River
- upon the cross as a curse
- from the grave in victory
- into heaven in glory

but not believed and rejected...even until now, 2000 years later

v15-18 Come ye up out of Jordan...waters of Jordan returned:  
Israel is 100% crossed over into the land of Canaan  
(430 years after it was promised to Abraham)  
None were left behind, all are present and accounted for  
(missing only the generation that did not believe the Word of God  
and died/buried in the wilderness)  
Therefore, it is time for the Ark to cross over

As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests are off the dry ground of the  
Jordan River and on the land of Canaan the heaped up waters of  
the Jordan River

- return with a vengeance...rushing, roaring waters  
(Rev 1:15)
- slowly, orderly "unheaped"...not guided by the laws of nature  
but by the Lawgiver Who can "heap" liquid water

Regardless, the population of Jericho was undoubtedly watching and  
listening...and melting some more

Afterwards, what lies behind the children of Israel?

An impossible barrier

What direction are they to head?

Forward, not backward.

Certain victory lies ahead, defeat/retreat is not an option with the  
God Who cannot fail

Same holds for us

Matt 16:13-18

- John the Baptist: baptized at this site
- Elijah: raptured on the other side where Moses  
was taken by God
- Jeremiah: the difference between victory and  
defeat = repent/believe

Eph 6:10-18

Armor on the front side only

v19 tenth day of the first month:

The crossing of the Jordan River was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ex 12:1-5,  
the selection of the Passover Lamb

John 1:29...the Passover Lamb had been "selected" in this place

And they bivouac 1.25 miles from Jericho (per Josephus)

(Howdy, neighbor!)

at Gilgal...Ch 5:9

v20 twelve stones...pitched in Gilgal:

Joshua, the servant of the God of order, puts the stones in order according to the unrecorded will of God

Everything has a purpose in God's plan...nothing is will-nilly

When we follow Jesus, our lives are in order

May not seem like it from your perspective but it is from God's perspective

Joshua had set up a memorial in the Jordan River before the waters returned, now he sets up the memorial on the West Bank with the 12 "foundational" stones at Gilgal

Gilgal will be an important place in the history of Israel

- 1<sup>st</sup> possession in land of Canaan
- The bridgehead/beachhead for their "D-Day" invasion
- Joshua's base camp and supply center
- crowning their 1<sup>st</sup> king (1 Sam 11)
- David returned after Absalom's rebellion was put down (2 Sam 19)
- school of prophets in the days of Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings)

These 12 stones, these "foundational" stones at our base of operations and supply depot, speak of...Jesus

Matt 7:21-27

James 1:22

John 14:15

John 15:14

And the place where our reproach was rolled away is important to us!  
The Cross of Jesus Christ...

- where the Son of God our High Priest stood firm (v3)
- where He announced, "It is finished!"
- so we could cross the impossible barrier of sin and go to our lodging place
  - Rom 6:3-5
  - Gal 2:20 (I died...to Self...almost 21 years ago)
- our base of operations and supply place for the battles that are ahead

v21-24 When your children shall ask:

Purpose for the 12 stones set in order:

To pass on to the next generation, “This is where and when our God did something wonderful for us, right in front of our eyes!”

Israel is not mighty, Israel’s God is mighty

Notice Israel’s commission: To testify of their God to all the nations and invite them to also put their faith in Him

How did they do?

Gilgal degenerated from a place of personal testimony to an idolatrous shrine

Hosea and Amos called on Israel to repent of what they were doing at Gilgal

What is our commission?

Matt 28:18-20 [ Ireland ripe! ]

How are we doing?

Our Memorials are to

- remind us of a Person, not to become religious tokens
- energize our present, not glorify the “good ole days”
- strengthen our faith in the Lord and draw us closer to Him, not divert it to a lifeless thing and turn our hearts from Him

From the history of Israel, the crossings of Red Sea and Jordan River

- 2 baptisms

<u>Crossing the Red Sea</u>	<u>Crossing the Jordan River</u>
Water divided	water divided
Dry ground	dry ground
Fleeing bondage	marching to conquer
Enemy in pursuit, destroyed	no enemy pursuit
Baptism of John/water	Baptism of Jesus/Holy Spirit
Test of faith	test of faith

- Every generation needs a “parting of the waters”...  
deliverance from an impossible barrier at the hand of the  
Almighty God Who alone is worthy of glory

But the next generation won't cross over unless we teach  
them

- about our personal testimony
- about the wonderful things God has done for us
- to believe and obey the Word of God

They will instead turn back to idols and the world

Nothing God has done is more wonderful than the  
Resurrection (even vs Gen 1)

- “power of God” to quicken whosoever with  
Christ
- newness of life of the dead
- the corrupt made incorruptible

Question is – have you died with Jesus Christ?

Do you trust in the power of God...or not?

Are you hanging onto Self and stuff...  
or hanging with Jesus?

Outside of Jesus (unbelief) is only  
judgment and death

## Joshua Chapter 5

Last time...Israel is in the Promised Land and camped at Gilgal

This time...now what?

v1 their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more:

Status of the invasion:

- The God of Israel has miraculously led His people across the Jordan River...
- Israel is pumped!
- The Canaanites are utterly deflated and demoralized...
  - in “cardiac arrest”
  - have had the wind knocked out of them
  - panicked, paralyzed in fear

From a military perspective, now is an ideal time to attack before the enemy re-groups!

But...

- Joshua listens to the Lord, not conventional military wisdom
- The Lord has not said “Go!” so Joshua doesn’t
- Israel is not ready to attack...even if their enemies “are”
- Time to wait again...about 2 weeks

Is there anything harder to do than wait...  
esp when you think you are ready?

We are in a hurry, but God is not...

His purposes can be accomplished without us rushing into  
rash and thoughtless action

He is the Creator of time, He inhabits eternity...

He can afford to wait while He works in His soldiers in  
order to accomplish His will vs their/our will

His delays are immeasurably more profitable than our haste

And the work the Lord needs to do...is in His soldiers, not His enemies  
Why do His soldiers need working on?

Christians are often

- AWOL
  - complacent and asleep at their post
  - chasing worldly things, the carnal desires of their heart
- “loose cannons”
  - undisciplined and self-willed
  - rushing around in a fever pitch to do something for God

As such, Christians are often unfit for duty:

Those who think they are Christians because they say they are...  
thinking they are OK with God, but they are still dead

They are

- perhaps “good” moral people
- living unchanged lives
- strangers to the Truth, in ignorance of what it means to “be” a Christian

How sad to see “Christians” who

- are lords of own lives...Jesus is not “Lord”
- base their eternity on
  - someone else’s relationship with Jesus
  - their own morality

Those who think they are sound in doctrine and think they are  
skilled in the Word of God...  
but they lack heart-devotion to the Lord.

They are more like “Christian machines” that lack the oil of  
the Spirit of God

How sad to see “Christian intellectuals” who are

- right in doctrine, right in the head
- wrong/dead in the heart
- bone-dry in the Spirit

Those who chase after new “spiritual” experiences and thrills...  
but they lack Bible literacy

They are still in “Christian pre-school”

How sad to see “old Christians” who need

- their diapers changed on a regular basis
- meat instead of milk but they prefer their bottle
- a windsock...are being tossed to and fro

The Lord's first priority before battle is to make fit for duty His soldiers...  
not that we do something for Him  
but that we **be** something for Him

In His delays...during which time His wisdom is revealed...He teaches us  
invaluable lessons to make us what He wants us to be

The soldier who

- is lazy or asleep
- is stubborn, stiff-necked
- has a mind of his own

is disobedient to the Commander-in-Chief

God does not tolerate disobedient soldiers...

a disobedient army cannot expect victory and a blessing

We cannot expect the Lord to send us forth to conquer in Arizona,  
Mexico, and Egypt if we have not first surrendered to Him  
and conquered our own personal disobedience

Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know  
my thoughts:  
And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in  
the way everlasting.

Israel is not yet ready to be used by God

God's people must be prepared before they can be trusted with the  
Lord's victory...

the conquest of the Promised Land is His victory,  
not Joshua's or Israel's

What preparations must now be made?!

1. Renewing their covenant relationship with the Lord
2. Feast with the Lord
3. Presence of the Lord

v2-9 circumcise:

1<sup>st</sup> required preparation before attacking:  
renewing the covenant relationship with their God

Circumcision is the sign of that covenant relationship (Gen 17:9-14)

- cutting away of the flesh, in which there is no good thing
- a sign that their bodies belong to Him and are to remain pure

There has been no cutting away of the flesh during the 40 years in the wilderness...because of unbelief and rebellion

The journey in the wilderness was a walk in the flesh, not in the Spirit...  
a walk by sight, not by faith

The able-bodied generation (20+ years old) had essentially called God a liar and considered His command to attack the inhabitant of the land of Canaan as if it were of the devil seeking their destruction

But now, with His people in His land, it is time to renew the covenant...  
time to walk

- in the Spirit and not in the flesh...  
so the flesh must again be cut away
- by faith and not by sight...  
so their faith must be tested
  - incapacitated for 3 days...giving the enemy a golden opportunity to attack!
  - so often after a great victory (the crossing of the Jordan in this case) faith must be tested...  
a heart exam administered to see if
    - pride has taken root
    - we will depend on Him or in ourselves
  - Andrew Bonar: "Let us be as watchful after the victory as we are before the battle."

A walk of faith in the Spirit is possible only if the shame of sin has been rolled away...being born-again, born of the Spirit  
The meaning of circumcision is spiritual...painful spiritual surgery

Deut 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff-necked.

Jer 4:4

Rom 2:27-28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ  
(when He cuts our hearts and renews our spirit)

God will not fight His battles with the uncircumcised, the unregenerate  
His people must be clean of the sin that so easily besets us or He will not use us

God demands holiness...

He must cleanse us by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ of every fleshly defilement if we are to be used by our Master

We must submit and “go under the knife of the Lord”,  
surrendering our heart to Him  
(must be done personally, not collectively)

Do not fear the Lord’s knife (Heb 4:12)  
Rend your heart, pour out your heart,  
agree with God without hesitation or reservation...  
then rise up, follow Jesus, and expect to be made a blessing

Israel passed the test...that part of their preparation is complete

All the while, the anxiety of the locals was building:  
“What are they doing out there?  
Why are they waiting?  
This suspense is killing me!”

v10-12 passover:

2<sup>nd</sup> required preparation: Feast with the Lord  
Celebrate Passover, a Feast of worship, remembrance, and  
fellowship

No uncircumcised person could celebrate the Passover (Ex 12:48)

Now back in their covenant relationship with God, the people celebrate  
the Feast of Passover...fellowship with God...for only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time

- in Egypt (Ex 12)
- at Mount Sinai (Num 9)

It has been 39 years since the last Passover feast – lamb, bitter herbs, etc

We will never be able to fight our enemies until we have fed on Christ,  
our Passover Lamb and the Bread of Life

Without feeding on the Living Word of God, we become weak...  
easy prey for the enemy (principalities and powers)

We cannot feast with the Lord if

- there is disobedience in our heart and in our life
- we are consumed by the busy-ness of this life

How much time have you spent in fellowship with God in His  
Word?

Do you open your Bible every day, meditate and wait...  
or speed-read to get your check mark?

After you have been in the Word of God

- has your weakness been absorbed in His  
strength?
- has your restlessness and strife been removed by His  
peace?
- has your impatience been replaced with His  
longsuffering?

If not...slow down, you move to fast

Don't leave His presence until those things are done  
If necessary get up 30 minutes or an hour earlier!

Before they attack, Israel fellowships with their God...

on the plains of Jericho, right under the devil's nose!

Fellowship with Jesus in the thick of a spiritual battle, right under the  
devil's nose!

You will see...the devil will see...that Jesus is the Conquering King

New Beginnings...on 3 successive days!

1. Feast of Passover (14<sup>th</sup>)  
pre-anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion
2. Feast of Unleavened Bread (15<sup>th</sup>)  
At time of this invasion, it is the barley harvest  
Plenty of grain available for the entire nation, esp since the  
inhabitants of Jericho are "holed up"
3. Manna ceased...1<sup>st</sup> time in 40 years! (16<sup>th</sup>)  
Manna was wilderness food...no longer in the wilderness!  
Now, eat the fruit of the land!

Christ our Passover Lamb, the Lamb of God Who came to  
take away the sins of the world, was sacrificed for us  
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He rose again!  
In Him we have a New Beginning...newness of life

Israel

- has renewed their covenant relationship
- has feasted with the Lord
- but need some more patience...because they cannot go to war  
without their Captain!

v13-15 captain of the host of the Lord:

3<sup>rd</sup> required preparation before attacking:  
Presence of the Lord Himself

Joshua is alone, scouting Jericho, the military objective before him,  
perhaps patrolling and strategizing, meditating and praying...  
when suddenly he sees a man of war, ready for action

First of all, notice Joshua's courage as he marches up to confront this man  
"Are you for us or against us?  
(there are no other options! Matt 12:30)  
Do I fight you or do I fight with you?"

Who is this?

- Ex 15:3            Man of war
- Is 55:4            witness, leader, commander
- Rev 19:10        NOT an angel
- Ex 3:5 with "I AM"s of Jesus Christ in Gospel of John

A pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ

Joshua is alone, scouting Jericho, perhaps patrolling and strategizing,  
meditating and praying...waiting for his Lord...  
when God appears to him

The Lord God appears to man in meaningful ways

- Abraham, a sojourner in a strange land: a Traveler  
(Gen 18:1-8)
- Jacob, a schemer: a Wrestler  
(Gen 32:24-32)
- Moses, a shepherd: on the backside of the desert in a bush
- SM&A, in Neb's fiery furnace of persecution: Son of God,  
able to deliver His own  
(Dan 3:25)
- Joshua, a military leader: Man of war, Commander-in-chief

Notice:

- Jesus Himself comes to fight for His people
  - Jesus Himself comes here in our midst to fight for us!
  - He is here to talk with us by His Spirit
  
  - Jesus is where His people meet together...  
in this building or in a school  
(announce about lease situation, stand-alone)
  - We are weak...but when we are weak He is strong!
- The battle is spiritual
  - Behind governments...satan
  - Behind the blindness of men's hearts to the Gospel of  
Grace...satan
  - Behind divided homes and ruined lives...satan
- The Sword of victory is in His hand...not mine!
  - It is a two-edged sword...to cut and then to heal
  - Rom 8:31
  - John 15:5
  - Matt 16:18...not man's programs (Gal 3:3)
- His presence will more clearly discerned by those who are  
most like Him
  - To see Jesus you must grow to be like Him
  - He does not appear to fight on behalf of those who  
merely give Him lip-service or of those who  
hinder/grieve His Spirit

Joshua's immediate response is to

- fall on his face – lowest prostration of body and soul
- worship – highest elevation of the spirit
- humbly ask what is required of him...what his orders are
  - Take off your shoes
  - The Plan of attack to conquer Jericho (Ch 6)

Is Jesus here with us...have we met Him here this morning?

Is our response to His presence like Joshua's?

- We are standing on holy ground...victory and a blessing is not possible if we serve the holy God flippantly, irreverently
- How would we behave if Jesus visually appeared to us right now...if He were standing in the pulpit
  - Walk in late (9:00 is late)? That is disrespectful
  - Make sure cell phone is off?
  - Get up and go to the bathroom? Disrespectful
  - Talk amongst yourself during worship or during His message, not paying attention and distracting those around you?
  - Fall asleep?
  - Take notes?
  - Daydream about what you are going to do when you "finally get out of here?"
  - Run out of here the moment service is over as if you are fleeing a burning house?
- Are we immediately obedient to His orders?
  - No soldier dares to question or "pick-and-choose" his Captain's orders
  - No soldier dares to disrespect His Captain
  
  - The soldier's opinions and preferences are filthy rags
  - Indolence cannot be tolerated in any fighting unit...
  - rebels will be summarily disciplined

Joshua no doubt is blessed to know he is not alone...he is not in charge!  
The weight of responsibility and the loneliness of leadership can be crushing

I am not your captain, Jesus is!  
The weight of responsibility and loneliness is given to me...  
and I give it to Jesus because He cares for me...  
and you!

Any Christian leader (husband, father, etc) who does not know that  
he is not in charge is well on his way to defeat and failure

Great victories are won in private as Christian leaders recognize  
Jesus' authority and obey His commands...  
Then he finds himself standing on holy ground

Now Israel is ready to attack...they can be trusted with His victory

- The people have
  - Renewed their covenant relationship with their God
  - Feasted with the Lord
  - Passed the heart exam (faith)
- Joshua and received his orders from his Master, the Commander-in-chief
- The Lord is large and in charge...and everybody knows it!

We are the Lord's army...we must be spiritually prepared if we are to do His work in  
Arizona, Mexico, Egypt

But before we rush into battle to confront the enemy, we must be prepared

- victory requires lots of preparation, instruction, waiting
- blessings and battles are inseparable this side of eternity...  
the greater the blessing the greater will be the battle – time to get ready

Are you prepared to go to war...are you to be trusted with Jesus' victory?

Are you AWOL or a "loose cannon"?

- Fall on your face before your Commander
- Worship Him in spirit and in truth
- Humbly ask what His orders are
- Immediately obey

## Joshua Chapter 6

Last time...1<sup>st</sup> order for Joshua from his Captain – “Take off your shoes.”

This time – 2<sup>nd</sup> order – “My plan to take down Jericho.”

Context: Deut 7:1-6, 9-10, 16 about 2 months ago  
No mercy, total destruction, cleansing of lethal bacteria

v1 Jericho was straightly shut up:

Jericho was an impressive and intimidating stronghold...  
8 acres behind two high, parallel walls 15 feet apart...  
protecting the eastern border of the land of Canaan...  
enough to discourage 10 faithless spies 38 years prior

But the entire city of Jericho is in lock down because of fear of the  
children of Israel...“Katy, bar the door!”

v2 I have given:

Israel could not hope to take this intimidating stronghold alone...  
conquest of Jericho depends upon “nathan”...a gift of God

- the city, the entire population
- the king
- the army, including Special Forces

As Israel standing before Jericho, victorious Christians

- meditate on the Word of God
- know the promises of God
- believe the promises

We cannot hope to pull down spiritual strongholds by ourselves.  
When we face the gates of hell and turn to Jesus Christ for  
victory...He gives it to us

Jesus has defeated

- the world (John 16:33)...the city
- the devil (John 12:31)...the king
- the flesh (Gal 5:17, 24)...the mighty men of valor

v3-5 six day...seventh day:

Here is the Captain's Battle Plan...the orders for the Lord's Army

- Days 1-6: The Lord's Army, is to march around the city once while 7 priests each blow a shofar
- Day 7: The warriors are to march around the city 7 times while the 7 priests blow their shofars

After the 7<sup>th</sup> "round trip", a long blast of the horn will signal a great battle cry from the soldiers and the people in the camp

The Lord will knock the walls flat...all the walls, all the way down, not just a "hole in the wall"

The soldiers march right in and destroy the city

Seems simple enough...and impossible!

No man would EVER devise this plan

But...

- Is 55:8-9 and 1 Cor 1:27
- 7 = completion (God always finishes what He starts)
- Shofars (horns of jubilee) vs silver trumpets (Num 10:1-2, 9)  
the Battle is already won, they/we walk in victory!

v6-7 Joshua...called the priests...the people:

Joshua did NOT question his Captain's plan, he just executed his orders

He has seen

- Red Sea part
- Mount Sinai "on fire"
- Jordan River part
- manna 6 times/week for 40 years without fail
- no one's shoes wear out in 40 years

Therefore...this plan?

No problem!

God always knows what He will do and is able to do it

Joshua...an excellent role model for us...

- listened to his Captain
- believed every Word...took it literally and believed the Lord was able to perform it
- obeyed...leaving the results to God

v8-9 armed men...priests...rearward:

Marching order:

1. Armed soldiers
2. Priests with shofars
3. Ark of the LORD
4. Rear guard...the unarmed soldiers
  - men of war (v3) = armed soldiers + unarmed soldiers
  - “2 Tim 2:15” Christians + “swordless” Christians
    - untrained
    - dropped it along the way in the wilderness

Jesus is in the Center...victory centers on Him

v10 Not shout...noise...voice...mouth...until:

This military operation was to be done in the light of day...  
in plain sight for all to see...

But it was a “Silent Operation”, to be executed in utter and complete  
silence

The people of Jericho will be watching...  
but hearing only trumpets and marching feet!  
The silence will be deafening...and maddening

Notice that the Lord’s Army is given their orders one day at a time...  
they are not told v3-5 by Joshua  
The soldiers of the Lord are on a need-to-know basis

v11-13 the ark of the Lord:

Day 1 of the Battle of Jericho

Of all elements of the marching order, the prominent mention is of the  
Ark of the Lord...mentioned 4 times

Of Prominence in our march around our Jericho is Jesus Christ

If we don’t march with Jesus Christ, we’ve already lost the battle  
Any pastor will make a poor savior in the day of God’s wrath  
Knowing me or hearing me or even loving me will not help you...  
only Jesus saves  
We march together but look to Jesus, not to me

And nothing we do will pull the strongholds down...Jesus must

v14 the second day:

Days 2-6 of the Battle of Jericho

What is going on inside Jericho?

- Tension and fear are mounting?
- Fear giving way to sarcasm giving way to mocking ridicule?

What is the Lord doing?

- Playing mind games His enemies...psychological warfare?
- Testing His Army?
  - Faith – have marched around this city 6 times... for what reason?
  - Patience...obey one day at a time, not understanding
  - Self-control – their tongue

v15-16 the seventh time:

Day 7 of the Battle of Jericho

The Lord's Army gets different orders

- March around the city 7 times instead of once
- Then...after the 7<sup>th</sup> trip, having marched around it a total of 13 times...shout!

What is the object of the people's shouts/battle cry?

- Curses at their enemy?
- Praise, worship and honor to the LORD Who fights for them?

7<sup>th</sup> days are radically different than the prior 6

- of Creation – work then rest
- Sabbath...work then rest/communion
- during the wilderness wandering, no manna (2x on day 6)
- 1000 year reign of Christ after 6000 years of man working/striving to govern himself, then rest in perfect peace/government

As the Lord finishes what He started

v17-19 accursed...consecrated:

Day 7 orders, continued...rules of engagement – “accursed”

- The entire city of Jericho is “doomed”, to be “exterminated”
  - Only Rahab and her family will be saved...  
by grace thru faith
  - No grace or mercy for those without faith
- Everything in the city of Jericho, without exception, is  
“dedicated” or “devoted” to the Lord
  - The first of the spoils of the land of Canaan belong to  
God...to God belongs the firstfruits!
    - most is to be destroyed like lethal bacteria
    - the gold, silver, bronze, and iron will be the  
Lord’s...future building materials
  - so keepa your hands off!
    - Do not take what belongs to God  
(e.g. His glory)
    - There will be trouble in River City if you do...  
a little leaven leavens the whole lump

The rules of engagement are simple and clear.  
The children of Israel are very clearly warned...  
there are no excuses for disobedience

Note: Speaking of spoils, we spoiled children are the first of the spoils  
and are dedicated to/belong to the Lord our God

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth,  
that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his  
creatures.

v20 shouted with a great shout...the wall fell down flat:

The Battle of Jericho happened...according to the Plan

The Word of God must be read literally, not symbolically

The children of Israel did as commanded

- erupted with a great shout...  
not a whisper or an embarrassed, self-conscious mumble
- boldly marched into the city when God knocked the walls flat

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

Matt 16:18

1 John 5:4

We are victors, not victims!

How do we act...like soldiers or wimps?

Phillips Brooks: “Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be better men and women. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for power equal to your tasks.”

v21 utterly destroyed all:

Israel was the obedient instrument of the undiluted judgment of willful, defiant sin by a just, longsuffering God Who reached His “limit”

- Abram was led out of idolatry and promised this land but  
Gen 15:13-16
- The Canaanites had been given 430 years of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances
- As Pharaoh hardened his heart and then God hardened his heart followed by destruction/judgment, same with the Canaanites
- As Pharaoh and the Canaanites, same with this world
  - Rev 14:6-11, 14-20
  - Rev 16 (v7, 17)

The jealous God hates idolatry –

- He will not compete with false gods for the devotion of my or any heart (1 Sam 15:22-23, 26)
- He will not share man’s heart with a rival god
- He will not share His glory
- He will not wink at any compromise with the enemy

G. Campbell Morgan: “Thank God that He will not make peace with sin in my heart! I bless His name for the thunder of His authority, and for the profound conviction that He is fierce and furious in His anger against sin, wherever it manifests itself.”

v22-23 bring out thence the woman:

Joshua dispatches the two spies to rescue Rahab and her family from the wrath of God

The Lord did not knock down flat the wall into which her house was built...remember the crimson cord!

These Gentiles...unclean, sinful Gentiles...were spared

Because they believed the Word of God and surrendered their lives to the God of AI&J, they were not appointed unto wrath

Rahab is a picture of the Church...

1 Thes 1:10

1 Thes 5:9

Rom 5:8-10

v24 burnt the city with fire:

Deut 4:24 (warning against idolatry)

A shadow of the substance to come –  
eternal unquenchable fire in the Lake of Fire

v25 Joshua saved Rahab:

Gen 12:3

Sinful Gentiles saved by grace thru faith in Joshua/Jesus,  
faith that manifested itself in works...saving faith

v26-27 Cursed...riseth and buildeth:

At the end of the Battle of Jericho, after the city has been destroyed and the idolaters exterminated, Joshua pronounces a curse

“Cursed is any man that rises up in his pride and builds again what God has destroyed.

He will pay with the death of his oldest and youngest sons.”

The trash heap of Jericho was to remain devoted to God and as a reminder to Israel

About 500 years later...1 Kings 16:34 (and Josephus)

Don't doubt or challenge the Word of God

2 Tim 3:16-17

So much for all of us in this chapter

Every Jericho in the world will fall

To the idolaters here...those who have not surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ:  
Learn from the Battle of Jericho

God hates idolatry.  
Sin must be punished  
The longsuffering of God has a limit  
The soul that sins shall die...eternally separated from God in a Lake of Fire  
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked  
Can you hear the shofar and the Lord's Army marching in victory?  
Don't wait for the long blast...it will be too late!

Can you look over the wall in your heart and see the Ark of the Lord...  
Jesus Christ?  
He came into the world to be our Substitute...  
to take the wrath of God instead of us  
The Father punished Him instead of us  
With tears in His eyes as He marches around you, He is inviting you to trust  
Him...and to live forever in His presence  
He is calling...if you refuse, He will not help you in your calamity.  
Do not harden your heart!  
That cannot rationally be what you want!  
Repent!

To the backsliders...among the unarmed soldiers dragging up the rear:  
Is the stronghold of Jericho a weakness in your walk with the Lord that has  
become a wall of idolatry before the Lord?  
Is Jericho something in your life outside of yourself, some impossible situation,  
that has disheartened you and caused you to lose faith?

Look as long as you will at those walls, you cannot make them fall flat...  
only Jesus can  
Humble yourself...pride blinds us to power

- of the enemy to destroy lives
- of us to fight our battles without Jesus
- of Jesus, Who is bigger than any battle we face

The walls will come down by the hand of the Lord!  
Put your eyes on the Lord and not your weakness or that impossible situation...  
And ask the Lord to give you a sword and training on how to use it

To the Church in USA:

Jericho was paralyzed with fear of the children of Israel...  
is USA paralyzed with fear of the Church?

Why not?

- Has the Church confronted this wicked society...  
or has it shamefully retreated into a “safe” place?
- Is the Church a trained army of soldiers or a disorganized bunch of  
“conscientious objectors”?
  
- Has the Church stood apart, different from the society...  
or has it imitated the society?
  - methods
  - measures of success
  - standards of morality
- Has the Church fought for God’s approval...  
or the society’s approval?

The Church is not respected by our society...can we be surprised?  
The society does not fear God...the Church of God fears society.

To this church:

We are naïve if we think we can be overcomers without fighting and get a  
crown without conflict/the Cross

Our enemies...the flesh, the world, and the devil...never call a “cease fire”

Remember, God declared war against sin and the devil in Gen 3...

and His children are also His soldiers in that war

As we face the walls of our Jerichos and the gates of hell...

we must remember we fight an unconventional warfare

- 2 Cor 10:3-5
- Is 54:17      No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.
  
- the battle belongs to the Lord, a Man of War, Who does not fight the way man fights
- the victory is His...and ours when we listen, believe, and obey our Captain

As we march around our Jerichos...

- remember
  - the battle is our Captain's...not ours
  - the attacks are against Him...not us
  - the righteousness, worthiness, and holiness are His...not ours
  - the praise and glory and honor are His...not ours
  - the results belong to Him...not us
  - all is about Him...not us
  
- live
  - a "passionate disinterested" life
  - with a "disconnected connection"
    - abiding in Jesus
    - trusting Him
    - sold-out and on-fire for Him
    - who engages us in the Spirit, bring peace and joy
    - not abiding in, trusting in, on-fire about
      - the world
      - the flesh
      - the friends of the world
      - who engage us in our emotions...  
a wild, unstable ride

If we don't confront our Jerichos with the power of God, we will suffer defeat  
Our Captain is never

- surprised
- desperate
- confused
- indecisive
- deceived
- weak
- absent

The Lord has given us Jericho...His ways are not our ways

We are to listen, believe, and obey our Captain...and leave the results to Him

Every Jericho in the world is going to fall

## Joshua Chapter 7

Last time...the destruction of the mighty fortress of Jericho

This time...defeat at Podunk Ai

Israel's only defeat in the conquest of Canaan is forever tied to one man's name

Let's step back first...Ch 6:18-19

v1 But:

But...an arresting word – something regrettable has happened

Israel...the whole nation...is troubled and made a curse

But it was one man...Achan...that sinned by taking that which was God's

Now God is angry with the entire nation?

Why?

Israel is one people, not a "melting pot" of diverse peoples

If one part is unhealthy, the entire body is unhealthy

A little leaven leavens the whole lump

v2-4a Ai:

The taste of victory is fresh in everyone's mouth...  
it is sweet and intoxicating!

Next up in Joshua's brilliant strategy to bisect the land of Canaan: Ai  
A little town located in a strategic location 3-4 miles from Jericho

Joshua starts this next campaign as he did the Jericho campaign –  
sends spies to gather military intelligence

The spies ascend about 1700 feet from Gilgal, using the terrain to get  
within about ¼ mile without being seen

Their G2/military advice to Joshua:

This will be a piece of cake!

Don't bother sending all the people, that will be overkill and  
much wasted effort.

Just send 2000-3000 men for this easy assignment.

Joshua concurs

What do you think?

How would we characterize the spies...and Joshua's concurrence?

- Over-confident
- Self-confident
- Trusting in themselves vs in the Lord
- Assuming God is with them ("Let's act, not pray")

This is a recipe for disaster

v4b-5 the men of Ai smote of them:

Result of this "cake walk" at Ai?

- Faith in Self soon turns to fear of men
- The men of Ai
  - routed them
  - chased them back down the hill
- 36 Jewish warriors lost their lives

What a dramatic change from the victory at Jericho!

Why such a humiliating defeat when the Lord said He would give the children of Israel the inhabitants of Canaan?

What happened?

Pride

Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

The spies have swelled heads...and their prideful leader concurred

Joshua did not consult his Captain as to what His orders were...

Joshua was presumptuous

Had Joshua prayed before acting, he would have heard different orders than the ones he issued

There was a severe problem needing his attention before moving forward

So the Lord did not go with the 3000-ish men of Israel

Instead of

- chasing their enemies and them falling before Israel
- 5 chasing 100 and 100 chasing 10,000 (Lev 26:7-8)

or

- 1 chasing 1000
- 2 chasing 10,000 (Deut 32:30)

they

- were chased
- fell
- melted
- lost 36 men needlessly

Here is the recipe for disaster:

God's victory + man's pride = bitter defeat

v6-9 Joshua rent his clothes:

Joshua is beside himself, surprised and crushed by this defeat

All day he mourned before the Lord... Who was silent as Joshua did so

And then he... murmurs!

“What are you doing, Lord?!”

Who gets the blame for Israel's defeat at Ai after men acted  
presumptuously after the Lord's victory at Jericho?

How frail is Joshua's memory?

Where is his faith?

Where is his heart?

Where does he get the nerve to speak to God this way?

Joshua is...human, prone to wander/stray err

v10 Get thee up:

Silent all day while Joshua mourns before Him...

letting Joshua come to the end of himself...the Lord now speaks

And He firmly rebukes Joshua

“Get up!

What are you doing?

When it was time to pray, you acted.

Now that it is time to act, you are praying!”

I think presumptuous, proud, back talking Joshua is summarily humbled

Problem: he is humble AFTER defeat  
instead of BEFORE the battle

v11-13 Israel has sinned...transgressed:  
The Lord "enlightens" His servant

"Israel...the whole nation because a little leaven leavens the whole lump...has defiled themselves

- missed the mark
- crossed the line
  - took what was not given to them
  - stole from Me
  - lied about it
  - have attempted to cover it up

They went alone to Ai...with bravado and arrogance...in sin.

I was not with them.

So they could not stand against their enemies...they fled in fear.

I did not give them victory (they only way you have victory).

I will not be with you again...I will not fight for you again...

until you destroy this sin in the camp.

Get up and tell the people to cleanse/consecrate themselves.

Tomorrow you will take care of business."

v14-15 tribes...families...households...man by man:

"In the morning I will reveal the sin...and that man will be judged by fire for his wickedness."

Joshua is clueless but the Lord knows who is guilty of v11

Num 32:23 sinned against the Lord, be sure your sin will find you out

Jer 23:24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? says the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says the LORD.

v16 Joshua rose up early:

Joshua did not sleep in...he faithfully follows his orders.

This day holds a very unpleasant task, but a necessary one.

Sin separates man from God...God now starts the separation of the the guilty from the innocent

After the 1<sup>st</sup> division,

- 12 of the 13 tribes are profoundly relieved and 1 tribe is profoundly anxious
- 1 man is feeling the weight of his sin (Ps 32:3-4) as the revelation of his sin draws closer

v17 Zarhites...Zabdi:

The Lord's work of separation gets increasingly granular...  
and terrifying as He zeroes in on the wicked

v18 man by man:

From the family of Zabdi was taken the family of Carmi...  
and from the family of Carmi the household of Achan...  
and Achan himself

Achan is caught...“trouble” is revealed!

v19 Joshua said to Achan:

Joshua's words (“My son”) indicate a tenderness and meekness/humility,  
not indignation or self-righteousness

“My son, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but  
the truth, so help you God?

Our God knows all.

He sees all.

We stand naked before Him.

Confess your sin to Him against Whom you sinned.

Tell me what you did to trouble all of Israel.”

Jesus is speaking these same words to His people

Heb 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in  
his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto  
the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Ps 51:4...so confess to God, not a priest.

James 5:16a Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for  
another, that ye may be healed.

But unlike Joshua, Jesus has paid the penalty Personally...so  
Rom 8:1

v20-21 Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel:  
Achan's confession

1. I saw  
spoils – Whose things?  
Therefore forbidden to him  
In the destruction of Jericho he could not but help see things  
Innocent sight...the first time  
But the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc looks were not innocent
2. I coveted  
Those 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc looks were looks of covetousness  
The more he looked at that which was forbidden,  
the more he wanted it for himself  
His selfish, wicked heart is the problem
3. I took  
Covetousness in his heart became action  
Willful sin
4. I hid  
Knew it was wrong, yet he deceived himself into believing
  - God did not see
  - Neither God nor man would find out
  - He would get away with it

Ps 10:11 He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hides his face; he will never see *it*.

Ps 69:5 O God, you know my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.

He pretended to be obedient...a hypocrite

The path to sin and destruction (as wide as Self, as wide as the world)  
I saw...I coveted...I took...I hid

The same path Eve took in the Garden of Eden  
David took after his adultery with Bathsheba  
we have all been down many times

“O my Achan heart!”...as revealed by the Word of God  
James 1:14-16

v22-23 laid them out before the LORD:

Joshua dispatched men to retrieve the stolen property that has cursed the camp of Israel

They laid it out in plain sight for all to see...man and God

If the stolen property could talk, it would have said,

“I am worth the lives of 36 innocent men in the heart of Achan.”

The sin of a single man affects the lives of many others

There is no such thing as a private sin.

v24 Joshua, and all Israel with him, took:

Joshua takes “Trouble” to the Valley of “Trouble” with all his stuff

Notice the sequence: perhaps listed/ranked according to the value given them by Achan

How tragic.

v25-26 stoned...burned with fire:

Joshua pronounces judgment upon Achan and his family...

a very unpleasant task but a necessary one

This man’s sin cost 36 other men their lives, leaving 36 women as widows and who knows how many children fatherless

“Why did you trouble the entire congregation with your willful sin?

(a rhetorical question for which there is no rational answer)

The LORD will reward you according to your work...

trouble for trouble, Mr. “Trouble”, here in the Valley of “Trouble.”

At which point the nation stoned them to death and then burned their bodies...a sign of utter destruction

Is this shocking and “troubling” to us?

Consider

- Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.
- In the light of [Deut 24:16](#), his entire family were co-conspirators in this sin...none were innocent
- This is the price of the LORD going with and fighting for the nation...  
the price of victory and inheritance is the death of the flesh

Warning! Sin will not be tolerated!

God deals severely with sin because sin is severe.

Do we see our sin the way God sees it...

foul, horrific, offensive, an agonizing infectious lethal disease?

[ M'Cheyne, page 205 ]

If we did see our sin as God does, we would cry out

- “Unclean! Unclean!”
- “Woe is me, for I am undone!”

Are we grateful for Jesus Christ marching into our leper colony to heal us?

Do we want our filthy rags...or His pure white linen?

Do we live lives that have been purchased by His blood?

I think hell might be some relief from the fierceness of the holy God's anger

Heb 10:31

If the Word of God says it is wrong, it is wrong...it is sin. Period. No discussion

Sin separates and kills...lives and relationships

Let us never underestimate the damage that can be caused by the sin of one man

Ecc 9:18 Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroys much good.

Jesus Christ has purchased us with His blood...we are ALL His

Yet we don't give our ALL to Him, we hold back some things for ourselves

That is an “Achan heart” hiding an accursed/devoted thing

How many “Achan hearts” are here this morning?

- money loving...a root of great evil
- lust indulging
- covetous
- worldly
- self-deceived...hearing the Word but not doing the Word

Well, we don't know...but God knows

And our sin will find us out...God promises.

That which is hidden away

- at home
- on the computer
- in our heart
- where we think no one will see...God or man

will be revealed...and judged

“We are only human!” is true...but it is not an excuse  
We are called to be holy because our God is holy...  
And we can only be holy when we abide in Jesus, our righteousness

Yet so easily do we stumble onto the path to sin

What are the reasons for our failures?

1. Self-confidence  
There is no more dangerous place in our walk with Christ than the time  
right after a great victory  
Pride rises in the heart of man...and trouble is sure to follow  
We need Jesus the most right after one of His victories on our behalf!
2. Absence/neglect of prayer...seeking the Word of God  
We should never presume, never rush ahead without first consulting our  
Captain to get our orders  
Failure to pray leads to sin
3. Disobedience  
Disobedience is not tolerated.  
There is no fellowship with God in our disobedience.  
There is no fellowship when two do not agree (Amos 3:3, 1 John 2)

When we are guilty of sin, infected by leprosy...we are not useful to God  
When one of us is guilty of sin, God says, “CCA has sinned.”  
The sin of a single person affects MANY.

The path back from sin (as narrow and wide as Jesus Christ)

- Repentance – change of direction (1 Cor 10:13)
- Confession – coming clean (1 John 1:9)
- Restoration of fellowship – forgiveness by His grace  
(purpose of Church discipline in 1 Cor 5, Matt 18, Rom 16)
- Get up and get going again (Heb 6:1)

God does not want our excuses or our lame justification for our sin...  
He wants confession and repentance...  
He wants a restored fellowship that has been broken by sin

Ps 51:1-17

Watch and pray that you fall not into temptation

Gen 4:7      If you do well, shalt you not be accepted? and if you do not well, sin lies at the door. And unto you *shall be* his desire, and you shalt rule over him.

Ps 139:23-24    Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Flee from sin...even the appearance of sin

Prov 3:5-7      Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Keep the Word of God before our eyes...not the things of the world

Prov 4:20-27

Rom 12:1-2    I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

And PTL He loves us enough to deal with our sin!

Heb 12:1-11

## Joshua Chapter 8

Last time...

A bitter, humiliating defeat due to “Achan hearts“

- willful sin...keeping something back for themselves
- deceived into thinking was not seen and would not be found out and self-confidence

- acting without first praying
- going without the LORD...presumptuously and proudly

Hearts lifted high by Self must be brought low by God...but Joshua the servant of the Lord humbly received rebuke, correction, instruction

They made a terrible mess doing things their way

This time...doing the right thing the right way...another attack on Ai

v1-2 Fear not...dismayed:

“Now let’s do this My way.

Joshua, eyes up off yourself and your failure.

We are ready to move forward.

I lead, you follow.

I have given you Ai as I did Jericho

- the king
- the people
- the city
- the land”

Now...it’s time to do the right thing, the right way...  
according to the will of God for that situation

“Life, like war, is a series of mistakes, and he is not the best Christian nor the best general who makes the fewest false steps...he is the best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes. Forget mistakes; organize victories out of mistakes.”

FW Robertson

“The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings.”

Alexander Whyte

No matter what mistake we make, no matter how many we make,  
the worst mistake is to give up and not try again.

The place to start afresh, to begin anew is...  
the Word of God, led by the Spirit of God

Ps 37:23-24, 30-31

Every good man will make missteps along the Way...

Jesus corrects them

There are no missteps when our hearts are guided by the  
Word of God

The Word of God to Joshua is...encouragement

repeating Ch 1:9

Results of failure: discouragement (past) and fear (future)

The devil rather noisily tells us that there is no future in God's will  
for such miserable failures as us.

We are paralyzed by the "fear of failure"

The cure for discouragement and fear is...  
hearing and believing the Word of God

Rom 10:17

1 Cor 14:3   edification, exhortation, and comfort

2 Tim 1:7

Discouragement NEVER comes from God...  
only the devil, the world, and the flesh

1 Sam 30:6   1:1 with the Lord

Is 41:10

The Word of God to Joshua is...instruction

God has the only plan that works...ever noticed that?  
The only way to know victory is to obey God's instructions.

Last attack, the spies said, "Take 2000-3000 soldiers."  
This time, God says, "Take the whole army."  
He wants everyone involved and to see His victory

The first attack on Ai, God said...nothing, was not consulted.  
The second attack on Ai, God says, "I give you the victory."  
How sweet is that promise!?

DL Moody: "God never made a promise that was too good  
to be true."

All it takes is faith and obedience ([Heb 4:1-2](#))  
Proper fear: of missing out on God's blessing

Last attack, man said, "We will do it like last time."  
This attack, God says, "We will do it differently this time."  
Self-confidence led to defeat...first Israel's and soon Ai's

At Jericho God said, "The spoils are all Mine."  
At Ai God says, "The spoils are all yours."  
Wow! If Achan had only waited a few more days...  
Our way vs His way: We lose the blessing and hurt others

God always gives His best to those who leave the choice to  
Him.

1 Cor 14:3...encouragement and instruction...the importance of the  
Christian soldier being in the Word of God every day for every  
situation cannot be exaggerated

No matter how badly we have failed, we, with the strength of the Lord,  
can get up again and keep going  
Our God is the God of new beginnings

v3-8 Joshua arose...commanded:

The Captain's orders call for a different strategy than

- His strategy at Jericho – frontal assault in broad daylight
- the spies/Joshua's strategy the first time at Ai – skeletal force with an intoxicated, false bravado in a frontal assault in broad daylight

The Lord's strategy for Ai:

- 30,000 Special Forces on a covert operation – at night
- ambush: to create confusion in the enemy camp
- ALL being ready and trusting in Him
- victory...it will be given by Him

God cannot be captured in a formula or contained in a box

His ways are not linear or historical...every situation is different

Consider all the ways Jesus healed blind men, for example

The Lord often changes

- His leaders so His people will trust in Him and not in man
- His methods so His people do not "formulate" their own plans and programs

So...we must seek God's will for EVERY situation...  
making no assumptions based on the past

Are you in a rut in your walk with Jesus?

Are you expecting Him to do what He has done before?

He wants to do something new!

Don't let your rut become your grave. (learn from Israel, Jesus)

v9-13 Bethel and Ai:

Bethel and Ai are about 1 mile apart, Ai being east of Bethel  
(when coming from Jordan River, the first of the two)

Joshua, per the Captain's orders, sent the 30,000 Special Forces by night  
between the two cities...west of Ai and east of Bethel

Then in the morning, he mustered the bulk of the army and ascended the  
1700 ft, following the terrain to the north of Ai

Finally, Joshua sent another 5000 troops to protect the flank of the 30,000  
Special Forces from an attack from Bethel, to prevent a "2<sup>nd</sup> front"

The Captain has a very good strategy for the battle, doesn't He?

His plan always works, our plan always fails

We are to plan/strategize our assaults against the gates of hell by seeking  
His mind, His vision, His will

v14-17 made as if they were beaten:

The guards at Ai were keeping lookout toward the direction from which  
the last attack by Israel came

So...they see Joshua and the bulk of the Israeli army.

“They’re back!”

But...the king and the army of Ai are intoxicated with victory and are  
thinking linearly and historically – this time will be like last time

So the king of Ai quickly “bought” the package presented to his eyes  
He sounded the alarm, called his army to battle stations...

and counter-attacked just like the last time...chasing down the hill  
Joshua “sets the hook” by acting like the 3000 soldiers fleeing in fear

Ai (and Bethel!) was so self-confident, so careless, that they left the gates  
wide open and no guards behind to protect the city  
(they had the strategic high ground, abandoned it)

They were intoxicated with victory and wanted to taste it again...  
oblivious to the danger surrounding them

Matthew Henry: “They are the most in danger who are the least  
aware of it.”

v18 Stretch out the spear:

Joshua has executed the orders given him and is awaiting further orders  
from his Captain

They came – sounding like

Ex 14:13-16, 26

Ex 17:8-13

Deut 26:8 And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a  
mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and  
with great terribleness, and with signs, and with  
wonders:

Jer 27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that  
*are* upon the ground, by my great power and by my  
outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it  
seemed meet unto me.

v19-20 the ambush arose quickly:

Joshua's raised spear was the signal for the 30,000 Special Forces to attack

They did so immediately...30,000 pyrotechnicians torch Ai

The army of Ai turns to see their city burning up...

and are trapped – nowhere to flee...

“burned” by self-confidence as they become the pursued

v21-27 slew the men of Ai:

When Joshua and the army of Israel saw the city of Ai burning, they “about face” and slew both the army and the entire population...the king alone was spared (for special treatment)

This is not genocide, the slaughter of innocent people

This is the judgment of God of an evil people that for over 430 years resisted and rejected His grace and truth

His instruments of judgment having completed their assignment, Israel plunders the city

v28-29 made it a heap...king of Ai he hanged:

Joshua sent a strong message to the other evil people in the land of Canaan  
“You're next!”

- made the burnt rubble of Ai into a victory monument
- hanged the king...cursed by God (Deut 21:22-23)

Are the Canaanites listening?

No, as we will see.

To this day...Gen 12:3

Iceland volcano

Is the world listening?

No.

## Lessons

1. Discouragement NEVER comes from God...  
only the devil, the world, and the flesh

No matter what mistake we make, no matter how many we make,  
the worst mistake is to give up and not try again.

- no sin should be seen as too small or ever justified...  
every sin grieves the Holy Spirit
- no sin should be seen as too great to keep us from fleeing to Jesus,  
our Advocate before the Father (1 John 2:1)
- the sins of others...which we so clearly see...should lead us  
to confession and repentance...and forgiveness!

Start afresh, begin a new, with...the Word of God, led by the Spirit of God

- thoroughly wash ourselves every day in the water of the Word  
(Eph 5:26, 1 Sam 30:6)
- PTL! (Ps 103:8-14)
- By His blood He over-paid my sins...such value attributed to  
us by our Creator should motivate/drive us to please Him

Remember: Pastors are just people too  
Spurgeon, many others struggled with discouragement  
So do I periodically...until I get in the Word and “donkey-on”  
Bear heavy load without complaining and not stopping

2. We are to plan/strategize our every assault against the gates of hell by seeking  
His mind, His vision, His will

The Christian soldier must seek God’s will for EVERY situation...  
making no assumptions based on the past

The Lord wants to do something new!  
Don’t let your rut become your grave.  
Make sure you are following Him...not a man

God always gives His best to those who leave the choice to Him.

### 3. Self-confidence is a killer...(both Israel and Ai)

As I consider my own heart...thru the lens of the Word of God...

- The seeds of all sin are in my heart...and more frightening, I don't always see them
- Without the Holy Spirit, I am helpless against every lust of my heart
- Were it not for the Holy Spirit, there is nothing in me keeping me back from even the most vile of sin.

My only Hiding Place, my only safe Refuge is Jesus

- acknowledge and confess my helplessness
- cling to Jesus
- ask Him to fill me with the Holy Spirit

Let us put on...and keep on...the pure white linen garment of the righteousness of Christ

May we not ever trade in the garment He gave us for our old, filthy rags

Unlike Ch 6, Israel has a strong faith and great courage now.

They saw that not one word of God's promises failed...and their defeat and disgrace had been erased

- by the Lord fighting for them
- because they
  - followed the Lord
  - trusted in His performance
  - believed His promises

The Lord can

- make right all our wrongs
- turn our defeats and failures into victories

if we would simply

- have faith
- obey His instructions

Before we march forward toward our battles, we must make sure we are "refreshed"

- following the Lord
- trusting in His performance
- believing His promises

Last time...a God-given victory over Ai

This time...Consulting and waiting on the Lord

v30-31 Joshua built an altar...in mount Ebal:

After the God-given victory at Ai, Joshua leads the children of Israel north  
30 miles to Shechem...

in the valley between mounts Ebal and Gerazin

There, he faithfully obeys Deut 27:1-8

It is time for Israel to renew their commitment to the authority of the  
Lord God over their lives

Joshua begins by making an altar per God's specifications –  
whole stones untouched by man and his iron tools

The altar, a place of sacrifice and communion with God

No work of man can be added to what God has done

What does this speak of?

Salvation, by grace thru faith, the gift of God,  
not of works lest any man boast

Then Joshua offers

- burnt offerings – total commitment
- peace offerings – fellowship, thanks, gratitude

v32-33 upon the stones a copy of the law...Gerizim...Ebal:

Deut 27:11-13

On Gerizim, the mount of blessing:

the sons of Leah and Rachel, wives of Jacob

On Ebal, the mount of cursing:

the sons of L & R handmaids + Reuben + Zebulun

In between the two mounts:

Levites and Ark

All are facing the Ark/Lord in this natural amphitheater

Where is the altar?

On the mount of cursing

Gal 3:10-14

v34-35 blessings and cursings:

Deut 27:15 – Deut 28:68

Joshua is obedient to the Word of God entrusted to him

And a choice is presented to the children of God:

- listen and obey the Word of God...  
His ways are not our ways, His thoughts higher than ours
- ignore and disobey the Word of God...  
do what is right in our own eyes

What is next for Joshua and the children of Israel?

More conflict

Blessings and battles go side-by-side

If you are being pressed on every front and in the thick of a fight...

Are you wrestling with the Lord, struggling to obey?

Repent...you will never win, His way is the best for your life

Are you following the Lord, faithful and obedient?

PTL!

Blessings follow repentance and obedience

If you are asleep in the barracks, life is calm and a walk in the park?

Woe!

Wake up and get into the fight!

## Joshua Chapter 9

v1-2 all the kings...fight with Joshua and with Israel:  
Israel is alone in their land...  
no allies...but the Creator of heaven and earth

Their normally bickering enemies form an Axis of Evil

- in alliance with each other against their common enemy
- will go on the offensive

A shadow of current and future events

- the Muslim nations allied against Israel...  
when they are not fighting amongst themselves
- the nations of the world during the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel

But getting back to Joshua's time...

is Israel's greatest danger from without...or from within?

v3-6 the inhabitants of Gibeon:

There is an enemy within (the land of Canaan, the Promised Land) that is  
at this moment the greatest danger facing Israel – deceivers

Gibeon is 25 miles from Gilgal...unbeknownst to Joshua

The inhabitants of Gibeon...Hivites, therefore cursed by God (v1)...

also go on the offensive, but in a different way...

passive-aggressive deception vs aggressive opposition

They will use the tools of Satan's trade – deception and cunning –

to snooker Joshua and Israel into an unholy alliance

They will disguise themselves and lie about themselves and

surrender rather than wait to be slaughtered

They figure the ends justify the means...they do not!

Satan is a master strategist in the war against our souls

- roaring lion...frontal assault, open attack  
Jesus: Caiaphas and Pharisees/Sadducees
- hissing snake...deceptive compromise, unholy alliances  
Jesus: Judas

The snake is far more dangerous than the lion

We are easily outmaneuvered by Satan...gullible...unless we are  
disciplined soldiers, armored up and rightly using our weapons  
(Word and prayer)

v7-8 how make a league with you...Who are you:

What are the reactions of God's people to the snake that slithered into their camp?

They did not know the Gibeonites were Hivites...but God did.  
So God the Holy Spirit warned them

The men of Israel: "How is that going to work with the Word of God?"

Had a check in their spirit – the sense something is wrong

Joshua: "Identify yourselves."

Also a check in his spirit

Very frequently, the all-knowing, all-seeing Holy Spirit warns us when things are not as they seem (and many times they are not)

The problem is...we many times

- do not hear or heed
- are dense and clueless or unbelieving
- want to trust people we see and hear vs the invisible God

v9-13 very far country...bread...wine...garments:

The lies of liars multiply...their father is the father of lies

But they are smooth and convincing!

Truth mixed with lies and flattery

They use the Word of God to hide their tracks

Notice they...Canaanites...make no mention of Israel's victories at Jericho and Ai...how would people from far away hear so soon?

But...would an official delegation (v11) come this ill-prepared?

Their "condition" after a relatively short journey

(compared to Israel's 40 years in the wilderness)

says something is not right

A committed Christian would not be caught off guard by such an obvious frontal assault (knowledge of Jericho and Ai)

But would a committed Christian be susceptible to a compromise if he took his eyes out of the Word or listened to the tempter vs prayerfully consulting the Captain of the Lord's army?

1 John 4:1 believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God  
(by prayer and by the Word of God)

What is the truth?

The Way, the Life, and the Truth knows...  
we just gotta pay attention to His warnings and ask

Truth about truth

- Our eyes lie to us...as do our emotions
- The enemy, a counterfeiter, knows the Word of God...  
and twists it to his advantage...not rightly divide
- Religious liars are the worst (2 Peter 2, Jude)
- Satan's ambassadors can lie more convincingly than some of  
Jesus Christ's ambassadors can tell the truth
- Truth is not found in confusion and doubt, EW&F
- Truth is a spiritual reality...and it is always revealed

v14 men took...asked not:

The leaders of God's people make some assumptions:

- What we see is truth
- What we hear is logical and convincing, so it is true
- We don't need to "bother" the Lord with this issue

All their assumptions were bad

- Truth cannot be discerned with the eyes in our head
- The words were logical and convincing...  
but all wrong and untruthful
- The Lord must be consulted on EVERY issue...  
we should never lean on our own understanding

Foolish, foolish, foolish pride

"Beetle juice"...one of innumerable stars spoken/breathed  
into existence by God to declare His power/glory...  
a small star in comparison

If earth were a golf ball...

"Beetle juice" is Superdome filled with golf balls...  
3000 times

And God was not consulted!?!?!

Sin puffs us up and makes God small...truth is exact opposite

The Holy Spirit's warnings were not heeded...

The Lord was not consulted...

It can only lead to trouble and pain.

v15 Joshua made peace with them:  
Joshua proves himself human...again!

Author Joseph Conrad, offering some worldly wisdom:  
“It is only those who do nothing that make mistakes.”  
True or False?  
False

Joshua made a mistake by...doing nothing  
Joshua could very easily see the enemy without...  
but lacking spiritual discernment, not the enemy within

How dense are God’s people?

How is it we just can’t seem to grasp the simple truth that the  
neglect of prayer always destroys our spiritual discernment  
and leads to trouble?

How many times must we learn that leaning on our own  
understanding is fatal?

How many people have marched into churches, declared themselves to be  
sold-out Christians...  
only in a few years time demonstrate by their lives that they know little of

- the love of God
- the victory of the indwelling Spirit?

How does that happen?

By giving the snake just one inch on the periphery of their lives...  
By listening to the snake’s logical and convincing words...  
By leaning on their own understanding...  
By neglecting prayer...not consulting the Lord

There can be no peace with lying counterfeits in our midst  
There can never be unity at the expense of Truth

What is the answer living a victorious Christian life?

- NEVER trust your own judgment
- Pray about EVERYTHING
- Wait on the Lord

**James 1:5** Need God's wisdom? Ask for it!

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**Heb 6:12** God's promises come after faith and patience...  
wait training

**Is 28:16** most needful is most difficult: wait

Why should Joshua have waited instead of "knee-jerking"?

v16 at the end of three days:

The text does not say, but did Joshua send out spies?  
That would be consistent with his military tactics

Could it have been that after three days...hmmmm...  
the truth is revealed and the enemy is unmasked by the return of  
the spies?

The enemy in their midst is a neighbor...a condemned neighbor

God is categorically the Revealer of Truth.  
What must we do?  
Pray, study the Word of God...and Wait

Do things make sense? No?  
Do you have a check in your spirit, an unsettling internal irritation? Yes?  
Do you KNOW the truth? No?  
Have you prayed and searched the Scriptures? Yes?

Wait.  
The Truth will be made obvious

Is the voice you are listening to saying action is urgent?  
Ask the Lord  
Still in doubt?  
Dare to stand still!

Is the voice not encouraging you to pray but to act now?  
Don't act...pray!

If you are being pushed in a direction but you don't have peace, or you have a check in your spirit...  
Don't move a muscle.

Be strong enough and brave enough to stand and...wait on God.  
None that wait on the Lord will be ashamed (Is 49:23)  
God will renew the strength of those who wait on Him (Is 40:31)

The subtle tactics of the snake are the most difficult to defend against unless we are

- constantly razor sharp with Heb 4:12
- quick to pray...
- strong/courageous enough to wait on the Lord

v17-21 congregation murmured against the princes...But:  
It is always easy to criticize and complain about leaders...  
and sometimes it is justifiable

“What were you thinking?  
Are you so dense?”

Leaders are just chosen men who are able to lead only to the extent that they follow the Lord...but they are not supermen

No matter how embarrassed and humbled the leaders of Israel were, they were men of their word.

“We attached the name of the Lord to our promise...we will not make matters worse by smearing the name of God!  
All is NOT fair in love and war...we will honor our word to the Gibeonites.  
We will not kill them...but we will put them to hard labor.”

Making a mistake is no excuse for breaking your word...  
A mistaken business alliance or bad marriage is to be taken to the Lord, not the killing field

Therein lies a couple gems in this stinky mess:

- If you make a mistake, man-up and admit it
- Then, make the mistake work for you...  
because it will be with you for a long time!  
Mistakes strengthen our prayer lives and deepen our devotion to God
- God can correct the mistakes of His people and turn them into blessings

v22-23 Joshua called for them:

Joshua now

- confronts the liars...curses vs kills them
- takes away their freedom to move about as they please to do as they please
- conscripts them to hard labor...enslaves them in their own cleverness

The Gibeonites are cursed...will now do the heavy labor portion of serving in the Tabernacle

- woodcutters for offerings
- water carriers for purification rites

v24-25 they answered Joshua:

“Fear of you led us to lie to you.”

Sin always justifies itself and believes the end justifies the means

Sin is always misguided

They accept his judgment

They much prefer to be living slaves than dead freemen

v26-27 unto this day:

And so the matter stood

Is this the end of the matter?

No. 400 years later, 2 Sam 21:1-9

King Saul broke this covenant by slaughtering the Gibeonites

The Lord smote Israel, during the days of King David,

with a famine as a result of His name being smeared

7 sons of Saul were turned over by David and hanged by the Gibeonites

There will be nothing but trouble and pain when we don't consult the Lord  
first and continually...in EVERY situation

There is NEVER a reason to not pray and seek the Lord's counsel and wisdom  
God is not rash or hurried...we must wait on Him

We all must

- cultivate a keener sense of hearing in our hearts
- heed the many warnings our God gives us
- be disciplined in "wait training"

PTL our God is able to overrule our mistakes for His glory...  
even turn it into a blessing...  
driving us to the Cross for forgiveness, cleansing, and power

"Lord, I believe  
Joel 2:25  
Phil 3:13

Communion: renew commitment to the authority of the Lord God over our lives  
altar of God, burnt offerings, peace offerings  
John 15:26 (believers only)

## Joshua Chapter 10

Last time...learning to

- never trust our own judgment
- pray for everything
- wait on the Lord

This time...

- God using the mistake of Joshua
- Joshua asking the impossible of God

v1-2 Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem:

The stunning destruction of Jericho and Ai (no survivors) stirred the remaining kings in the land of Canaan into action... forming an Axis of Evil (Ch 9:1-2) to fight against the God of Israel

And now, led by King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem, the betrayal of the Gibeonites has heightened their fear

- “We’re next!”...perhaps discerning Joshua’s strategy to bisect the land
- Gibeon was an important, strategic city to their defense
- the Gibeonites were mighty warriors...that just “rolled over”

Faith in Self leads to fear

When we put faith in the God of Israel...no fear

v3-5 we may smite Gibeon:

Adoni-zedek, in keeping with their one-for-all-and-all-for-one alliance, calls the other 4 kings to declare war on Gibeon

- to punish the traitors...revenge
- to “retake” this important and strategic city

v6-8 the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua:

The Gibeonites now find themselves in a strange place –  
at peace with Joshua/Israel and at war with their former allies

As soon as they learn of the kings of the land coming against them,  
the outnumbered Gibeonites turn to Joshua for protection...  
Although “mighty” by the world’s standard, the servants of Joshua trusted  
their new master to defend them vs defending themselves

The Gibeonites are a type of believers in Jesus Christ

- Once at war against but now at peace with Jesus (Joshua)
- Once at peace with but now at war against the god of this world
- Outnumbered...but not really (Rom 8:31) because they are...
- “Grafted in” to Israel (Rom 11:11-33)
- Trusting servants of the Master, they appeal to Jesus for protection, knowing they are incapable of winning the battle without Him

Born-again Christians...

- their former Enemy (Eph 2:1-4) is now their Defender
- their former friends and allies are now their enemies

How many of you have seen a valued relationship of yours suddenly and radically changed because you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ?

Matt 10:16-39  
Luke 12:49-53

But how many priceless relationships do you now have as a result?

Mark 10:28-30  
Luke 18:28-30

Let’s go back to Joshua and the Gibeonites...and see how God used Joshua’s mistake for His glory

Rest assured Joshua consulted the Lord before taking one step!  
The Lord clearly communicated His orders to His servant

- Fear not man...have faith in Me
- I have (past tense) delivered them into your hand
- There shall not a man stand before you...they don’t stand a chance, they are outnumbered

Joshua believes...

- Ch 1:5 before Jericho
- Ch 8:1 before Ai

Not one word of the promises of God has failed...not one will this time  
So Joshua...not half-heartedly and not hot-headedly...obediently marches  
to Gibeon to fight the 5 kings of the land of Canaan

I think the Lord was laughing

Ps 2:1-4

By their “show of force”, the 5 kings will fall in 1 strike vs in 5  
Rom 8:28 for Joshua’s mistake...God uses everything and has the  
last Word

v9 came unto them suddenly:

Joshua did not hesitate, he obeyed immediately...leading the army of the  
Lord on an all-night, 25 mile march uphill to Gibeon, the element  
of surprise being an important factor in the Lord’s orders  
And after marching 25 miles uphill in perhaps 10 hours, they are to fight a  
battle!

Wow! Truly their strength is the Lord

v10 the LORD discomfited them:

But Who fought when Joshua and the army got to Gibeon?  
The Lord did!  
There will be no man boasting in his flesh but in his God

The Lord troubled the armies of the 5 kings...put them in commotion and  
confusion, unable to defend themselves or mount a counter-attack  
He uses the tactics of the enemy...against them

No contest...a “run-away” victory

The world is a confused place, is in great commotion...  
conflicts everywhere (Matt 24:6-7)

- the god of chaos is busy...
- and so is the God of order...using Satan’s tactics in His plan

BTW...

The Canaanites worshipped Baal...whom they believed to control  
the rain, snow, hail

The Amorites worshipped the sun and the moon

v11 great stones from heaven:

While the idol worshippers fled before His army, the Lord stoned them with great hailstones...The LORD is a man of war (Ex 15:3)

Job 38:22-23

Ex 9:12-26

war against false gods

Foreshadowing Rev 16:17-21

Then and in the future, God has a VERY good aim!

More idol worshippers died by His hailstones than  
the sword of man

Not a single Israeli warrior was killed by the great stones

There is no mistake Who is fighting and for whom

Israel knows (God for them vs them for God)

The Canaanites know

There is no mistake whose God is the True God

v12-14 Then spoke Joshua to the LORD:

The battle is being won...but sunset threatens to arrest complete victory by allowing some of the enemy to escape under the cover of darkness

Emboldened by faith by hearing the Word of God and seeing God make good His Word, Joshua prays a prayer of great faith...publically

“Lord, stop the sun and moon so You/we can finish the job!”

Joshua asks the impossible...but prays believing in the God for Whom nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37)

Heb 11:6...God intervened in the laws of nature and answered his faithful servant's prayer

The language suggests

- the earth's rotation slowed...  
vs “slamming on the brakes” of the earth's rotation and tearing the earth apart with earthquakes and tidal waves (earth weighs 6.6 sextillion tons)
- the sun and the moon stopped

“The Long Day of Joshua”...a day recorded in

- the Book of Jasher
- the history of God’s wars
  - [Num 21:14](#)
  - [2 Sam 1:18](#)

Such a day would affect the entire planet, all the nations...

- Greek myth: Apollo’s son Phaethon disrupted the sun’s course for a day
  
- China: writings of a long day during the reign of Yao
- Babylonian/Persian: legend of a day like this
- Egypt: historian Herodotus was shown temple records by a priest that records a day twice as long as any day recorded
  
- New Zealand (11 hours from land of Canaan, therefore “long night”): hero Maui slowed the sun before it rose
- Mexico: Aztecs Annals of Cuauhtilan wrote of a night that continued for an extended time
- Peru: Incans also wrote of an extended night

But the Long Day of Joshua has always had many scoffers...  
mocking unbelievers

Not seeing the God for Whom nothing is impossible, they say this is impossible...mere myth and fable

Is this miracle any more or less miraculous than

- a Virgin birth
- giving sight to a man born blind
- healing lepers...by touching them
- raising the dead to life (Lazarus, widow of Nain’s son)
- making me and you new creatures in Christ

What is the only explanation for a miracle?

Faith

I am not as smart/knowledgeable as God so I won’t attempt to explain  
how the Long Day of Joshua or any other miracle happened

I simply believe it because God said it

[Jer 32:17, 27](#)

(yet miracles do not produce faith...

[Luke 16:19-31](#), lying signs and wonders to come)

If God did not slow the earth and stop the sun and the moon, He is a liar  
But it is impossible for God to lie (Num 23:29, Heb 6:18, Titus 1:2)

If God cannot slow the earth and stop the sun and the moon, He is not a  
very big God  
But our God IS a very big God!  
(come Wed to watch a DVD that will make this point)

The Creator has sovereignty over His creation

Ps 74:16

2 K 20:1-11 10 degrees = 40 minutes

Christianity without miracles is just a religion...dead

What problem are you facing that could challenge the power of the God  
Who can slow the earth and stop the sun and the moon?

Are you facing something impossible?  
Dare to have the faith of Joshua!

Faith in the God for Whom nothing is impossible...

- Who has an eye for all the tiniest of details
- Who fights for you...and it is no contest!
- Who has made that promise to you...Rom 8:31-39

PS. The scoffers will see other cosmic wonders during the  
70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel (Rev 6-16)

Last time...

- God using Joshua's mistake to His glory
- The God of the impossible in action

This time...choosing a hiding place

v15 Joshua returned:

The Lord God of Israel fights against His enemies...  
it cannot be disputed Who is fighting for whom and against whom

At the end of "The Day", Joshua and Israel returned to camp  
His faith justified, Joshua and Israel rest

v16-19 five kings fled:

The 5 kings of the idol worshippers flee in fear from the God of Israel and  
the children of Israel...herding themselves into a cave at "herding"  
They have chosen darkness to be their hiding place

Why have the 5 kings been spared a hailstone?  
The Lord is going to make a statement to His people

The Lord, the Light of the world and the Revealer of Truth, finds them out  
and reveals their hiding place to Joshua

The Long Day is over but a "mop up" operation is still needed  
With enemy armies on the run, Joshua commands that the cave be  
sealed up and guarded...he will deal with the 5 kings later

There was no protection from the wrath of God in their chosen  
hiding place of darkness

"And let's get back to work!  
We still have a fight on our hands."

Joshua commands Israel to resume the fight against their enemies  
who are on the run.

It will be easier now than later, when the scattered, fleeing soldiers  
enter into a fortified city

He encourages them with the fact the Lord has given them victory over  
their enemies

But with great energy and determination, they have to do their part

v20-21 made an end...none moved his tongue:

Off charges the Lord's army on their mission to "mop up"

Very few enemy soldiers survived and escaped into fortified cities

No problem...

- the Lord knows where they are and these cities will very soon be destroyed...
- there will be no survivors when it is all said and done

The enemy can run but not far enough and he cannot hide or escape

Thus, the Lord's army victoriously returns to camp

The fear of the God of Israel has shut the boastful, blasphemous mouths of the idol worshippers

As was true in Egypt, it is now true in Canaan

Ex 11:7            neither man nor beast move tongue against

None dare to curse the children of Israel or attempt to harm them in any way...because

This people Israel is no ordinary people and theirs is an extraordinary God

v22-24 bring out those 5 kings:

Now it is time to deal with the once-mighty 5 kings holed up in the cave at Makkedah

They are brought to Joshua...their faces in the dust before him

And the Lord makes His statement to His people

"Put your feet on their necks"

- the mighty are defeated
- the proud are abased
- great humiliation
- complete subjugation

The Lord's enemies...idol worshippers...are His...footstool

Ps 110:1            The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

v25 the Lord shall do to all your enemies:

The Lord's statement to His people, continued

Ch 1:6-9 is a recurring theme to Joshua and Israel

Now they have a visual seared in their minds to go with His words

They will "carry" this with them as they go forth to conquer the rest of the land

Their reasonable expectation:

- ALL their enemies will be the Lord's footstool
- they need fear NONE
- victory is theirs, complete subjugation and destruction is their enemies'

v26-27 Joshua smote them...hanged them:

The Lord having made His statement to His people, it is time for justice

The 5 kings were

- made a footstool...shamed publically in life
- slain by the sword
- hanged on a tree...shamed publically in death
- taken down before sunset  
to not defile the land...Deut 21:23
- buried in the cave...  
their hiding place of darkness became their grave
- their tomb was sealed

v28 Joshua took Makkedah:

Joshua now returns his attention to the conquest of the land

His strategy is "Divide and Conquer"...bisect the land then take the south and then the north

To complete the bisection, Joshua attacks the city of Makkedah...  
the first of 7 cities destroyed in this chapter

6 + 1

Southern + central

He did there as was done at Jericho – no mercy for the heard-hearted,  
unrepentant idol worshippers

The offer of peace with God has expired

v29-30 Libnah:

Joshua and the Lord's army then turns south.  
First southern city – Libnah

And the Lord does there as He did at Jericho –  
no mercy, complete destruction, no survivors

Remember this is not a malicious genocide of innocent people...  
this is holy judgment of idol worshippers who for 430 years  
refused the peace offer of the longsuffering God

God's judgment is

- delayed
- sudden
- complete
- methodical

v31-32 Lachish:

Next, the king-less city of Lachish

Why did it take two days?

Was there a Sabbath in there?

Did the Lord's army need some rest?

Don't know but I do know the city of Lachish was not too strong for the  
Lord of hosts

v33 Horam king of Gezer:

The Lord draws another of His enemies to their destruction

Horam was king...bet he was an old Gezer!

And he makes an error of judgment that results in annihilation

v34-35 Eglon:

Now, on to another king-less city  
Identical result

v36-37 Hebron:

God's enemies do not stand a chance  
Identical result

v38-39 Debir:

The 6<sup>th</sup> and final southern city offers no more resistance than any of the others

v40-42 Joshua smote all the country:

Joshua has bisected the land and conquered the south...  
because the LORD fought for His people. (Deut 4:38)

All that remains is the north

v43 Joshua returned:

A repeat of v15  
The account ends just as it began

A season of battle concluded, Joshua and Israel returned to camp  
His faith justified, Joshua rests...for a brief season

Let's look back...and find Jesus and ourselves in this passage

Five kings (v16-17)

Idol worshippers...stubborn unbelievers who refuse to submit to Jesus Christ  
Any one or anything with a higher "ranking" than Jesus Christ is an idol

If that is you...

You have chosen a hiding place of darkness  
But the all-seeing God sees you plain as day

Your hiding place offers you no protection from the wrath of God for your crimes against Him

(to worship creature or creation rather than Creator Who spoke the universe into existence and holds us all together by the Cross of Jesus Christ)

He has given you grace to this point but if you insist, your hiding place will become your grave

That is not His desire...His desire is that you repent of your sin and accept His peace offer...

King of kings taking on your crimes, your humiliation/punishment, being laid in a cave, sealed, and guarded... and risen to conquer death for you

Lord's army (v19)

Those saved from the justifiable wrath of God by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ, the King of kings, are made new creatures in Christ

The Lord is taking back that which was stolen from Him...

but we have to do our part...we are His chosen instruments

- prayer and fasting
- sowing the seed of the Word...and watering
- go out into the fields white with the harvest
- to not faint, to not be weary in well doing but have our strength renewed as we wait upon the Lord
- follow our lord and Captain without whining and complaining

Many of us are in very tough battles...

some/many may be battle-weary and feel beaten down  
we don't know what to do

The Lord will not change the battlefield...and He will fight for us...

But we have to do our part and walk with Him into the fight on  
thru the fight onto victory...

Joshua, 5 kings, and Lord's army (v22-24)

The idol worshippers who refuse to their last breath to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ...become His footstool

Along with

- death itself (1 Cor 15:25)
- their father (Rom 16:20)

The Lord's army must be very careful here

- To boast in the Lord and never ourselves

1 Cor 1:26-31

1 Cor 6:9-11

Titus 3:1-7

- To release all our idols...continually submit to being sanctified
  - all pride
  - all lust
  - uncontrolled tongue
  - selfishness
  - all sin must be vanquished...our flesh is the Lord's footstool

The hiding place for new creatures is the Light of the World

Ps 32:1-7

Ps 119:105, 113-115

Joshua and Lord's army (v25)

2 Tim 1:7

2 Cor 10:3-5

Eph 6:10-18

We have access to the power of Jesus Christ over our enemies  
(flesh, world, devil)...we need not be afraid of anything or anyone

We need constant reminding, even of recurring themes

Disobedience + prayerlessness = defeat

Obedience + diligence + reliance = victory

Joshua and 5 kings (v26-27)

Jesus Christ, King of kings, came to hang on a tree as the acceptable substitute  
for whosoever would believe/surrender/submit

Those who refuse will be left out to hang...bearing the penalty of their sins  
themselves

John 3:3, 14-21

Choosing a hiding place of darkness becomes your eternal grave

Choosing the Light of the world as your hiding place becomes eternal life

Then, we must count the old man hung on the tree with Jesus and  
walk in the newness of life (Rom 6:5-8)

The Lord and His army (v29-42)

In the newness of life, we are to be on the offensive (Matt 16:18), taking the fight  
to the enemy

1 John 4:4

When the Son of God returns to the earth He created, He will come as Judge and  
King

No mercy, no compromise...His peace offer expired

Sudden, complete, methodical judgment of the entire earth

Luke 17:26-30

Rev 6:12-17

defiant to the end

Joshua and Lord's army (v43)

Don't trust in princes...trust in the Lord

Ps 118:6-14

Ps 146:3-9

Abide in Him...rest in him

1 John 5:4-5

overcome by faith in Jesus Christ

I have been praying that the Lord make me and CCA whatever He wants me/us to be

I believe He wants me...and each of us...to be

- Holy...righteous in our conduct
- Uncompromising on the Truth
- Passionate in our devotion of Jesus
- Sacrificial in our service of Him
- Transparent in our lives for all to see

I believe He wants CCA to be

- No ordinary people with an extraordinary God
- Uncompromising with the world
- Courageous and strong in our faith
- On the offensive

Could He want anything less?

Is any of this unreasonable?

How do I, you, we "be" this way?

Only by the power of the Holy Spirit

- The promise of the Father
- The heritage of every believer
- The power of the Resurrection
- Christ in us, the hope of glory

Without the power of the Holy Spirit, all these things are impossible

Yet with the power of the Holy Spirit, the impossible become opportunities for  
Jesus Christ to continue His ministry on earth thru His Bride

- Changed lives
- Reaching out to a lost world, the battlefield to win souls for the kingdom of God

The choice is ours – to hide in darkness or to hide in the Light

## Joshua Chapter 11

**Announcement:** Family Meeting after service regarding our meeting place

Last time...the central and south were conquered

This time...the north is conquered

v1-3 kings that were on the north:

Things are not going too well for the 7 mighty nations of the Canaanites

Word has come to the northern kings that the central and southern kingdoms have been utterly destroyed...  
and Joshua and the children of Israel are now headed their way

So, under the instigation of Jabin the king of Hazor, the Axis of Evil North is formed

Some of the kings are unnamed by the mercy of God sparing you the torment of my mispronunciation

But let's look briefly at the locations of their kingdoms

- Hazor: north of Sea of Galilee on Jordan River
- Mountains: further north toward Lebanon
- The plains around Chinneroth...Kinneret, Gennesaret, Galilee (Sea of )
- The valley...of Jezreel, Jehoshphat (Joel 3:2, 12), Decision (Joel 3:14), Armageddon (Rev 16:16)
- Dor on west: Mount Carmel (range)

v4-5 all their hosts...horses and chariots:

All hands on deck in the north, mustered somewhere between Caesarea Philippi and Sea of Galilee, according to Josephus  
The kings of the north assembled a fiercely strong war machine to deal with the Jewish problem

All the nations are gathered to fight against Israel, God's chosen people.  
From the world's perspective, Israel is outnumbered and over matched in weaponry...an impossible battle scenario

The odds are...perfect!

v6 Be not afraid:

The Lord speaks with a timely

- word of encouragement  
“Don’t look at them, look at Me.  
Don’t look around, look up.”
- promise  
“By this time tomorrow I WILL give them to you to  
destroy.”  
He has gathered His enemies together in one place for  
“easy pickins”  
Perfect odds: one man with God
- test of faith  
“Continue to trust in Me and not in (new found)  
military strength.”  
When no weapon formed against us can prosper,  
it is rational to cling only to the Lord

v7 So Joshua came:

With God’s war record in mind, what did Joshua and the children of  
Israel do?

They did their part – to believe the Word of God and to attack...  
to Go...are on the move

Without so much as blinking an eye, they launched a swift, surprise attack

The world would look at this as a suicide mission...

but the world is not in its right mind

Israel has the advantage of overwhelming force, their enemies are doomed

v8 the Lord delivered:

What did the Lord do when Israel did their part?

Made good His promise

The God of order threw His enemies into confusion

The hopelessly outmatched armies of the north scattered

- to the north – Zidon
- to “boiling of water”...an area of hot springs
- to the east

They could run but they could not escape

At the end of the battle, there were no survivors among the “much people,  
even as the sand” of the armies of the north

- v9 Joshua did...Lord bade:  
 The armies of the north destroyed, Joshua is faithful...  
 passes the test of faith
- destroyed the war machine rather than keeping it for themselves...  
 trusting in the Lord Who fights for them vs in man's weapons
- v10-11 took Hazor:  
 Then Joshua about-faces to destroy
- the king of Hazor, the instigator of the Axis of Evil North,  
 who ran home in fear like his 5 peers in the south
  - all the inhabitants of the city...no mercy for stubborn idol  
 worshippers (imagine the confusion and the screams...  
 the din of destruction)
  - the city itself (later rebuilt by Solomon)
- v12-14 cities of those kings...cities that stood:  
 As the conquest of the north unfolds, the children of Israel are God's  
 instrument of judgment
- The cities of the other kings (v1-2) were
- cleansed/de-populated
  - plundered
  - later re-inhabited by the children of Israel
- v15 left nothing undone:  
 The North is conquered...just like that  
 The servant of God did everything his Master instructed him to do...  
 faithful to the very end
- v16-18 Joshua took all...made war a long time:  
 A Summary of the conquest of the land of Canaan
- As the Lord promised, no man was able to stand before Joshua  
 He conquered the Promised Land in about 7 years
- v19 not a city that made peace...Gibeon:  
 Only one city had a healthy fear of the God of Israel – Gibeon –  
 a mere remnant of Gentiles that was grafted into Israel  
 All other cities hated the God of Israel...and suffered the consequences

v20 it was of the Lord to harden:

For 430 years God offered them peace with Him, warning them that they could never fight Him and win

They chose to harden their hearts to Him and His offer of peace and grace

His offer expired...and God hardened their hearts, giving them the destruction they chose...just like He did to Pharaoh

He hardened their hearts and then gathered them together to be destroyed by Israel, His instrument of judgment

There is no peace with a stubborn, defiant enemy  
Grace does not cover unbelief...only justice does

This is historic...and prophetic

God will again gather the nations of the world against His people Israel...

- the nations of the north (Ezk 38-39)
- all nations (Zech 14, Rev16)
- to the Valley of Decision (v2)...where decisions of the nations are sealed

**Ezk 37-39**

37:1-11 1948...in our lifetime!  
physical but not yet spiritual...  
don't yet know what Joshua did. What will it take?

37:12-14 a work in process now

37:19-23 in one accord

37:26-28 New Covenant. When? How?

38:1-6 He sets hooks to reel in

38:10-12 given over to an evil thought – attack Israel

38:14-16 Lord brings the nations against His nation! Why?

38:18-23 so ALL will know that He alone is God

39:1-7 especially His people

39:21-29 the God of Israel WILL make Himself known

The Lord says “I will” 24 times in Ezk 37-39

This battle is shaping up right in front of our eyes!

Military alliances are made/being made...

God of Israel is hardening hearts and gathering His northern enemies together...for destruction

Then He will gather all nations to PERSONALLY destroy them

**Zech 14:1-4a**

**Is 63:1-6**

**Rev 16:16**

v21-22 cut off the Anakim:

Now, time to take care of those giants that terrified the other 10 spies in  
Num 13...

Joshua and Caleb alone having faith in God and not fear of men

From Gaza and Ashdod will come...Goliath, who was no match for the  
God of Israel and a shepherd boy named David  
Again...the perfect odds

v23 Joshua took the whole land:

This is VC Day – Victory in Canaan

The only military superpower in the land of Canaan is now Israel

The land is quiet and peaceful and safe

Israel controls all the land...now it will be up to each tribe, by lot,  
to cleanse their inheritance of the remaining idol worshippers

In Joshua 6-11, God's enemies were crushed, whether

- few or many
- weak or mighty
- large or small

Jesus Christ crushed his enemies in the spiritual realm at the Cross...

His victory was decisive and absolute

We walk with Him by faith and in the Spirit in that victory while the Father  
conforms us into the image of his Son

Conforming these lumps of clay by the strong hands of the Potter feels like  
crushing to the lumps of clay

How many of you felt like you were being crushed this week or recently?

“We aren't in Joshua for nothing!”

The Lord has been doing a lot of crushing in this fellowship and many others

Jesus is getting His Bride ready...are you ready?

He commands us to be holy because He is holy

Greater Christ-likeness and greater victorious living here on earth comes by  
greater surrender (flesh to Spirit)

Jesus is getting His Bride ready...before He returns to crush His enemies on earth

But do not be afraid....can you hear Jesus speaking v6?

- word of encouragement  
“Don’t look at them, look at Me.  
Don’t look around, look up.”

Rom 8:18

2 Cor 4:15b-18

Ps 37:4-5

- promise  
“By this time tomorrow I WILL give the enemy to you to destroy.”  
He will gather His enemies together in one place for “easy pickins”  
Perfect odds: one man with God
- test of faith  
“Continue to trust in Me and not in (new found) military strength.”  
When no weapon formed against us can prosper, it is rational to cling only  
to the Lord

It belongs to God to command, it belongs to us to obey (v15)

Obedience is a choice

Matt 25 Parable of Ten Virgins and Parable of Talents

To leave nothing undone, to be faithful to the end, is to hear

- “Enter”
- “Well done good and faithful servant”

To do what is right in one’s own eyes is to hear,

- “I know you not.”
- “Cast the wicked servant into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth”

Now is the time to awake out of cozy complacency and slumber!

We have our part to do –

- to believe the word of God
- to attack the enemy stronghold

Soon, war from Heaven will fall upon the stubborn idol worshipping nations of the world  
Only afterwards will we know “peace and safety”

## **Joshua Chapter 12**

The Land of Canaan is conquered...

Israel is the only military power in the Promised Land

Now a quick review of the conquest...consult a map when read for yourselves

First, the land conquered by Israel under Moses' leadership...

the land on the east side of the Jordan River

v1-6 Moses the servant of God and the children of Israel:

The land taken from 2 pagan kings east of the Jordan and given to

- Half tribe of Manasseh – north
- Gad – central
- Reuben – south

Landmarks

- River Arnon: border between Lot's descendants, Moab and Ammon
- Mount Hermon – great mountain in the far north, headwaters of Jordan River
- Plain between
  - Sea of Galilee
  - Dead Sea...location of S&G
- Bashan – wonderful pastureland north of Sea of Galilee

Now, the Joshua-led conquest

v7-8 Joshua and the children of Israel:

The land taken from the pagan nations on the west side of the Jordan River

[v9-24] the king of:

A roll call of 31 kings/kingdoms conquered in the land of Canaan

- South (v9-16)
- North (v17-24)
- Each one a battle in which the Lord, the Captain of God's Army, was victorious

## Thoughts

1. The Creator of heaven and earth establishes the times and the boundaries of nations

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changes the times and the seasons: he removes kings, and sets up kings: he gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He reveals the deep and secret things: he knows what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

Dan 2:20-22

When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

Deut 32:8

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Acts 17:26

Is the Lord behind the border issues USA is having?  
Why might that be?

2. With a humble and grateful heart, it is healthy and helpful to occasionally look back on God's victories in our lives (Has He ever been defeated?)

To sum it all up...Rom 5:20 because of His victory over sin and death on the Cross

But...there is no resting on the past until we fully enter into our inheritance.

March forward!

## Joshua Chapter 13

v1      there remaineth very much land to be possessed:

Why is there no resting on the past?

Because there is still so much to do!

Ch 1:1-5 is complete

Now, time for Ch 1:6

Israel is the sole military power in the land but there are enemies and enemy strongholds everywhere!

Joshua is old...over 100 years old (he dies at age 110)...  
but he is not done!

Why can we not rest on the past?

Because there is still so much to do!

None of us “arrive” this side of eternity

There is no “resting on our laurels” as long as we have breath

Many strongholds remain in all of our lives, even the seniors in our midst

We are never too old to

- fight and advance
- surrender, to consecrate our life, and to taste God’s victory
- grow, mature, work

We must never quit...the work of God is not finished

- Phil 1:6 will take until our last breath!
- The Day of the Lord is fast approaching –  
Time is urgent  
Now is not the time to stop and “retire”

Yet, as we learn from history...

Note: History teaches one lesson – people do not learn from history

we know Joshua went home to be with the Lord before the work of defeating every enemy and subjecting all the land was finished

The work is bigger than one man or one generation...

the work must be picked up by the next generation

v2-6a This is the land that yet remaineth:

There are enemies and unsubjected lands in every direction

Enemies everywhere you turn and look, enemies on all sides

But focus on the promise of God: "I will drive them out before you."

NEVER lose sight of this liberating truth!

Don't let

- the passage of time
- the size or number of swarming enemies
- the endless string of battles
- the continual flow of difficult circumstances

blind us to the unchanging reality that God Almighty fights for us!

The One True and Living God Who fights for us

- is undefeated...cannot lose
- is not hurried by time...is the Ultimate Time Manager
- has a "bigger mind" than us (Is 55:8-9, Eph 3:20)

When it "seems like" the enemy is winning and you are going down for the last count...

- Wait on the Lord and have your strength renewed  
Is 40:31  
Time alone with the Lord and His Word
- "Sleep on it"

William Culbertson was appointed President of  
Moody Bible Institute in 1948

Some of his associates did not think he moved fast  
enough on issues facing them

But they came to learn the wisdom of one of his  
favorite expressions when confronted with  
a situation: "Well, let's sleep on it."

How many of your bad days got better after you  
"slept on it"?

Lam 3:22-26

Never be satisfied with anything but God's will for your life

v6b-7 Now therefore divide this land:

God fought for Joshua; what was he to do about the unconquered land?  
God has fought for us; what are we to do moving forward?

Faithfully do what he/we have been commanded to do...  
finish the task God has given him/us to do  
Our part is to obey, to walk by faith

Note: The Land of Canaan, the Promised Land is...  
“My land”, He is the LandLord  
Israel did not win for themselves or purchase for  
themselves this inheritance...God gave it to them  
In Ch 13-24, “inheritance” appears 56 times (8x7)

v8-13 Reubenites and the Gadites...Moses gave them:

Repeating the inheritance of the 2½ tribes east of the Jordan River

v14 tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance:

As we have studied in the Books of Moses, the tribe of Levi was not given  
a land inheritance.

The Lord chose them to serve Him...He was their inheritance

Speaks of another priesthood, that of the priesthood of Mel...the Church  
1 Peter 2:9 a royal priesthood  
Eph 1:3 blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly  
places in Christ

[v15-33] Reuben...Gad...half tribe of Manasseh...Levi:

Again the inheritance of (from south to north)

- Reuben – v15-23...Balaam gets his reward in v22
- Gad – v24-28
- Half tribe of Manasseh – v29-32
- Levi – v33...the Lord God of Israel

With the eastern 2½ tribes in mind...

- They settled for “good” (sight) vs waiting for “best” (faith)
- Outside the Promised Land, they were vulnerable to
  - Military attack by relentlessly hostile neighbors
  - Ungodly/idolatrous influence of pagan neighbors
  - 1 Chron 5:25-26 is in their future
- It is very dangerous to be a “borderline believer”
  - Don’t settle for “good”, wait for God’s “best”
  - Fully enter into your inheritance

## Joshua Chapter 14

v1-5 they divided the land:

So, Joshua, in faithful response to Ch 13:6-7, along with the High Priest and the tribal leaders, divides the Land of Canaan...  
the land west of the Jordan River

Note: What is Israel's "rent" in the Promised Land?  
Obedience and faithfulness

1 <sup>st</sup> allotment goes to Judah...Caleb's tribe	\	2 faithful
2 <sup>nd</sup> allotment is Ephraim...Joshua's tribe	/	spies

v6-7 Joshua in Gilgal and Caleb:

Joshua is at Base Camp in Gilgal, where it will remain until he moves it to Shiloh in Ch 18

There, his "comrade in heart", the other faithful spy, Caleb comes to him

Sharing with Joshua the utmost respect for Moses

- the man of God
- the servant of God

Caleb has a request of Joshua, his elder and his leader

"I was 40 years old when Moses sent us and the other 10 to spy out the land God had promised us.

When we came back with our report, I gave Moses what was in my heart."

Num 13:30 after the fearful report of the 10

v8 my brethren...made the heart of the people melt:  
“I believed every word of the Word of God and was eager to follow my  
Captain!  
But I was shouted down by my fearful and faith-less brethren.”

Num 13:31-33

Caleb stood on the Word of God...  
the promises of God, the Rock that cannot be moved  
Standing with and upon God, he was impervious to peer pressure

The faithless 10 stood on their emotions (fear)...they fell, Caleb stands

Debilitating discouragement and fear come from the flesh, the world, and  
the devil (our enemies per 1 John 2)

Encouragement and courage comes from God (Ch 1:9)

Know who is speaking to you...believe God and not the liar  
In the face of intense battles, even if alone... 1 Sam 30:6

v9 Moses swore on that day:  
“The Lord acknowledged my faith in Him.  
He made a promise to me.”

Num 14:24

v10-11 Now, behold:

“The Lord has kept me alive the 45 years since then, though all our battles.  
I am now 85 years old...well ”above average” (Ps 90:10).  
I am as strong in body, mind, and spirit as I was on that day 45 years ago.  
I am as ready, willing, and able to fight today as I was then.  
(I’ve been holding onto and treasuring the promise of God for 45 years!)”

Wow!

- The Lord our God is the Giver and Taker of Life...and the Sustainer of it every appointed day in between
  - Dan 5:23
- Life this side of eternity is a very difficult struggle, fight
  - Perseverance and a “soldier’s heart” is required
  - We are never too old to fight the good fight
- The promises of God are not “instant”, not a pill...  
but are to be treasured in our hearts and minds for a long time (Heb 5:8, Heb 6:12)

v12 Now therefore give me this mountain:  
So what is Caleb's request?

“Give me this giant-infested mountain!  
The vermin who terrified my brethren and poisoned the resolve of my  
people will now get their just reward!  
They are giants and their cities are greatly fortified...but the Lord my  
Captain is with me!  
They don't stand a chance!”

An 85 year old giant-killer is eager to go take that which was promised to  
him by God

Caleb is

- a real man
- a man of great, unwavering faith made great by the great God

With great and unwavering faith in the God Who cannot fail,  
we can be like Caleb as we face our giants  
The powerful strongholds we face will be pulled down only by the  
Almighty God  
He will lead us to higher ground

We are often, proudly tempted to trust Self and help God

2 Chron 25:5-10

v13-15 Joshua blessed him and gave Caleb...Hebron:  
Joshua of course consents to Caleb's request  
Caleb finally has his chance to show the bullies Who is Boss!

Caleb's inheritance was Hebron..."communion"  
He was victorious  
The biggest giant was just a pip-squeak to the Lord and the man  
following him by unwavering faith

The Lord Jesus Christ defeated the biggest giants at the Cross –  
death, the devil, and the world

Heb 2:14-15

John 16:33 with 1 John 5:4-5

Serve Him...not Self, not the world, not the devil  
Surrender...consecrate...conquer

[ Pray...get Michael and teachers ]

Communion:

A little leaven leavens the whole lump – pride, unbelief, rebellion/disobedience  
Purge the leaven in our hearts and in our fellowship

Caleb and Joshua vs 10 faithless and fearful

The victory is ours

Ch 13:1, 6

Ch 14:10-12

Rom 8:31

Surrender...consecrate...conquer

## Joshua Chapter 15

Last time...the faith of Caleb

This time...the Father/child relationship...boldness and blessings

Now, the dividing of the land into the inheritance for each tribe of Israel  
Lots...pre-determined by God Almighty

First...Judah, the royal tribe, the tribe of Caleb

v1-4 the south coast:

It would be helpful to reference a map in the back of your Bible

The southern border

From the Dead Sea to the Med Sea

“river of Egypt” is NOT the Nile but a puny river used as a border  
between the land of Canaan and Egypt  
Wadi el-Arish

v5a east border:

The eastern border is the Dead Sea

v5b-11 border in the north:

The northern border is from the Dead Sea to Jerusalem to the Med Sea

Valley of Achor – burial spot for an “Achan heart”

Gilgal – Israel Base Camp until Shiloh (in Ephraim...Joshua)

Valley of Hinnom – southern valley of Jerusalem...

”Gehenna”...where Judah’s children will “pass thru the  
fire” in worship to Molech

Mountain west of Valley of Hinnom – Mount Moriah

Jerusalem is not in the inheritance of Judah but of Benjamin

When was Jebus/Jerusalem conquered and the Jebusites  
vanquished?

By King David, of the tribe of Judah, some 400 years future from  
this point in time

v12 west border:

The western border is the Med Sea

v13-14 unto Caleb:

As was mentioned in Ch 14:13-15, Caleb's family inheritance within the inheritance of the tribe of Judah is Hebron

Ch 14:12 came to pass...a whole pack of giants cannot stand against the God of Israel and the man who believed His Word

v15-19 Give me a blessing:

Caleb offers up his daughter as the prize for anyone who would conquer Debir, just south of Hebron

His nephew Othniel ("force of God") is inspired, wins the battle and wins himself a wife (kissing cousins)

Then notice something very interesting to me... which speaks of the Father/child relationship

Achsah, in one accord with her husband "force of God", respectfully yet boldly approaches her father Caleb

"Give me a blessing.  
You have given me "negev", a dry and parched land.  
Give me a fountain of living water."

Issue: life  
Water is life

And Caleb abundantly blesses her, with both high and low springs

Observations:

1. The boldness of a child, in the name of her husband, to march in and ask the Father for a blessing, a necessary blessing

Achsah (Father's daughter) = the Church

Othniel ("force of God", victorious husband) = Jesus Christ

Caleb = the Father

John 16:23-24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. The heart of the Father: love, desiring to bless (issue is life)

Eph 3:20 Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

John 1:4 in Word was life, light of men

John 10:10 Life and that more abundantly

John 6:68 the words of eternal life...

studied and applied to our hearts

Ps 119:161-162 a great spoil/booty

John 7:37-39 The Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father

Luke 11:9-13 the Father give the Holy Spirit

Luke 12:32 the Father give the kingdom

The issue is life...

The sufficiency and the simplicity of the Holy Spirit illuminating the Word of God and changing people's hearts and even entire communities

What is our proper response to the Father and His blessing?

- Praise and worship, thanksgiving and gratitude
- Share it
  - Brethren
    - In this and in other churches
    - Heb 12:28-29 grace changes everything
    - Get right! Get ready! Get busy!
  - Lost
    - God loves you!
    - Jesus Christ loves you...and He is alive!
    - Accept the Father's gift of life and love
    - Escape the Wrath by His peace terms

Love of the Father commands attention to our  
message, the Gospel  
John 13:34-35

Love is steadfast action, not volatile emotion  
“Doing” opens the door to “saying”  
“Doing” validates “saying” and “saying”  
validates “doing”...  
the message is true!

Love wins  
John 6:44  
Rom 2:4

When are we to share the love and blessings of the Father...  
life and that eternal by grace thru faith in the sacrifice of His Son  
for the sins of the world?

Now! Today is the day of salvation

The world is dying of complications!  
Israel is the Lord's prophetic timepiece  
In last 10 days...the Flotilla  
Amir, Pastor Chuck's Tour Guide

Satan is very busy deceiving the nations and bringing them  
against Israel

Well organized attack against Israel

- embarrass
- divert attention from terrorist attack by sea

Flotilla participants

- Terrorists
- Social activists
- Media (media-nites), not confused by the facts  
but driven by their agenda

Turkey, once an ally, is now hostile to Israel

Ezk 38:11-13

- 2 weeks ago: discovery of a HUGE natural gas  
pool and reserve of oil in Israel
- Israel would surpass Russia as world's largest  
exporter of natural gas, make them energy  
independent

[ Saudi Arabia to "stand down", US/France, Korea ]

We don't have much time left to share our message of the Father's love...  
we are on the last lap...  
time to pull out all the stops

How much longer can the Lord tarry?

What must we do to share the Father's life, love, and blessings with the  
lost?

Boldly march into the Throne Room in Jesus' name –  
"Give me a blessing...I need Living Water"

And expect the Father to give you the Holy Spirit!

Our Father and our Husband, The Head of the Church, want this fellowship to be a people of prayer... warriors, not “spirit-willing but flesh-weak”

How can we?

Only by Living Water, the power of the Holy Spirit upon and filling us

Our Father and our Husband, The Head of the Church, want our assembling together to be

- a fresh, dynamic Pledge of Allegiance to a Person vs a static, predictable, comfortable, inward-focused routine (AW Tozer: Rote, Rut, Rot)
- [Rev 3:7-10](#) vs [Rev 2:1-5](#)

How can God do in our midst what He wants to do?

Only by Living Water, us being filled and led by the power of the Holy Spirit

Our Father and our Husband, The Head of the Church, want the brethren

- to be right
- to be ready
- to be busy
- to have the joy of the Lord
- to know the sufficiency of Jesus Christ

How can they?

Only by Living Water, the power of the Holy Spirit upon and filling them

Our Father and our Husband, The Head of the Church, want the lost in Ahwatukee and in all our communities to

- know God loves them
- accept the Father’s peace terms and come to life
- escape the wrath that is rapidly approaching

I think we all do too.

We are to be always ready to tell them Who and How

Only people living now can be used by God to save those who need to be saved now

How can we tell them?

Only by Living Water, the power of the Holy Spirit upon us, filling us

PS: free re-fills!

Our Father and our Husband, The Head of the Church, want ALL of us to be His witnesses...

    putting Him and our faith in Him on display...  
    praising Him Who called us out of darkness into His light

To anyone who shares a personal problem with you...  
    point them to the answer – Jesus and His Word  
    (1 Peter 3:15, 4:11)

To be sensitive to the needs of people around us  
Here, greet/speak/pray with visitors and people don't know  
Pass out tracts or CDs...help create those things  
Acts 2:42-47...in your house with brethren and the lost  
Every opportunity God gives you...available and beautiful feet  
    (Rom 10:13-15)

Don't stress...some plant, some water...God gives the increase

When God is present, expect miracles  
    "Jesus loves you!" in a mail box  
    Loving your enemies...David Trujillo

Pastor Chuck this week: When the Church is what the Lord wants it to be,  
    the Lord will do in the Church what He wants to do.

Anybody want to see what the Lord wants to do in our lives and  
    fellowship?

The "force of God" is the Gospel...

- death taken from and Life given to dead men
- salvation from wrath by grace thru faith

The Lamb's Book of Life is not closed...  
The Father does not have writer's cramp...  
The Spirit of God is not weary and not finished

Be what God wants you to be and expect Him to call on you and  
    to act

There is nothing more addicting than being used by the Father,  
    the Son, and the Holy Spirit

As for me...

I want to be the pastor to anyone who needs pastoring...  
I can only be a pastor to those who want to be pastored

How can I?  
Only by Living Water, the power of the Holy Spirit...  
the promise of the Father upon me, filling me

I want His flock at CCA to be the best fed sheep in Ahwatukee  
Numbers are misleading, facilities are deceiving...  
but fruit (love of the Father) is abiding

How can you be best-fed?  
Only by Living Water, the power of the Holy Spirit upon and  
filling me and you

I want to make a covenant with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,  
and you

I try to include the Gospel in every message  
(The Volume of the Book is about Jesus)  
Probably there are some that I have not  
I am inconsistent about inviting unbelievers to give their hearts to  
Jesus  
DL Moody's Chicago fire experience burdens me too

So...I want to give a clear, simple, and brief presentation of the  
Gospel every service and invite everyone who is present to  
respond to it

That way you can bring your unsaved family and friends and know  
they will hear the Gospel and be given a chance to

- accept the life and love of the Father
- give their life to Jesus Christ
- escape the wrath that is on the horizon

We cannot be fishers of men if we don't cast the net  
(salvation, the Gospel)

And I want you to keep me accountable to do it

I want to finish well my course  
John 9:4                      DL Moody  
2 Chron 16:9                "life" verses

"Give me a blessing"

1:40 inheritance of children of the world – dry, barren, life-less  
Inheritance of children of God – Living water, eternal life

The issue is life

1 Peter 1:4 an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that  
fades not away, reserved in heaven for you

Jesus (“force of God”) defeated death, sin and hell on the Cross...  
because He selflessly, unconditionally loves you

He has the words of eternal life

Gospel: the message of unconditional love of the Father  
You can be forgiven of ALL and made a new creature...  
clean slate!

Can you by faith say, “Give me a blessing”?  
Come forward

If you want prayer, come forward

Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting  
covenant,  
Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that  
which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

Last time...a child boldly approaching the Father in the name of the husband...  
seeking Living water/Life

This time...inheritance and cities built by others

v20-32 inheritance...cities:

As promised, the children of Israel will

- occupy cities they did not build
- work fields and vineyards they did not plant
- drink from wells they did not dig

Deut 6:10-11 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou builded not, And houses full of all good *things*, which thou filled not, and wells digged, which thou digged not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou planted not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

The Lord their God promised them an inheritance of a land flowing with milk and honey...fertile and productive, exceedingly fruitful

These cities are in the south toward the border of Edom  
(modern day Jordan south of the Dead Sea)

Note: Cities in v28-32 will later be given to Simeon in Ch 19,  
whose land inheritance is surrounded by Judah's

v33-47 in the valley:

These cities are in the valleys/lowlands and along the Med Sea coast in  
Gaza

v48-60 in the mountains:

These cities are in the hills and mountains

v61-62 in the wilderness:

Finally, the cities in the desert, what will be known as the  
Judean Wilderness

v63 the children of Judah could not drive them out:

Raises my eyebrows

1. Why not?

Did the Lord leave them to do it themselves,  
did He no longer fight for them?

Jebus was not taken until...King David

2. The battle is not over, raging “unto this day”

The battle is spiritual...and it belongs to the Son of David,  
King of kings

Hold this thought

## **Joshua Chapter 16**

- v1-4 the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance:  
The double blessing of the firstborn goes to Joseph via his two sons  
  
This speaks of the other half of the tribe of Manaaseh
- v5-9 the children of Ephraim:  
The borders of the inheritance for the tribe of Ephraim, Joshua's tribe  
  
And descendents of Joseph are intermixed
- v10 they drove not out:  
What was true for Judah was also true for Ephraim.  
  
Children of God co-existing alongside children of the devil...  
bound to result in problems  
Let's hold that thought

## Joshua Chapter 17

v1-6 the tribe of Manasseh:

The generations of Manasseh

The daughters were given an inheritance exemption by the Lord in  
Num 27

The inheritance of Manasseh was divided, half on the east side and half on  
the west side of the Jordan River

v7-11 the coast of Manasseh:

The borders of the inheritance on the west side of the Jordan

Again we see brothers are intermixed in the form of 6 cities

v12-13 the children of Manasseh could not drive out:

Again!

The Red flag, the spiritual reality, looms larger in our sight

And again, hold that thought

v14-18 Why hast thou given me but one lot:

After receiving their inheritance by lot just like the other tribes...

and after not taking all their inheritance...

the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh come to Joshua with a gripe

“We have been blessed mightily by God

(population of Manasseh grew by 25,500 since Egypt whereas  
brother Ephraim diminished in population)

so why do we have only one lot?!”

Their bad math smacks of pride and discontentment...and a need to

- take that which they have already been given...2 lots...3
- learn humility and contentment

Joshua challenges the two tribes of Joseph with their own words

“If your lots are insufficient and if you are as a great people as you  
claim, go take the forested land and the land of the giants.”

The children of Joseph turn their noses up at Joshua’s offer

- the lot including the forested land is insufficient
- the lot with the valley (of Jezreel, Jehoshaphat, Decision, Armageddon) is ruled by the giants who have superior weaponry

Joshua ends the matter by saying,  
“My offer stands. The Lord is stronger than the Canaanites. Go.”

Awesome thing about Joshua – he was not a respecter of persons...  
he did not give his own tribe or his “brethren tribe” any  
special treatment/favoritism

So what?

This week I want to examine our inheritance as children of God...or children of the devil  
Next week I want to examine the children of God falling short of taking that inheritance

Our inheritance as children of God...or as children of the devil

After fall of Adam and Eve, we were bankrupt...spiritually impoverished/dead  
and relationally separated/dead

Our Creator knew this would happen and made a way of escape from  
spiritual poverty and death...a Mediator between Him and man

John 3:13-21 with John 1:29

Eph 1:1-14

Eph 2:1-9 enemies converted to children

Ps 19:7a The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul  
(from dead to living, devil to God, filthy to pure, darkness to light)

Speaking to the converted, those who believe in Jesus Christ, God Who became a man to  
save men, we are given the power of God to become the children of God and as  
such are given an inheritance

Heb 11:8-16

Phil 3:20

Matt 5:5 with Rev 1:5-6

Luke 12:15-32

Our inheritance is: spiritual, the kingdom of God, Jesus Christ His Son...  
Him in us and us in Him, therefore able to stand before a holy God...  
recipients of His

Grace...that which we do not deserve...unmerited forgiveness

Peace...that defies description, that world cannot give

Joy...regardless of circumstances

Love...unconditional and undying

Hope...joint-heirs with the Son (Rom 8:17a)

Eternal life...about which the Bible says...

It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words  
that I speak unto you, are spirit, and are life. (John 6:63)

for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. (2 Cor 3:6)

Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
(Matt 5:3)

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might be rich. (2 Cor 8:9)

Rom 5:8-21

And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (Rom 8:10)

being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7)

What could possibly be a better inheritance?!

ANY parcel of land or hyper-provisioned city?

Jesus is enough...Jesus is everything

you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (1 Cor 1:30)

Sufficiency of Jesus Christ...we can add nothing to His work

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God; (2 Cor 3:5)

And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work (2 Cor 9:8)

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor 12:9)

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Speaking to the unconverted, those who refuse God's gift of life and remain dead in their sin, what is their inheritance?

One word... Woe!

Is 5:20-21

Is 17:12

Is 29:15

Is 30:1

Is 45:9

Is 6:1-10

unbelief...not willing to be converted...leads to blindness etc

There is no subject more misunderstood by unconverted souls than the unconditional freeness of Jesus Christ...and their need for Him

Verily I say unto you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 18:3)

He that believes on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him. (John 3:36)

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (Acts 3:19)

As the lily among thorns, so *is* my love among the daughters. (Song 2:2)

The believer is described as a lily...the unbeliever as a thorn  
The converted soul is unspeakably precious in the eyes of Jesus Christ and  
Jesus Christ is unspeakably precious in the eyes of the believer.

But...the unconverted soul is like a thorn and the unbelieving world like a field of thorns...both fit only for burning

If you are unconverted, you must see how the Jesus Christ sees you  
You probably think you are a good, moral person but without a personal relationship with Jesus, you are dead, useless...fit only for burning  
But He has the power and the desire to transform you from a useless thorn to a precious lily...if you would just agree with Him and put your faith in Him to save you from that fire

Hell is quite ready for every unconverted soul...  
hell is never full (Prov 27:20) and it is full of "good" men  
Because only God is good  
He desires to give us His goodness

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so *is* my beloved among the sons.  
I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit *was* sweet to  
my taste. (Song 2:3)

The apple tree offers both shelter/shade and food  
Jesus is the apple tree to every weary traveler...

Jesus Christ of the Bible...not

- in Book of Mormon
- in New World Translation
- in Koran

Unconverted soul, why “camp” beneath a briar bush by a dry brook?  
Will the world with its business and wealth save you from the  
wages of sin?  
What good will all your possessions and earthly passions do you  
on the day your soul is required of you?

All God’s promises are made to Jesus Christ...  
and to sinners who cling to Him.  
The unconverted soul does not cling to Jesus...  
so there are no promises made to them.

Eternal life is a promise...sweet to the taste and a sure shelter...  
to those who believe in Jesus Christ and cling to Him

Your Creator has offered the promise of His eternal life to you,  
unconverted soul.  
If you refuse it, He will not pity you...He will not spare you.  
His offer is not negotiable...and it has a time limit.  
You are tottering on the brink of hell...accept His salvation now!

It is not for any goodness in man that Jesus Christ offered Himself as the  
Father’s sin sacrifice...  
He did so for lost, condemned men who hated Him.  
It is by the love and grace of God that puts Himself within our reach  
Unconverted soul...reach for Jesus while you still can!  
You too can say, “I once was blind but now I see.”  
You are without excuse if you refuse

Make this your heart cry...Ps 51:1-17

To the converted...James 5:20

Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall  
save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Preach the Gospel...live the Gospel

1:40

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men everywhere to repent:

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.  
(Acts 17:30-31)

If you were accused of a crime that could land you in jail for the rest of your life, would you defend yourself before a judge in the court of law... or hire the best attorney you could?

Well, you are guilty of offending the Creator and your just sentence is death  
But Jesus the Ultimate Defense Attorney is standing ready to take your punishment, allowing the Judge to declare you innocent  
Why won't you cry out to Jesus?

Come forward

## Joshua Chapter 18

Last week...our inheritance – children of God or children of devil

This week...the problem of falling short of our inheritance

v1 Shiloh and set up the tabernacle:

The military powers of the 7 Canaanite nations broken, the children of Israel under Joshua's leadership move the tabernacle further into the land...to Shiloh

- in the land apportioned to Ephraim, Joshua's tribe
- where the Lord set His name (Deut 14:24)  
also at Jerusalem...valleys = shem = name
- our visit in 1999 – “360 amphitheater” with countless potsherds

The tabernacle was in Shiloh about 300 years until Samuel's sons lost it to the Philistines (1 Sam 4:10-11)

v2-3 How long are ye slack to go to possess:

5 tribes have received their inheritance...gone to take it

1. Reuben
2. Gad
3. Manasseh (East and West)
4. Ephraim
5. Judah

Which means 7 have not gone to take their inheritance

And remember...the enemy remains in the midst of the tribes who have gone to take their inheritance

Ch 15:63, 16:10, 17:12-13

So Joshua asks a heart-piercing question...

”Why have you not gone to take your inheritance?  
What are you waiting for?”

A breath-taking question...uncomfortable, convicting

And a question we must come to grips with ourselves, actually 3 questions

- A. Why do we fall short of taking our inheritance?
- B. How do we take our inheritance?
- C. When will our inheritance finally be ours?

A. Why do we fall short of taking our inheritance?

Why do we not know the fullness/richness of our inheritance...

- love of God
- peace of God
- joy of the Lord?

Reasons

- Fear of man
- Weak faith
  
- Laziness/Neglect
- Complacency
  
- Compromise
- Double-mindedness
- Divided heart
  
- Disobedience/rebellion

What are all those things?

According to Scripture...

- the flesh
- the old man, the old nature
- our members
- our body of death

B. How do we take our full inheritance?

1. Fight the good fight of faith

Rom 7:14-25

A believer in Jesus Christ is to be known by his/her

- peace and joy
- warfare and distress

Peace and joy is “peculiar” (unknown by unbelievers):  
with God and of God, flowing from God

Warfare and distress is “peculiar” also:  
deep-seated, agonizing, unending

Rom 7:22

Before converted/born-again, a man hates the law of  
God, the Word of God

His heart is hard, harder than stone

Jer 5:3b      they have made their faces  
harder than a rock; they have  
refused to return.

The unconverted sinner loves sin...the law of God  
is opposed to sin so he hates the law of God

The law of God wars against his heart...

condemning his thoughts, motives, and  
desires/lusts

The law of God is not negotiable, not relative...

it is absolute and unchanging...

he has no excuse and needs to be changed

The entire being of natural man rises up against  
the Law of God

But when a man comes to Jesus Christ, all of that is  
changed

His heart is changed

Ezk 36:25-27

Rom 2:28-29...heart circumcision

1 John 4:17-19

And the Law of God is written on his heart!

Jer 31:31-34

2 Cor 3:1-6

The hatred for the Word of God is transformed into  
a love of the Word

No longer under condemnation but under grace, he

delights to do the will of God

and to obey every word of God

Yet...the internal war continues to rage

**Rom 7:23**

When a lost sinner first comes to Christ and is pardoned/converted/changed, he thinks that he will say “Good-bye and good riddance!” to sin

And then comes along a temptation for which he is too weak to resist...

and he “sees another law”

- of sin (Rom 7:25)
- of sin and death (Rom 8:2)

To the saved sinner/believer’s astonishment and agony, the flesh/old man is still there and very actively warring against the nature of Christ that is now dwelling in him

And the war is unending!

The flesh never gives up

He has peace with God...but not with his own flesh

He has constant war with sin and his flesh

unholy spirit + old man

vs

Holy Spirit + new creature

A war never won this side of eternity by

- Noah
- Abraham
- Job
- Moses
- David
- Peter
- Paul
- Any of the heroes of our faith

Have you experienced the agony of this war?

“How despicable I am!

Even after being forgiven by the grace of God and after being sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, my heart is still a prolific fountain of wickedness!”

“Even here, in the house of God, my thoughts are vile and putrid instead of God’s pure thoughts.”

**Rom 7:24**

In ancient times, dead bodies were chained to  
prisoners so that wherever they went, they  
had to drag that decaying carcass  
Above all else, the prisoner would desire to be freed  
from that dead body

Do you know the horror of your own wretchedness?

That means you are a child of God!  
Be humbled by this agony  
but not discouraged by it  
Know that we stand before the holy, holy,  
holy God in Jesus, not in ourselves  
His purity and righteousness cover our  
impurity and unrighteousness  
Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and  
is willing to be our Covering

The happiest people on earth are God's children,  
regardless of their outward circumstances  
Yet there are times of utter despair...  
"O wretched man that I am!"

What do we do with the dark cloud of grief, the  
loathsomeness of sin, the misery, the  
feeling of being filthy?

Listen to the Truth and the Giver of Life –

**Rom 8:1-2, 8-11**

1 John 1:9 (not **Rom 6:1**)

Do not listen to the liar...embracing a sense of guilt  
and not being forgiven

We must drag around our old man all of days this  
side of eternity

God allows this to

- drive us to our knees
- keep us calling on the name of the Lord
- beckon us before His Throne of grace
- to teach us that His grace is sufficient
- to teach us how much He loves us  
**Rom 8:35-39**
- to teach us to boast only in Him,  
to give all the glory to the Lamb

If you do not know the horror of your own  
wretchedness, you do not know the joy of  
Jesus' holiness

If you do not know the daily agony of a believer's  
tears and groans, you will not know His  
victory song

Keep fighting the good fight of faith...our hearts  
and minds are the battleground

2. With a broken heart

Ps 51:1-17

Ps 34:18

Is 57:15

contrite = broken, crushed

It is not the vile foulness of our own hearts that breaks it  
It is not the terror and torment of hell that breaks our hearts  
It is the revelation of the heart of God (love) and His  
majesty that breaks our heart

Ps 103:8-14

Job 42:5-6

Neh 8:9b wept when heard the Word of God

The love of God (for unlovely us) breaks our heart...  
The love of God is made manifest on the Cross of Christ  
The love of God is heard in the words of Christ on the  
Cross (Luke 23:34)

The preaching of the cross...  
of another's righteousness without which we are  
hopeless and will perish...  
is hated by a heart that is not broken...  
that message offends an unbroken heart

I am sure some have left this church because of the  
preaching of the Cross...  
and I am sure others will in the future

But a broken heart cannot be offended  
I cannot speak the message of the Cross too plainly  
or too frequently for a broken heart  
In fact, a broken heart hates sin more than I am able  
to make it with mere words

A broken heart is at rest in Jesus Christ...  
is satisfied with Christ alone  
Matt 11:28-30

[ water bottle vs oceans ]

The work of God is built on broken hearts...  
hearts who do not count their lives as their own

3. Obedience...walking by faith vs sight

James 1:22

Heb 3:12 – 4:1

4. Walk in the Spirit

Gal 5:16-18

We are hyper-sensitive in the flesh, dull in the spirit  
We need to be hyper-sensitive in the spirit, dull to the flesh

Summary: How do we take our full inheritance?

1. Fight the good fight of faith
2. Offer a broken heart
3. Obedience...walking by faith
4. Walk in the Spirit

C. When will the groaning caused by Joshua's piercing question be silenced?

1 John 3:1-3

[ Communion ]

Last time...the heart-piercing question to 7 tribes: “What are you waiting for?”

This time...the inheritance of the other 7 tribes

Review:

Ch 14:1-5...The land inheritance has been determined by lot for the 9½ tribes in the land of Canaan

Ch 14:6-15...Caleb’s inheritance

Ch 15-17...the inheritance for Judah and Joseph, (Ephraim and ½ Manasseh)...but not able to drive out the resident evil

Ch 18:1-3...To the 7 tribes who had not gone to take their inheritance – “What are you waiting for?”

So now, Joshua gets “hands-on” to accomplish his command in Ch 1:6

v4-7 I will send them:

The 7 tribes needed a push

- Perhaps like Ephraim and half Manasseh in Ch 17:14-18, wanted more land but did not want to fight for it
  
- Probably they did not have a heart like Caleb
  - Held tightly the promise of God and believed every word of God
  - Faithful to the Lord and His servant
  - Eager warrior
  - Dependable and “self-starting”

So Joshua takes charge of the job

- Give me 3 men x 7 tribes = survey party of 21 men
- Judah and Joseph are settled
- I will cast lots for you 7 tribes

Displacing the resident evil is not easy, it takes serious effort

- Sacrifice
- Denial of self
- Submission to the Lord and to the changes He wants to make
- Walking by faith and in the Spirit, trusting the Lord Who fights for us

God did not save us so we can sit around and twiddle our thumbs... we are to serve Him and to do His work in the world

All of us are commanded by the Captain of our salvation to march...  
to take back that which was stolen from Him – lost souls  
He has promised us that the gates of hell won't be able to withstand our  
assault

“Seeking and saving” rescue missions require

- Boldness...not the brazenness of self-righteousness
- Sharing our faith
  - In action – our lives
  - In speech – our personal testimony, the Gospel
- Engaging the POWs in bondage to the resident evil
  - Reason together about “What do you believe?”
  - Invite to church, HF, Men's/Women's Study
  - Giving tracts, like Gospel of John

Are we, the Lord's Army, like

- Caleb – faithful and eager warriors that believe every word of God?
- Ephraim and half Manasseh – want the Lord's blessing but are not willing to fight the resident evil for it?
- The 7 tribes – immature and still needing to be led around by the hand?

v8-10 the men arose, and went away...came to Joshua:

Needing to be told what to do step-by-step rather than having the  
spiritual maturity to take care of business by themselves,  
the 7 tribes via the 21 surveyors

- Go
- Surveyed the land
- Returned to Joshua in Shiloh

Then Joshua cast the lots before the Lord

v11-28 Benjamin:

The first lot cast went to Benjamin

- Border: v11-20
- Cities: v21-28
- Not a large portion of land
- Between Judah and Ephraim
- Centrally located
- Included Jerusalem

## Joshua Chapter 19

v1-9 Simeon:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> lot went to Simeon...one of Jacob's "problem children" and a tribe omitted from Moses' blessing in Deut 33

- Smallest tribe
- Surrounded by Judah...had more cities than they could occupy
- Separated from all other tribes
- Gen 49:5-7

v10-16 Zebulun:

The next lot goes to Zebulun  
Between Mount Carmel and Sea of Galilee

The Bethlehem mentioned in v15 is by Nazareth...  
north of Jerusalem, not the Bethlehem spoken of in  
Micah 5:2 (Bethlehem-Ephrathah)

v17-23 Issachar:

Next, Issachar

Includes much of the Valley of Jezreel

- Breadbasket – most fertile valley in the Middle East (world?)
- Battleground –
  - of competing superpowers from south (Egypt) and north (Babylon, Assyria, Persia)
  - of Saul and all the kings of Israel
  - of Vespasian and Saladin and Napoleon
  - of the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 16:16)

v24-31 Asher:

5<sup>th</sup>, Asher

Assigned a strip of land between Naphtali and Med Sea

v32-39 Naphtali

Next to last, Naphtali

Chinnereth = Sea of Galilee/Kinneret/Chinnereth/Tiberias

With Zebulun, referred to as “Galilee of the Gentiles

Matt 4:12-16...ministry HQ for the Messiah, Jesus Christ

v40-48 Dan:

Lastly, the lot assigned to Dan...

about which we will hear more in Judges 18

Assigned the land between Benjamin and Med Sea,  
between Judah and Ephraim

Dan showed some gumption after getting kick-started

v49-50 Joshua:

Joshua makes sure everyone else has their inheritance before he gets his

A model of great leadership

- Servant of all
- Did not come to be served but to serve
- Denial of self for the benefit of others

His inheritance is “high ground”, a mountain region like Caleb’s

v51 These are the inheritances:

Ch 1:6 is complete!

Mission Accomplished by Joshua

“It is Finished” of sorts

Joshua, of course, is a foreshadow of Jesus Christ

And as a result of Jesus’ “It is finished”...

Gal 3:26-29

Rom 8:17

Rev 1:5-6

Now let’s talk about that “It is finished”...

## Joshua Chapter 20

v1-6 cities of refuge:

The Cities of Refuge have been previously discussed in  
Ex 21 (Sinai), Num 35 (wilderness), Deut 19 (border)  
this, in the land, is the 4<sup>th</sup> discussion in Scripture

### Review

- A person accidentally or unintentionally kills another person
  - An accident...he did not know
    - the other person was there
    - “that” would happen
  
- Given Gen 9:6, he flees to safety from the avenger of blood
  - “redeemer” of the family honor by slaying the killer
  
- At the gate of a City of Refuge
  - the place where legal matters were handled by the city elders
  - he pleads his case
  - the elders receive him as one of their own and give him a place to dwell
  - to protect him from the wrath of the avenger of blood
  
- Until
  - an investigation of the case is made and a trial conducted in the city nearest the scene of the crime
    - if found guilty of premeditated murder,
      - declared “Guilty”
      - no refuge for murderers
      - turned over to the avenger of blood for judgment
    - if found innocent of premeditated murder
      - is guilty of manslaughter, “Innocent” of murder (motives count...SoM)
      - forfeits his personal freedom but his life is saved
      - allowed to live in the city and is protected as long as he stays there
  - the death of the High Priest, at which point is free to return to his home

Now, all 6 cities are named

v7-9 they appointed:

- v7 cities on West side Jordan
  - Kadesh: north
  - Shechem: middle
  - Hebron: south

- v8 cities on East side Jordan
  - Bezer: south
  - Ramoth: middle
  - Golan: north

A City of Refuge was near everyone...Canaan about the size of Maryland

So what?

Why is this topic so frequently spoken of?

Are the names important?

John 5:39

Heb 10:7

Elements

- a slayer/killer/murderer
  - Rom 3:9-19
  - Rom 6:23a
- a Refuge
  - with gates open wide 24/7
  - 2 Sam 22:1-4
    - Ps 9:7-10 for the oppressed
    - Ps 62:1-7 my refuge is in God
    - Ps 91:1-5 insinuation: in the heights
  - Heb 6:17-20
  - Acts 4:12 no other name under heaven
  - John 15:4a, 7 abide in
- a “trial”
  - even though no investigation is needed because all are guilty
  - Is 53:4-6 with Luke 23:34
    - We did not know...
    - He declared us innocent of premeditation...forgiven
  - John 8:1-11
  - Rom 8:1

- forfeiture of self-will/freedom but salvation from wrath of avenger of blood
  - 2 Cor 5:17-21
  - Rom 6:23b
  
- a High Priest
  - died to set us free
    - Heb 2:10 - 3:2
    - John 8:32, 36
  - But rose again unto eternal life...never to die again
    - Heb 7:11-28
  
- the avenger of blood/redeemer of family honor
  - Is 63:1-6
  - Rev 19:11-16

All foretold by the names of the cities

- Kadesh: “righteousness”  
Rom 8:1  
2 Cor 5:21
  
- Shechem: “shoulder”  
Like those of a Shepherd  
Ps 23 and John 10
  
- Hebron: “communion, fellowship”  
2 Cor 5:17-21
  
- Bezer: “fortress”  
2 Sam 22: 2, Ps 91:2
  
- Ramoth: “heights”  
Eph 1:3
  
- Golan: “exile”  
We are all exiles, strangers, pilgrims in this world

North to middle to south...and...south to middle to north...  
Jesus Christ is Mediator between God and man  
Came down...returned

1:40

- a slayer/killer/murderer
- a Refuge
- a “trial”
- forfeiture of self-will/freedom but salvation from wrath of avenger of blood
- a High Priest
- the avenger of blood/redeemer of family honor

## Joshua Chapter 21

Last time...the inheritance of the 7 remaining tribes and Cities of Refuge

This time...Levitical cities and a vehement warning

v1-2 Then came...the Levites:

Now that the land inheritance has been apportioned to each tribe,  
the leaders of the Levites come to the national leaders to get their  
cities...promised in Num 35

Remember Gen 49:5-7...the Levites will be scattered throughout Israel  
But God used this arrangement to

- teach all the tribes the Law
- plant a spiritual influence in the midst of all tribes

v3 the children of Israel gave:

No questions asked,  
no murmuring and complaining...  
just simple obedience

v4 the children of Aaron:

The children of Aaron, the priests, of the families of Kohath,  
got the first lot

Casting lots is NOT a game of chance, not like rolling the dice  
The lot is God's choice revealed to man...  
not man's choice imposed on other men

The lot for the priests is the southern contiguous tribes...  
which includes Jerusalem, future site of the Tabernacle and  
Temple

v5 rest of the children of Kohath:

The other families of Kohath, which are assigned the task of bearing the  
sanctuary and the furniture of the Tabernacle, got the next lot

Also from a contiguous group of tribes, including Manasseh West and  
Ephraim...Shiloh, the current site of the Tabernacle

- v6 children of Gershom:  
 Next, the children of Gershom, who are tasked with bearing the covering, curtains, etc of the Tabernacle...the “software”
- Another contiguous group of tribes, including Manasseh East
- v7 children of Merari:  
 Finally, the children of Merari, who are assigned the task of bearing the boards, bars, etc of the Tabernacle...the “hardware”
- Their cities are in incongruous tribes...divided  
 Zebulun, on the West, is separated from Reuben and Gad, on the East
- v8 Israel gave by lot:  
 All the sons of Jacob now have places to live in the land of Canaan/Israel
- v9-19 children of Aaron:  
 These are the cities given to the priests in Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin  
 Includes Hebron, a City of Refuge
- v20-26 children of Kohath, the Levites:  
 The cities given to the “non-priest” Kohathites  
 Includes Shechem, a City of Refuge
- Kohath has two Cities of Refuge
- v27-33 children of Gershom:  
 The cities given to the children of Gershom  
 Includes two Cities of Refuge, Golan and Kedesh
- v34-40 children of Merari:  
 The cities given to Merari  
 Includes the other two Cities of Refuge, Bezer (undesignated as so) and Ramoth
- v41-42 cities of the Levites:  
 In total, 48 Levitical cities with their surrounding pasture lands

v43-45 the LORD gave...all the land...rest...all came to pass:  
Where do we stand?

The LORD gave the children of Israel

- all the land He promised to AI&J
- rest...victory and security...from their enemies
  - all of which had been delivered into their hands by the Lord Who fights for them
  - not so much as a man could stand against them
- every good thing He promised them

The Lord made good His Word...as He always has, always will  
His Word is certain Truth

Has Israel been as faithful to their word to Him?

Not one word of the Word of God failed...every promise was fulfilled

Not one word of His unfulfilled promises will fail...  
every word will come true

- Jesus coming in the clouds to meet His Bride and take Her to His Father's house
- Jesus returning to earth to judge His enemies and set up His Kingdom
- The First Resurrection unto Life for those who believe in Him
  - no more tears
  - "Well done, good and faithful servant...into into the joy of your Lord."
- The Second Resurrection unto Death for those who reject Him
  - everlasting torment
  - "Away from Me you workers of iniquity...I never knew you."

## Joshua Chapter 22

v1-4 Ye have kept all...Ye have not left:

With every Israelite having a place to call home, Joshua summons the soldiers from the “East-side” to Shiloh:

“You left wives, children, flocks, herds about 14 years ago

- to conquer the land, fighting with their brethren against the Canaanites
- to divide the land alongside their brothers until all had a place they could call home

You kept your word to

- Moses (Num 32)
- me (Ch 1)

You are released to go home.”

v5-6 But:

“But”...indicating a sharp change...

From: a heartfelt thanks and commendation

To: a vehement exhortation...to

- do...the Word of God, the Law of God
- love...your God, the LORD
- walk/live...in His ways, worthy of your calling
- keep/guard...your hearts with the Word of God
- cleave/stick to/follow...your God
- serve...your God with every fiber of your being

Joshua’s primary concern is their spiritual health and well-being

Then he concludes:

“The Lord bless you.  
Your military duty is complete.  
You are dismissed.”

The “honorable discharge” has all ACTION verbs

James 1:22

John 15:21-23

John 13:34-35

John 15:12-13

to hear = to obey = to love

The person who loves the Lord is the person who obeys the Lord’s words

Jesus Christ

- made good His Word...kept His promises to the Father
- did everything the Father sent Him to do...for us

Ps 22

Is 53

Gal 3:13

2 Cor 5:21

Foreshadowed in the Altar of the Tabernacle

Ex 20:25 If you lift up your tool upon it (the altar), you have polluted it.

Unregenerate man takes delight in turning the Cross of Jesus Christ into a religious system that is more agreeable to his depraved taste...thereby authoring another gospel, which is not the truth of God at all.

Spurgeon: “The proud heart of man is very anxious to have a hand in the justification of the soul before God.”

We cannot add to Perfect

- Love
- Sacrifice

We can only take away from Perfect by our corruption...  
to pollute it, dishonor it, blaspheme it

Let us drop the tools of Self...ruin and defilement

Instead, let us do/love/live/guard/cleave/serve...abide (John 15:1-10)

- in Jesus Christ, the True Vine (Is 5)
- in Jesus’ love
- in the Father’s love

Ps 31:23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: *for* the LORD preserves the faithful, and plentifully rewards the proud doer.

Out of a proud heart that does not abide comes rotten fruit...garbage

Ps 33:16 a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

Ps 146:9 The LORD preserves the strangers; he relieves the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

Out of a humble, broken heart comes sweet fruit that

- is pleasing to the Father and
- glorifies the Father

John 15:8

which is Jesus' motive

John 14:13

John 15:16

Now...He has sent us to do...our motive being to please and glorify Him

What can we do?

- Love Jesus more
  - Mary Magdalene
    - forgiven much, loved much
    - sat adoringly at Jesus' feet
    - anointed His feet before the Cross...
      - it was the outpouring of her loving heart
      - Jesus treasured
    - went to Jesus' tomb...and did not leave until she found Him
      - (others fled, Risen Lord 1<sup>st</sup> revealed to her)

Jesus desires the adoration and love of a believer's broken heart, poured out upon His nail-scarred feet

Jesus loves the tears and groans from a broken heart

Ps 40:6 with Is 64:6

Ps 51:16-17

Personal devotion time...prayer and Word...

is the very essence and evidence, the barometer, of one's relationship with Jesus

Time that is daily, undisturbed, passionate

Sporadic, interrupted, lukewarm are signs of relational decay

We are gravely mistaken if we believe that being a  
Christian is merely to have certain views, opinions,  
and convictions

If our faith in Jesus has not led to a devoted life, we are  
merely living a delusion

The heart God loves to fellowship with is a heart that is  
hungry and thirsty for more of Him

Prayer and the Word...we must be alone with Jesus

- Walk/live more holy...more worthy of our calling  
When a believer walks into a room, the sweet fragrance of  
God should fill that room

How many lost souls might be converted if we the Bride of  
Christ lived more holy lives more consistently?

There is no argument for Jesus Christ like a holy life

- Keep/guard our hearts more  
Not allow ourselves to be put in situations harmful to us

1 Cor 15:33 partiers, blasphemers, disorderly

Rom 16:17 avoid unhealthy relationships  
yourself...cannot but be affected  
them...not hinder pursuit of God  
Church...confusion

Don't ever test the strength of your flesh to pursue  
righteousness...

the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak

There is nothing more deceitful than the estimate of our  
own strength

- Cleave/stick to/follow closer

A friend

- is loyal and faithful, sticking by your side in good times and in bad... does not leave and forsake
- does not have an agenda for the relationship... “no strings attached”
- accepts us...warts and all...without criticism or condemnation
- does not receive a false witness...knows better

How many friends do you have? (not friend-ly people)

With how many people are you friends?

Prov 18:24...and His name is Jesus Christ

Reciprocate His friendship...it is priceless

- Serve more

Jesus came to do the Father’s work...

to seek and save the lost

Having done His part on earth, He returned to the Father and sent us to be His witnesses/ambassadors of that continuing work...

the Father is not done seeking and saving lost souls

We know because Jesus has revealed to us that

- hell is a real place
- we are surrounded by unconverted souls who are marching to hell with vigor and determination
- He is The Savior, the only Way to salvation
- His loving hands are still stretched out to receive repentant sinners
- His goodness leads to repentance

Can you serve Jesus more by being a more vigorous and determined witness of His sacrificial, saving love?

Do we serve Jesus in ALL we do?

Will we do menial, “unseen” work for Jesus...

or must the work be “seen” to be interesting?

Can we serve Him more in the household of faith?  
If we want an intimate relationship with Jesus,  
we must serve Him and His Bride  
“Mary AND Martha”...Mary first, then Martha

Those who sit at His feet...  
for Him, to soak up His love and drink up His  
fellowship...

are those who

- give the most of themselves to Him
- serve Him the most
- abide the closest

Why should we do more?

- Jesus has willingly done everything He could for us  
The Son of God thought nothing “over the top” to rescue us
  - humbled Himself
  - allowed us to humiliate Him
  - suffered and died

Rom 5:8

- Satan does everything he can to prevent us from doing more  
As roaring lion, serpent, or angel of light  
Stirring up hatred, bitterness, confusion, strife, discord  
Knowing his time is short, he rages all the more
- We already have done everything we could for Satan  
Do we pursue Jesus and “do” for Jesus with the same  
intensity and passion that we pursued sin...  
and served Satan?  
We spared no cost...health, money, time...  
for our lustful gratification

What cost do we spare to serve Jesus?

Our “pet” sin must die...even though “it” will  
scream loud and long

It is an idol...for which a jealous God sent his Son  
to become and then to be sacrificed

God is a consuming fire...of our sins

May we serve Jesus Christ as zealously as we once served  
Satan

May we “do” all boldly, holding nothing back.

Jesus honors those who honor Him

1:40

Unconverted

Aware of your wayward condition, outside the peace and joy of God?

Aware of your sin separating you from our loving Father?

Go to the Cross...plead

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.

1Tim 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Go...just as you are

Backslider

Believer – filling of Holy Spirit

Last time...a vehement exhortation to: do, love, walk, keep, cleave, and serve

This time...a presumptuous altar

v7-8 blessed them...Return...divide:

After thanking and honorably discharging the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh in v1-6, Joshua has a final exhortation:

“Return with much spoil of your enemies and divide it with those who stayed behind to protect your families and possessions.”

As then modeled/commanded by David in 1 Sam 30:23-25  
Every part of the Body is valued and important

v9 land of Canaan...land of Gilead:

And the 2½ tribes departed...to a different land.

What was the land God promised to AI&J and their children?

The land of Canaan

Where are 2½ tribes going?

Out of the land of Canaan and back to the land of Gilead,  
a different land on the other side of the Jordan River...  
per their choice (Num 32)

Before crossing the Jordan,  
they saw a land good for their cattle and their material  
possessions  
and they coveted it and settled for it rather than  
waiting for an unseen land promised by God to be  
good for them and their material possessions

They settled for good instead of waiting for God's best...  
thus being geographically separated from their brethren

Moses gave them the separate land (v7, Num 32)...  
the Lord gave them their choice

v10 came unto the border...built there an altar:

They came to this formidable barrier/border, the Jordan River Valley  
(part of the Rift Valley)...  
and in the land of Canaan, not in the land of Gilead, they built an altar...  
a large altar

This is very curious and confusing

- Why not on their land but on someone else's land?  
Did they have the permission of "Manasseh West" to build there...or did they just presume it would be OK because they were brothers?
- An altar is a place of worship and sacrifice...  
the altar of the God of Israel is at Shiloh...  
are the 2½ tribes separating themselves spiritually as well as geographically?
  - their choice was physical/material vs spiritual,  
one of walking by sight vs by faith
  - by their choice they
    - stayed outside a safe border vs coming inside that safe border chosen by God
    - separating themselves from God's blessings in the land of Canaan
  - a type of "borderline believers"...  
with one foot in the world and one foot in the Lord  
(not entering into His rest)

CH MacIntosh: An undecided, half-and-half Christian is more inconsistent (unstable) than an open, out-and-out worldling or infidel.

James 1:8

v11-12 children of Israel heard say...go up to war:

When the 9½ tribes...including “Manasseh West”...heard what the 2½ tribes had done, they were greatly alarmed

“This is wrong and evil!

Israel had been commanded by God to break down all false altars in the land of Canaan and to not erect false ones themselves

Deut 12:1-14 (land of Gilead already conquered...v9)

This will lead to

- a complete separation from us
- confusion
- rebellion against the Lord...to their harm and ours.”

Based on

- the actions and appearances of the 2½ tribes
- the Word of God

an assumption was made by the 9½ tribes about the motive of the 2½ tribes...

and a course of action was determined based on that assumption

v13-14 Phinehas...ten princes:

Wisdom of the elders is evident

Prov 18:13

Prov 20:18

Prov 24:6

So the zealous priest Phinehas and the “ruler” of each of the 10 tribes go on a fact-finding mission

Who is on the mission says how serious the matter is – people in authority in Israel who are

- responsible and accountable to keep order
- responsible and accountable for worship

v15-20 spoke with them:

The 11 leaders from the 9½ tribes travel to the land of Gilead to question the 2½ tribes about what they did

“What is this act of treachery that you have done – against the God of Israel (not against us...v16) – by building an unauthorized altar?

a. To turn your back on God? (idolatry)

Like the iniquity of Peor...the results of which are still in our midst (Num 25:1-9)  
24,000 Israelites died as a result

Note: why Phinehas was selected to lead this mission... a zeal for the Lord pleasing to Him

Num 25:10-13

Ps 106:28-31

b. To rebel against the Lord, to openly disobey Him? (apostasy)

Like Achan (Ch 7:1)...coveted that which was the Lord's and not given to him

His entire family and 36 “innocents” died as a result (at the defeat at Ai)

The husband is responsible for his family... his leading affects every family member

Your sin affects the entire nation!”

But in the midst of the interrogation: wise counsel...v19

“If your choice of settling vs waiting was the wrong choice, repent and come home with us.

We will make room for you so that you too may live in The Best, God's appointed land for all of us.

God's Promised Land is more than sufficient for all of us.”

“your possession” vs “possession of the LORD”

The entire congregation is harmed by the choices of a portion

- backsliding
- “Achan hearts”...disobedience to the will of God

An opportunity to repent is offered...

to make the right choice and be unified vs separated

v21-23 answered and said:

“Jehovah El Elohim, Jehovah El Elohim...He knows our hearts!”

Invoking

1. Jehovah...“The Self-Existent eternal God”
2. El...“The Mighty One”
3. Elohim...“God”

twice to denote emphasis, the 2½ tribes express horror at the assumption and assertion of the leaders of the 9½ tribes about their motives

They even agreed that if the assumption and assertion were correct, they should be so charged and judged...  
”but that was not our motive.”

Proclaiming our motives to be pure does not make our actions correct, does not change the error

Countless misguided and erroneous actions have been shielded by  
“The Lord knows my heart.”

Yes, He does but error is error...  
even the appearance of error is error  
Repentance is still required

2 Cor 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

v24-25 your children...the LORD hath made:

The 2½ tribes explained/justified their building of an unauthorized altar:  
“We built the altar not out of treachery (idolatry or apostasy) but  
because we are fearful/anxious of...your children.”

In their anxiety, they make two assumptions

1. your children could easily lead our children astray

The 2½ tribes were living in the land of their choice,  
not in the land of God’s choice.

Yet they feared the children of the 9½ tribes living in the  
land of God’s choice would lead astray their  
children living in the land of their choice,  
not God’s choice

Reality: The danger is the exact opposite – that the  
children of the 2½ tribes living in the land of their  
choice would lead astray the children of the 9½  
tribes living in the land of God’s choice

But they pointed to others rather than taking responsibility  
for themselves...  
seeing the possible future error of others rather than  
their own present error

2. your children will use the Jordan River Valley against us

The Jordan River Valley is a very formidable border and  
geographical barrier

The 2½ tribes are blaming the 9½ tribes for their choice of  
borders

The Lord’s choice of borders would have made the  
Jordan River Valley a border for their safety

(they probably don’t even recognize that they are  
misplacing blame for their choice)

Reality: They made the Jordan River Valley the border, the  
dividing line...

They chose the barrier, thinking they could have it  
both ways –  
living outside the land of promise while  
claiming the promises and blessings of God

v26-29 Let us now prepare...a witness:

The children of the 9½ tribes blamed, the 2½ tribes now justify why they built the altar

- Not for worship or sacrifice...  
"not an alternate place to worship, that would be wrong!"
- But a witness/testimony between us and you...  
of our bond to you and our unity with you

Fingers have been pointed...

Blame for the misguided action has been shifted...

Devotion has been proclaimed

Reality: This altar was a man-made, artificial, unauthorized monument...  
it was not commanded by the will of God, was not part of being  
released by Joshua...

it was the result of "doing what was right in their own eyes"

If all 9½ tribes were alarmed by what was supposed to be a good deed and that alarm took the entire congregation to the brink of civil war, that good deed was woefully misguided

To demonstrate their bond to and unity with the 9½ tribes,  
all the 2½ tribes had to do was obey the Word/will of God

Ex 23:17...centralized worship at the altar of God

They did not need to presume to build an unauthorized altar on the land of the 9½ tribes to remind the 9½ tribes that they belonged to the nation

So, that unauthorized altar was actually a witness of the 2½ tribes'

- walking by sight vs faith
- walking in the flesh vs in the Spirit
- worldliness vs holiness

Had the 2½ tribes waited for God's best they could not see instead of settling for good they could see, this whole mess would never had happened

In the justification for their behavior and choices, they have a distorted view of reality

The altar is ill-advised, the product of clouded and carnal thinking...error

v30-33 it pleased them...pleased the children of Israel:

Most certainly wanting peace instead of civil war, Phinehas, the 10 tribal rulers, and all 9½ tribes in the land of Canaan are pleased

Note: Did the leaders of the 9½ tribes ever say the 2½ tribes were bad people and not their brethren?

No, not even once!

From man's perspective, the whole thing ended peacefully  
But we must look at things from God's perspective and not man's

Q: Was the Lord pleased?  
Why would He be?

2½ tribes have

- made a presumptuous altar...the appearance of evil (1 Thes 5:22) that caused the entire congregation to stumble
- blamed others for doing it (oldest trick in the Book)
- refused the wise counsel to repent and come home to the land of Canaan, the land of God's choosing for all the children of AI&J
- remained separated from their brethren by a formidable barrier
- have a distorted view of reality about the whole thing

In the future they will be the first to fall into idolatry and the first to be carried away captive (1 Chron 5:25-26)  
Might that have been avoided if the offer to repent and come home had been accepted?

All Israel probably mistook God's staying hand for His approval and blessing

He kept the nation from needlessly falling into a civil war...  
but it is a false assumption to say that means He was pleased

Warren Weirsbe: The peace that God's people achieve at the price of purity and truth is only a dangerous truth that eventually explodes into painful division.

Matthew Henry: Peace is such a precious jewel that I would give anything for it...except truth

v34 Ed...witness:

The Hebrew word “ed” means “witness”

They called this presumptuous, unauthorized altar a “witness between us that the Lord is God.”

What kind of a witness is this altar?

A witness of their carnal choice to live in a land that was not God’s choice for them

Are the 2 ½ tribes saying the Word or doing the Word?

Acts 17:11...words and deeds

James 1:8...double-mindedness produces complete instability

Lesson: There can be no compromise on holiness, the essential nature of God

1. Pure motives while walking by sight vs faith are not pleasing to the Lord...  
Pleasing to the Lord is complete obedience to His will

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

2. Good deeds can mask confusion...but not remove it
3. Ignorance leads to folly...and then to pain
4. All need to be concerned about their heart and God’s heart, not the other side’s heart...then the Prince of Peace will work and make peace

Oh, how subtle and deceptive is our enemy!

Oh, how simple are we...sheep!

Oh, how longsuffering is our Good Shepherd!

May God have mercy on us, may God help us.

1:40

## Joshua Chapter 23

Last time...Peace is such a precious jewel that I would give anything for it...except truth  
This time...Last Words of Joshua

- Leaders (Ch 23)
- Nation (Ch 24)

A person's last words must be listened to carefully – of all the things they could say,  
they said this  
We should pay attention

v1 a long time after...Joshua waxed old:

A period of war and conflict has been followed by a period of peace...  
a time for the entire nation to Ch 22:5

The land is secured...but is their work of cleansing the land done?  
No...enemies remain, the work is not done.

At this time, Joshua is 110 years old

v2 Joshua call for:

And at this time, Joshua calls a Leadership Meeting

This is a remarkable man who has seen a lot

- born and lived as an Egyptian slave...  
born of the house of Joseph
- Moses' servant, his military "arm"
- dry ground at the Red Sea and the destruction of the world's  
most powerful army by the strong arm of God
- the defeat of the Amalakites, a military power themselves,  
by God using a rag tag corps of ex-slaves
- the glory of God on Mount Sinai
- one of 2 faithful spies
- the miraculous provision of God for 40 years in the wilderness
- dry ground again...the crossing of the Jordan River,  
parted during flood stage
- the conquest of 7 mighty nations in the land of Canaan
- the allotment of God's inheritance to the children of AI&J
- peace
- oldest living Israelite

Yet now, at the end of his life, his only concern is

- not for himself
- not for his legacy
- for his brethren and their relationship with the Lord...  
the subject matter of his last words

v3 all that the LORD your God hath done:

This man of God, servant of God, always gave all the glory to God

“Do not forget Who has done all these marvelous things –  
it was the LORD, not me and not you.

He fought for us –

we did not do any of this of our own strength.

I am weak and mortal –

He is almighty and immortal.”

v4-5 I have divided...he shall expel:

“He who has started a good work ...purifying our inheritance...  
will be faithful to finish it.

Coexistence in the Promised Land is not God’s plan...it is the enemy’s.”

This complete cleansing of their inheritance

- will be a gradual, life-long process
- will be accomplished by sustained and complete obedience to  
the Word

Joshua was a mighty man because he was

- devoted to the Lord
- devoted to the Word of God
- believed every word of the Word of God
- obeyed the Word of God, day-by-day
- continually sought to know his God even more

Jesus Christ and His eternal life is our inheritance

- He has begun a good work of conforming us into His image...
- He will be faithful to complete it
- This work is a life-long process...but the pace/progress is a  
function of
  - our devotion to Him
  - our obedience to His Word
    - Will we unconditionally and completely  
submit?
    - Will we hinder His work by resisting it,  
not submitting?

v6-7 to keep and to do:

Therefore...since the above is true...be very courageous to keep and to do the Word of God

Great courage is needed because

- we are contrary to the world...and the world hates us as a result
  - the god of this world will continually attack us
    - divide and conquer
    - frontal assault
    - serpent – subtle confusion
    - roaring lion – blatant, violent attack
    - angel of light – clever deception
  - the world will apply tremendous pressure to
    - conform us back into their image
    - silence us
    - distract us
    - discourage us
    - destroy us
- we are alone in the world...with the all-powerful Maker of heaven and earth

He fights for us...the Master defends His servants

- He is a man of war
- His Word is a sharp-two-edged sword...  
handled correctly, the best defense is a strong offense

What is our part in this great, life-long battle?

- Continually guard our hearts and minds with the Word of God
- Unconditional obedience to the Word of God
- Continual and complete submission to the Lord our all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful God Who fights for us

Any compromise with the world by us defiles the holiness of God in us

The object of the epic struggle here on this cursed earth is the hearts of men...politics, commerce, religion

The battlefield for the hearts of men is the minds of men

Religion: “Coexist” is a clever strategy of extinction of the people of God by the god of this world

Any toehold of the world in our minds can lead to

- complacency and lukewarmed-ness
- Self-ishness
- idolatry
- apostasy
- trusting in, serving, and worshipping a false god...  
and the demon behind it

The mind is:

1. a Garden that is cultivated to produce the harvest God desires
2. a Workshop where decisions about life and eternity are made
3. an Armory where we forge weapons for either our victory or our destruction
4. a Battlefield where all decisive battles of life are won or lost

Fix your mind on Jesus

- prayer (unceasing)
- His Word (daily, meditation)

Beware of even the slightest move toward backsliding or compromise

v8 But cleave:

How do we protect our minds?

Cleave...stick to like glue...

- The LORD our God
- The Captain of our salvation
- Our Deliverer and Redeemer
- Our Bridegroom (Gen 2:24)

The only way to hold fast is to believe more, submit more, commit more  
We cannot cleave unto two, we cannot love two

Stick like glue all the days of our lives...to the very last day

Last Words of Apostle Paul – 2 Tim 4:6-8

Enduring, unrelenting, persevering  
faith, submission, and obedience

v9 LORD hath driven:

Consider and remember the Lord's track record in battle –  
undefeated, whether the battle was

- a minor skirmish
- a "Jericho"

The Lord our Defense is stronger than any enemy...  
who can be against us?

2 Kings 6:16-17      they with us more than they with them  
2 Chron 20:12      no might against great company...do...eyes  
1 John 4:4

v10 one man of you shall chase a thousand:

Hyperbole?

Poetry?

1973 Yom Kippur War – one lone Israeli tank vs an entire Syrian armored division

Syrian tank commander explanation for stopping within striking distance of Tiberias...

Joshua

- knew the Word of God, meditated on it (quoting Deut 32:30)...and so should we
- believed every word of the Word of God... and so should we
- was absolutely convinced of the faithfulness of God to every word of His Word...so should we

v11 Take good heed therefore:

Therefore...since the above is true...be zealous in your love for the Lord Who jealously loves you

Be

- passionate
- vigilant
- diligent
- whole-hearted
- uncompromising

in your

- devotion
- submission
- obedience
- holy living

Backsliding, rebellion, compromise are

- not sudden...alarming and obvious
- gradual...not discerned, unnoticed

Holiness requires separation from impurities and infections

v12-13 Else if you in any wise go back:

If we slack off in our love and devotion, obedience and submission to the Lord...we will

- compromise the Word and holiness of God
- “coexist” and backslide into idolatry and apostasy
- embrace, become one with, false gods...spiritual infidelity

And the Lord is jealous, his Name is jealous...He will

- allow us to experience the consequences of our choice...
  - snares, traps...things that catch us unaware
  - scourges...goads of the Good Shepherd
  - thorns...blinding
- chastise us for our disobedience, stiff-necked-ness, and folly...until we submit to His perfect will

Folly leads to pain...damage to our relationship with our Bridegroom

v14-16 all good things...all evil things:

Joshua concludes his Leadership Meeting with this:

“I am going back to the dust from whence I came.

Know beyond the shadow of a doubt

- Obey the Lord and He will bless you
- Disobey the Lord and He will chastise you
  
- Not one word of His promises has failed
- Not one word of His promises will fail – the curses are as true as the blessings (Deut 27-28)

Heb 4:12 2-edged sword

Rom 11:22 goodness and severity

- Do not test the Lord...  
believe and obey the Lord.
- Be holy because the Lord our God is holy...  
don't live like the world.

When you fail...”

The Lord told Moses the future “performance” of Israel

He also tells Joshua – covenant breakers

The Lord is saying,  
“Do as the Canaanites do and I will do to you as I did to them.  
I am no respecter of persons.”

Hear that, profess-ers of Jesus Christ?!  
When we let go of Christ, we let go of our righteousness and  
we will fall into sin.  
As children of God, we cannot sin and NOT be chastised...  
God never “winks” at our wanderings

Defeat, discomfort, and disgrace await our

- compromising the holiness of God and the Word of God
- disobedience and insubordination

Israel “evicted”...how could the unthinkable happen?  
Gradually

- one small wandering step at a time
- 99.9 % devotion and obedience
- slacking off just one moment in perilous times

Heeding the Last Words of Joshua, we must without compromise

1. Keep the Word of God (v6)
2. Cleave to the Lord (v8)
3. Love the Lord (v11)

to live holy lives pleasing to our God and Savior

Unbelief and rebellion do not altar even so much as a jot or tittle of the unchanging,  
absolute Truth of the Word of God...a sharp two-edged sword

God will not be mocked  
Only a fool says God

- does not exist
- does not see, hear, or care
- will do nothing

God says what He means and means what He says  
Ours is not to interpret Scripture...Scripture interprets Scripture  
The Holy Spirit is the Teacher  
Ours is not to negotiate or debate...ours is to obey...  
completely and unconditionally and continually

**Rom 10:1-3**

“I would not have you to be ignorant...”

1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols

Ps 1

Ps 15:1-3

God has been so good to us!

The very least we can do is be pleasing to Him

Rom 2:4

Conditions of the heart necessary for restoration/reconciliation

1. Repentance by the one who sinned against another
2. Forgiveness by the one sinned against for the sin-ner

Both are necessary...not one without the other

Both are lifestyles...of meekness and humility

Repentance is not what we do...

it is a condition of the heart...

a change of heart from the heart of God

Fruits worthy/acceptable/indicative of repentance is what we do

Is repentance genuine?

Examine the fruit.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Announcement: After Joshua: Gospel of John

- To know our God
- To love our God
- To share our God

1:40

3 John 4

holiness: repentance, humility, meekness, submission, surrender  
Love...truth...peace

## Joshua Chapter 24

Last time...Joshua's last words to the leaders of the congregation  
This time...The LORD has a Word for all the people...and so does Joshua

We are at the end of the Foundation of Scripture

- Books of Moses
- Book of Joshua

v1 Joshua gathered all the tribes...Shechem:  
Joshua has a word from the Lord for the entire nation

He calls them to Shechem...not Shiloh where the Tabernacle is.  
Why?

- Gen 12:1-7
  - Where Lord first appeared to Abram once he was in the land of Canaan
  - Where Abram built his first altar, a place of worship and sacrifice
- Gen 35:1-4
  - Where Jacob's family buried all their idols after re-entering the land of Canaan
- Deut 27:9-14
  - When enter the land of Canaan, between Mt Ebal and Mt Gerazim...a choice every person must make
- Joshua 20:7-9
  - A City of Refuge (shadow of Jesus Christ)

presented themselves before God:

Did the Levites bring the Ark from the Tabernacle in Shiloh?

The God of Israel has something to say to His children of Israel before the end of Joshua's ministry

v2 Thus saith the LORD:  
Joshua is...a prophet (“Repent”)

In His words to the children of Israel (v2-13), the LORD is going to tell  
His people that He

- chose them
- delivered them
- guided them
- gave them

The Lord starts...at the beginning  
He chose Israel

The Maker of heaven and earth, the One True and Living God chose a  
couple of idol worshippers named Terah and Abram

Abram worshipped the moon god...as did Mohammed  
(Allah is the moon god)

Note: We pass out Gospels of John and NTs to the  
followers of Allah and Mohammed at the mosque at  
ASU during the Friday prayer time...come join us

God revealed Himself to them and called them to leave the other side of  
the Euphrates River into a land He had chosen

“Leave and don’t go back...be holy for I am holy.”

This is a sovereign choice of grace to a couple of pagans  
God initiated/chose...Abraham responded/chose

God revealed Himself to us and chose us

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and  
ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth  
fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain

Eph 1:4 he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of  
the world, that we should be holy and without  
blame before him in love

God initiated, we responded...He chose, we chose  
God always takes the 1<sup>st</sup> step of salvation...it is up to us to respond

“Try to explain election and you may lose your mind.  
Try to explain it away and you may lose your soul.”

v3 I took...led...multiplied...gave:

Notice: The LORD is speaking in the 1<sup>st</sup> Person..."I"  
The LORD is speaking through Joshua

I took: I took Abraham from there...he did not take Me.  
I initiated, Abraham responded

I led: I gave Abraham all the land I showed him...  
but he was a stranger/wanderer in it (tent vs house)

I multiplied: Ishmael, via Hagar  
(father of the Arabs and the root of Islam 2400 yrs later)

I gave: Isaac

Rom 9:7-9

Gal 4:22-23

to churches that have fallen back into  
religion

Gal 3:29

by grafting

v4-5 went down into Egypt:

To multiply one family into a nation, the LORD took Israel to Egypt,  
paving the way with the suffering of Joseph (shadow of Jesus),  
followed by the suffering of all the children of Israel

In the fullness of time, the LORD declared war on Egypt (the world) and  
her false gods...concluding with the death of the firstborn  
(Passover, a shadow of Jesus Christ)

The LORD delivered Israel out of Egypt (the world)

v6-7 I brought...Red Sea...he...I:

The LORD also delivered Israel through the Red Sea, destroying Israel's  
enemy in the process

But notice something very interesting: [ read again ]

The LORD God of Israel...

speaking in the 1<sup>st</sup> Person...

says the children of Israel cried unto the LORD...

"He"...2<sup>nd</sup> Person...

and that their eyes saw what "I"...

1<sup>st</sup> Person, the One speaking through Joshua...

did in Egypt

What have we?

## 2 Persons

1. The LORD God of Israel
2. The LORD

Ps 110:1      The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make Your enemies thy footstool

John 1:1, 14

John 10:30

Heb 1:1-8

Col 1:16-17

### Also notice:

- The LORD delivered...Israel trusted, depended upon Him to deliver them  
The enemy of faith is...independence, a false freedom  
Faith in Jesus is freedom (John 8:32, 36)
- The reason for their 40 year wilderness wandering...  
unbelief and rebellion...is graciously not mentioned

v8      I brought you:

The LORD guided Israel to their inheritance, the land promised to AI&J

Deut 6:23...He said it, He meant it, He did it

And all enemies were defeated

The all-powerful LORD sitting on His Throne

- controls the rage of the wicked
- loves the poor and oppressed, the widow and the fatherless  
(us who believe Him)

In all our tribulations we can see the mighty hand of God our King...  
if we look up

God always causes us to triumph in Christ

v9-10 Balak...Balaam:

The LORD God of Israel is

- not deceived by the enemies of His people
- does not listen to them and the desires of their hearts
- turns their curses into blessings for His people

v11-13 drove them out from:

The LORD God of Israel fought for His people, driving out the wicked  
(7 nations mightier than Israel)  
and giving His people the land with all its fields and cities...  
cultivated and built (the hard labor) by the wicked

**Ex 23:28**...He said it, He meant it, He did it

He was victorious...He gave His people the victory  
The conquest of the land was supernatural, not natural...  
all the glory goes to God

So the LORD God of Israel concludes His words to His people, a  
“So this is where we stand at this moment.”

In His words (v2-13), the dominant theme is...Him...”I” (17x)

“I

- chose
- delivered
- guided
- gave

Your life is about Me and your relationship with Me.”

There at Shechem, site of

- father Abraham’s 1<sup>st</sup> altar
- burial of idols
- between mounts of Blessings and Curses
- a City of Refuge

is an invitation and a challenge –

- rejoice in Me, do not reject and despise Me
- do not neglect/abandon our relationship
- do not take Me or My Word for granted

v14 Now, therefore fear...serve:

Now Joshua speaks

Joshua is a shadow of Jesus Christ

“The God of this power and majesty is on our side!

- Fear/revere Him
  - the chariots of fire of heaven are at His beck and call
  - He commands the wind, lightning, rain, hail, snow
  - He sends famine, pestilence, hurricane, tornado, earthquake
  - Do want peace with Him or to war against Him?
- Serve Him
  - worship and obey
  - with spiritual integrity and in truth (John 4:24)
  - do not be religious...be in right relationship

Put away all your false gods

- the moon god of Abram  
(before was re-named *Abraham*)
- the gods of Egypt  
(as evidenced by golden calf at Mount Sinai)
- the gods of this still defiled land (v15)

The LORD alone is God...He is faithful to you, be faithful to Him.  
He has drawn a line in the sand...you must now make a choice.”

v15 choose you this day:

“Choose between the Almighty God and His Word/ways...  
or choose what is right in your own eyes.

But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD God of Israel...  
we will worship and obey Him exclusively.”

Joshua makes a choice...and makes it publicly

Note: husbands and fathers – your choice affects your wife and  
children...but kids must choose for themselves

There it is – the choice for all eternity:

- To abide in the presence of God...  
in peace and joy unimaginable
- To be separated from the presence of God...  
in pain and torment unimaginable

The most important choice in one's life is

- so simple and so obvious
- completely rational
- the most difficult decision for a man to make...  
denial of self and dependence  
humble himself before an unseen God

1 Kings 18:21

Matt 16:15

Choose!

Stand up and be counted!

Let's all be honest with ourselves – are we

- truly born-again?
- just a religious pretender?
- dead in our sins?

We have been

- much chosen
- much forgiven
- much delivered
- much guided
- much given
- much blessed

Dare we reach out to the evil world vs to our holy God?

History is a warning system that can be seen with 20/20 hindsight  
Europe, USA, the Church are NOT heeding the warning

- Hardness of heart (Americans by ASU mosque)
- Spiritual mildew (seeking blessings vs Blessor)
  - Apathy and sleepiness
  - Worldliness
  - Ease and comfort of affluence
  - Independence
- Time of darkness and deception
- Invasion of Islam...peace then sword
  - Mosque at Ground Zero...site of victory
  - NYC: Church bells illegal – “too confrontational”
  - NYC: Muslim call to prayer into open air
  - Muslims are not ready for eternity...are we OK w/ that?
- Church-ianity (religion) vs Christianity (relationship)
  - Coexist and “tolerance” vs holiness and contending

This is a warning for our nation and for the Church in our nation  
But the warning is also VERY personal at our own personal Shechem –  
to each one of us to make a choice

How is your relationship with the Lord?  
Neglect of prayer is the beginning of all spiritual decline

If your heart is not continually given to the Lord, an idol will creep  
in and steal it  
A jealous God will not be content with a divided heart –  
He must be loved first and best

There is no room for pride and self-righteousness and competition,  
the exaltation of Self vs a heart broken at foot of the Cross

Humble yourself before Him and He will lift you up  
He said it, He meant it, He will do it

1:40

Lost: He said it, He meant it, He will do it

Backslider: No time to be away from home

Soldiers of the Cross, be of good courage because our enemy is  
powerless against our all-powerful Lord...

- encourage yourself in the Lord
- get on the offensive

Last time...The Lord spoke to His people (v2-13) and Joshua has exhorted them to choose whom they would serve (v14-15)...every man serves a God/god  
This time...the people respond

In this dialogue between the people and Joshua, the dominant theme is “serve” (15x in v14-33)

v16-18 the people answered and said, God forbid:

The people respond to Joshua’s exhortation to make a choice

- emphatically
- enthusiastically
- emotionally...carnally

“Are you joking?

We would never do such a thing as forsake the Lord who has been so faithful to us!

We will serve the Lord!”

This the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 vows of faithfulness by the children of Israel in this final “conversation” with Joshua

v19-20 Joshua said...Ye cannot serve:

Joshua quickly corrects Israel:

“You CANNOT serve the Lord.”

Wow! Why did Joshua say that?

1. The LORD is a holy God (*Elohim*) – pure, undefiled
2. The LORD is a jealous God (*El*) – like a jealous Husband, He will NOT share the devotion of His people/wife with ANY false god (Ex 34:14)

Note: *Elohim* = *El*...a mysterious one-ness just as Jesus said in John 10:30 (Gen 2:24)

3. The holy, jealous LORD will not forgive their (future ) rebellion and offenses against Him  
The children of Israel are not pure and not devoted to the LORD...they are carnal, their profession is carnal  
A just God rightly demands payment for sin
4. If/since you will forsake Him, He will forsake you and purge His land of you just as He did the Amorites et al  
(Moses said the very same thing)

Hold on a minute, there, preacher!

The God of Israel is...per Ex 34, Jonah 4, Ps 103, Joel 2

- gracious
- merciful
- longsuffering
- slow to anger
- of great kindness
- does not deal with/reward us according to our sin
- forgiving, removing our sins as far from us as east from west
- will not forsake Israel because of His promises to AI&J

True...but the issue is not the nature of God...it is the nature of man/Israel

So what is Joshua saying to the children of Israel?

“Your flesh is the weakest link in all things holy and devoted...you are not able in and of yourselves to be consistently and continually holy and faithful.

What is ‘in’ you is to rebel against the Lord and to serve sin and self.

You are missing the key ingredient to faithfully serving the Lord –

His nature...received by faith and submission to His will.

Since it is not ‘in’ you to serve Him, you need Him ‘in’ you to do that.

You are still independent...not dependent.

Your bold and loud proclamation is meaningless...  
without a change of heart.

Oswald Chambers:

“When we are young in grace there is a note of independence about our spiritual life – ‘I don’t intend anyone to tell me what to do, I intend to serve God as I choose.’ It is an independence based on inexperience, an immature fellowship. It lacks the essential of devotion...Since we became disciples of Jesus we cannot be as independent as we used to be...He expects nothing less than absolute oneness with Himself as He was one with the Father.”

Serving the Lord is a matter of the heart...a radical change of heart

Matt 26:41 spirit willing, flesh weak

John 15:5 fruit: abide in, He in...can do nothing without Him

John 3:3-8 must be born again...of the Spirit

2 Cor 5:17 in Christ, new creature

Gal 2:20 I not live but Christ lives in me

Phil 4:13 I can do all things thru Christ

2 Cor 3:3-6 He is sufficient, NT is of the Spirit, not letter

Gal 3:3 began in Spirit, must finish in the Spirit

v21 Nay, but we will serve the LORD:

The children of Israel reject Joshua's assertion and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time,  
proclaim their vow of faithfulness to the LORD

They have good intentions...but the good intentions of an unchanged heart  
are repugnant to the holy, jealous God (Is 64:6)

They are standing on their own strength to serve the LORD...  
they will fail.

Man has a heart of stone...he needs a new spirit and a heart of flesh  
(Ezk 36:21-27)

The heart of flesh...bathed in the Living Water of the Spirit

- is grieved by sin...the best defense against sin (Ps 119:136)
- is tender to God's will, molded by the grace of God

In their current heart condition, the children of Israel love first and  
foremost themselves

They need a change of heart to say,

"LORD, we know You love us. Help us to love You."

v22-23 Joshua said...witnesses against yourselves...put away:

Joshua is not impressed by emphatic, enthusiastic, and emotional  
carnality, no matter how well intentioned.

"Before the Lord God, where the truth is revealed, your deeds will testify  
against your words.

The witnesses that will prove the case against you will be...yourselves."

"Amen! Truth will be revealed. We are witnesses!"

"Therefore, put away all your idols and bow/worship/submit/surrender  
before the LORD God of Israel."

Which means

- There are false gods (Egypt, Amorites) in the camp of Israel  
to this moment in Ch 24!
- In spite of God's faithfulness to them (v17-18) and their  
proclaimed faithfulness to Him (v16, 18, 21)...Israel
  - is unfaithful to their God
  - still has not whole-heartedly bowed before their God
    - only partially...with a divided heart
    - with selfish ambivalence vs on-fire devotion

And are we any different, gathered here to profess our love and obedience to Jesus while still in our hearts are idols like

- Self-righteousness
  - the largest idol in the human heart
  - the idol man loves most and God hates most (Matt 23)
  - trying to be something of our own strength and boasting of it before God, thinking we are pleasing Him
  - it sits on Christ's throne in our hearts...God loathes it!
- Earthly, lustful pleasures
  - "Secret" sin, unholy behavior
- Money and worldly wealth

Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth

Let us decrease so He may increase

Let us give our whole hearts and lives to Jesus

Ps 119:36 with Eph 5:5

Let us say, like Ephraim in Hosea 14:8,

"What have I any more to do with idols?"

v24 will we serve and his voice will we obey:

Notice that no one came forward to

- throw away his idols
- repent...a condition of the heart needed to receive the forgiveness of God, the condition of His heart

Instead, the children of Israel make the 3<sup>rd</sup> of their 3 professions of faithfulness to the LORD

They have lots of...self-confidence, a misplaced confidence/faith

They do not have "in" them what is needed to perform as proclaimed

- The heart of a servant...they have a heart to be lord of self  
Luke 10:25-29

Justify self vs humble self

Exalt self vs deny self

Self-confidence vs confidence in Jesus

Religion vs relationship

Independence vs dependence

Trying to perform the principles of Word of God...

on one's own strength, as lord of our lives ("I will")

Doing "good" while believing/trusting in Self

Discipleship is not the strength of Christian activity,  
it is the strength of being in Christ

- The heart of obedience...now  
 I received a call on July 20 from Rebecca in SoCal  
 Her uncle was in Intensive Care at Good Sam Hospital,  
 downtown, dying of liver and kidney failure after a  
 lifetime of alcoholism (in his 40s)  
 Her heart was breaking because he was not saved  
 She asked if I could go see him, pray with him,  
 tell him she loved him

I went 2 days later (Wait), not knowing what I would find  
 He had been moved out of ICU and into a room  
 He looked absolutely awful, but he was conscious  
 Although weak, he was able to converse with me  
 I introduced myself, told him why I was there...we chatted  
 I shared the Gospel with him...

and invited him to make a decision

He accepted

I prayed with him, left a Gospel of John tract with my cell  
 phone number, suggesting he ask a family member  
 read it to him, and let him go back to sleep

On my way home, I called Rebecca and left a voice mail  
 message telling her about her uncle and my visit  
 with him

That was July 22...a month ago today

This past Monday, Aug 16, I got another call from Rebecca

“Before I called you last month, I spoke to my mother-in-  
 law.

She told me that if the Lord put my uncle on my heart,  
 I should call him myself.

I said, No. He was not raised with the Lord. He will  
 reject me just like the rest of my family.

She said if I don't do as the Lord is telling me, He will not  
 bless me.

I still refused to call my uncle.

I spoke with my pastor (Calvary Chapel), he went online  
 and told me to call you.

That's when I called you (July 20).

Fast Forward

Rebecca finally submitted to the Lord and called her uncle  
on Aug 10  
He could no longer talk or respond but the doctors said he  
could hear  
So she, on the speaker phone, witnessed of Jesus to him  
and prayed for him  
She felt a peace about it but wondered if her uncle had  
heard and if he had, what did he decide.  
Her uncle died the next day, Aug 11

On her way home from work Mon Aug 16, she was  
praying, crying out to the Lord, wanting to know if  
her uncle accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior  
She then heard a noise in her purse...it was her cell phone  
(illegal to use while driving in CA)  
Her cell phone had turned on, called voice mail, and was  
playing my July 22 voice message...  
which she previously had NOT received!

God's answer to her prayer!

See...the Lord told her to call her uncle and witness to him  
She did not obey the voice of the Lord, fearful of man  
She called me instead and I went to share with her uncle  
Later, she did obey the voice of the Lord, having His peace  
in her obedience  
But she longed to know if she would ever see her uncle  
again...

The gracious and merciful God turned on her phone,  
dialed voice mail, delivered a voice message He  
had kept in his hands until she obeyed and cried out

When you hear the voice of the Lord...obey NOW

How do we walk by faith with Jesus Christ? Always NOW  
Deny self...NOW  
Pick up your cross...NOW  
Follow Jesus...NOW  
Submit...NOW  
Obey...NOW (includes "Wait")

The day of salvation is...NOW

If we are going to serve the Lord, we need to have the heart to be a servant  
and a heart to obey now

v25-26 Joshua made...wrote:

Joshua wrote this Book, joined it to the Books of Moses,  
and set up a memorial stone as a “memory assist” for the  
children of Israel

He set the great stone atop the idols buried there by Jacob!

v27 it hath heard all the words:

This stone has ears?

No, but God our Savior does

Gen 49:22-24, regarding the Messiah

Should Israel deny their God (*Elohim*), the Stone will hear and  
bear witness against them

And so He did...John 5:32-47

v28 let the people depart:

“Good-bye, my beloved.”

Joshua’s last Good-bye

v29-33 buried him...bones of Joseph...Eleazar:

His ministry faithfully finished, Joshua moves out of his tent.

Note: greatest accolade a man could hear –  
“a servant of the LORD”

Now...the faith of the children must be tested and must become their own  
They will no longer be able to lean on or hide behind the faith of their  
fathers

Always of huge importance – the next generation (Deut 6:4-9)  
Want to serve the Lord?

Teach your children, teach in the Children’s Ministry

Here in the closing words in the Book of Joshua...3 burials

1. Joseph...a “father” of the children of Israel
2. Joshua...a son of the father
3. Eleazar...”helper” (“comforter” in Greek)

Very interesting...and very telling

Next in the history of Israel...

- Judges...7 downward cycles into idolatry...  
casting away the LORD God of Israel vs the strange gods

Note: Moses had a successor but Joshua did not  
In the land, God the Lawgiver, Deliverer, and  
Captain was to be their Leader/King

- Kings...wanting to be like the nations around them rather than  
having God as their King
- Divided nation...no good kings in Israel, some in Judah
- Captivity...God cleansed His land, as warned
- Prophets..."Repent!"
- 400 years of silence...because Israel did not listen/obey the  
voice of the LORD
- Silence broken by...John the Baptist, preparing the way for...

So next week...the Gospel of John...the Substance of the shadows in OT

But as we leave Joshua, what is Lord saying to us?

Do we say/insist that we will serve the Lord and obey His voice?  
Do we "perform as advertised"?  
Is our confidence in performing our vow in ourselves or in Jesus?

Let us examine ourselves to know if we are in the faith...  
by asking the LORD to search our hearts,  
to know our ways, to test our faith.

Have a simple faith...in Jesus Christ alone  
Face each day with courage...don't ever doubt God  
Murmur not in what God has chosen for you  
Endure affliction because when your faith is tried, it will come  
forth as gold  
Live NOW in His sight and hearing

Never forget that talk is cheap  
To say but to not do is to

- pollute a well
- pour water on a fire
- sow a fertile field with stones and weeds

God forbid!

God help us!  
2 Cor 13:14  
Ps 119:112