

## Deuteronomy Wrap up – 29-34

### Quick recap

Deuteronomy is the 5<sup>th</sup> and Final book of the Torah.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers and Deut.

After God delivered his people called “Israel” and then established a covenant with them on Mount Sinai and were promised their own land. But they wandered in the desert but weren’t able to enter into the promised land, yet.

Deut opens with Moses speaking to the next generation, the New Generation, explaining all that has happened and explaining the Torah to them. While it repeats many of the laws found in previous books, it gives a new and deeper meaning to these laws and shows what they meant in the everyday lives of the people.

### **Book Formation:**

The Center of the book in Chapters 12-26 are a collection of laws, the rules of the covenant. They aren’t new rules, but they are the ones established earlier. This is really where the name of this book comes from.

Deuteronomy” in Greek means “second law.” It comes from **Deut. 17:18**, and also from the fact that in this book Moses was restating the Law to the new generation.

The outer books are other speeches of Moses

Chapters 1-11 Moses tells them of how Israel constantly disobeyed in contrast to God who kept offering them grace despite their disobedience. Moses reminds them that God DID bring justice upon them with punishment, but He did not abandon or break His covenant with them.

In this section we also see Moses encouraging the new generation to be more faithful than the prior. He reminds them of the 10 commandments and in the very center of this section is the Shema. Anyone remember? It says Listen Israel, the Lord our God is the Lord alone. (only one God). You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength.

When it says to Listen, it means more than to hear. It means to take action or what.....OBEY

When it says to Love, it means more than emotion. It means a whole hearted devotion.

When Israel obeys in devotion, it is fulfilling what God has asked them to become, a kingdom of priests. Obeying out of devotion (love). This is the new generation’s chance to fulfill the Shema.

Remember that Israel was also set apart. Remember all of the plagues? This reminder from Moses is also to remind them that they are to worship God alone. No other Gods. As we continue to read, we’ll see that this continues to be a struggle for Israel and for their leaders.

This is particularly important because Israel is about to cross over into the territory of the Caananites who worshipped all kinds of Gods. Moses was warning them that worshipping other gods leads to punishment and less than God's ideal for them. Worship of God alone will lead to life and blessing.

In the middle section

12-16a we see instruction surrounding

Worship: One Temple, One God. Also instruction on caring for the poor where we see one of the early examples of tithing. Setting aside 1/10<sup>th</sup> for the temple and 1/10<sup>th</sup> for the poor. This set Israel apart from their neighbors as a society.

16b-18 Israel's leaders. Elders, Priests and Kings were all under the authority of the covenant with God. Here Moses also tells people that God is going to send prophets to keep leaders in check. This again sets Israel apart whereas in other Countries the kings were supreme, for Israel the leaders were subject to the law and the prophets.

19-26 There are Civil laws about marriage, family and business and also about their social justice system. How it was to protect widows and orphans.

What do we do with these laws?

- it is important to remember that we are talking about laws for an Ancient Israel so we cannot compare them with modern laws. At a glance a lot of the laws seem harsh. But, if we compare these laws with other Countries at that time, we can see that God was setting Israel apart as having superior justice and social structures in place.

-What we can try to identify are core principals that underly the law.

Deut 25:4 – “Do not Muzzle an ox while it is trading out the grain.” It just ends there!

I Cor 9:7-12 Paul uses the law from Deut to apply a principal.

What is that principal? The ox should get something out of his work.

But does God care about the Ox more than us? We also should enjoy the work of our hands. Those sowing spiritual seed should be allowed to reap a material harvest from his work.

Then we get to the end of the book in Moses' final speech 27-34

Here we see Moses reminding Israel that if they Listen and Obey, then everything is going to be great and they'll be blessed

If they don't and they rebel, they will see plagues, devastation and exile from their promised land.

You ended last session talking through the literal curses that Israel was going to face for lack of obedience

## Chapter 29

- 1-2 Renewal of the Covenant made 40 years earlier on Mt Sinai or “at Horeb”  
Read Exodus 24:7-8 *“Then he took the book of the covenant and read it to the people. They responded ‘we will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.’”*
- 2-4 Israel saw signs and wonders, but they couldn’t understand them. Do you remember the signs?  
Opening the sea, death of firstborn, plagues, water from a rock, manna and quail.  
-Although they saw, the miracles couldn’t change their hearts.  
-How can we relate that to today? Wouldn’t miracles be incredible? Hasn’t God done miracles?  
The hearts of people can only be changed by the Holy Spirit opening the eyes to their heart
- 5-9 Really cool perspective Moses opens their minds to. Maybe they never even thought about this. After walking for 40 years, their clothes sandals didn’t even wear out despite being in the sun for 40 years!  
-A nation of slaves doesn’t conquer kingdoms.  
-V 9 – Therefore keep the covenant. Seeing the great works and of God, it is logical that Israel should re-commit themselves to this covenant.
- 10-15 Moses identifies the people that are entering into the covenant. The entire nation, all genders, all ages  
V15 And not just this generation, the next generation were included
- 16-20 -Moses warns against self delusion. You’ve seen the curses but you’ve made this covenant. Don’t think for a second that just because you’ve said yes to my end of the deal, that if you break the covenant and worship other gods that you will avoid the penalty of breaking covenant.  
-Like a drunk person is happy when he is drunk, that happiness is based on an illusion.  
God is warning people to not compare themselves with the wicked who may have an appearance of peace. Their “peace” is temporary.  
-Isaiah 48:22 *“There is no peace for the wicked.”*  
-Their punishment may not come now, but there will be an account. God is a God of justice
- 21-28 The purpose for judgement.  
-The punishment for the covenant breaker was obvious  
-But v22 says that Israel’s children will be reminded by the punishment of the covenant. Also that foreigners will know why Israel is being punished.  
-Seeing that breaking covenant with God is not worth it. God’s purpose in bringing judgement against a covenant breaking Israel was for the sake of ALL NATIONS. The entire world was going to see what happens when you break covenant with God.
- 29 The secret things belong to the Lord. Everything that we see, that seems so massive and overwhelming is only what God had revealed to them through Moses. God sees the overall picture where we see just a piece  
-God is bigger and smarter than us.  
*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*  
-God reveals what He wants and says that we need. (we see this in faith all of the time when we’re asking for guidance, for miracles)  
-The things He reveals to us belong to us. God’s revelation is meant to say something to us. When God reveals Himself in His word, through answered prayer, that is ours. Seek out His purpose in His moving  
-We need to share what God is speaking and doing with our kids and those around us

I want to pause and just remind you that with Jesus, we are under a new covenant. This is Israel's covenant. Jesus replaced this. Arent you thankful! We are learning about the old covenant which gives us an appreciation for what Jesus did for us. I cant get passed this.

I want to encourage you to see what God has done in your life and Listen to what He is speaking to you

### Chapter 30 Israel Being Restored to the Land

While on the surface it may look like Moses is talking about when Israel enters the promised land, this is more of a prophesy for Israel coming back to God in the distant future.

Israel enjoyed Gods blessing for less than 1,000 years. They entered Canaan about 1400 B.C., and Babylon conquered Israel about 587 B.C. In addition, many times during this period Israel disobeyed God and was chastened. The only real peace was seen from the end of David's reign 1040 through Solomon's temple 960 - 100 years

This chapter promises that God will "turn the captivity" of Israel and restore the nation to the land, if they will return to the Lord and obey His voice.

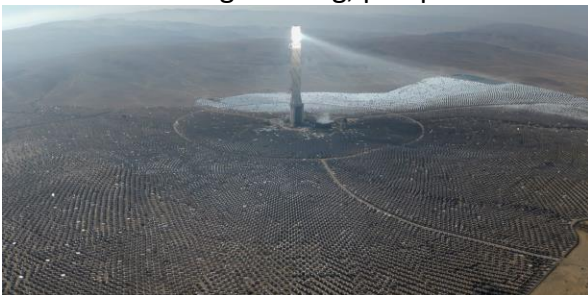
In 536 B.C. there was a return of some of Israel, those returning from exile after the Babylonian take over, but this was not a great national return.

Moses is here predicting the *final* return of the Jews to their land. When they return to the land, it is a land of unbelief

*\*Even today we see Jews going back to Palestine and returning to the "old ways" of their fathers. God is starting to bless the land once again. We will see in Zech 12 that Israel will return and finally see their pierced Messiah, they will repent and be cleansed of all sin (Zech. 12:9–13:1).*

Fun Fact: In the late 1800's and early 1900's, The British government offered the Country of Uganda to the Jews for them to have a place to establish themselves. If that would have happened and Jews from all over the world returned there, it would not have fulfilled the promise of restoration to the land that their fathers possessed.

Israel is becoming a strong, prosperous Nation. They have incredible technology with awesome solar power.



Israel is one of the leaders in technology development, spending a ton of its GDP on civil R&D. 5<sup>th</sup> most innovative Country in the world at one time.

Back to the text

Deut 30:11–14, Moses says that no one has to ascend into heaven or go on some long journey to return to God. That they already have the word of God in their hearts. Thus the importance of this sharing of truth from generation to generation.

Paul actually re-states this whole concept in Rom. 10:6–8 but he applies it to Jesus. Jesus is not far away from His people, even though they (we) have turned away from Him. If they call, He will hear them and return to them.

The grand conclusion of Moses' speech is **in 30:15–20**. The nation had to choose between life and death, blessing and cursing. As always, such a choice is a matter of the heart (v. 17). Mere outward obedience will not do; it must come from within.<sup>1</sup>

And as Josh ended his teaching a few weeks ago, we see Moses pleading with Israel to “CHOOSE LIFE”

What does Choosing life look like? Obedience. Remembering and gratitude that keeps you on track.

My Journal

Moses knows that Israel's choice dictates their blessing or their curse.

We now enter into an important and thoughtful transition of leadership to Joshua. This is a big deal. Moses was the man. Losing him is painful. Imagine being next up?!

The old generation had died off, except for Caleb, Joshua, and Moses; and now Moses was to move off the scene. The next chapters transition us with Moses' final words to the people he has loved and led for forty years.

It is amazing that Moses remained so loyal to his people, for they were guilty of criticizing him, rebelling against him, and lying about him. Moses knew that he himself would not enter Canaan, yet he did everything possible to enable Israel to enter! Of course, Moses was faithful to the Lord (Heb. 3:1–6), and this is why he was so faithful to Israel.

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## Chapter 31

How Old was Moses when he passed the torch and died? 120

We see Moses in verse 2 remind the people and himself that He will not enter the promised land.

Honestly how painful must that have been? To have devoted so much of your life to deliver a people and lead them to the promised land.

Do you remember why Moses wasn't allowed to enter it?

Numbers 20: When Moses was commanded to speak to a rock, but he struck it twice instead Moses misrepresented God and disobeyed. He was their leader and he disobeyed, so why should he not be held to the same strict standards of obedience as God was asking of everyone else.

Remember that God sees the whole picture. We talked briefly about this when I taught in Numbers. What Moses' act also did was defaced a beautiful picture of Jesus. Jesus' work of redemption is like the rock providing water in the wilderness. Paul speaks of Jesus as being kin to water in the wilderness in 1 Cor 10.

Jesus being struck once provided life for everyone

Jesus being struck twice was unnecessary. Paul tells us in Hebrews that the Son of God should only suffer once.

And in Romans 8 Paul tells us that we only need to speak/ask and Jesus will come to us. Moses was to speak to the rock for water to come out, but instead he struck the rock twice.

This act in a sense "ruined" God's big metaphor of the work that Jesus was going to bring.

-In v1-2 Moses explains that he would not be able to lead them any longer, but he reminds them in

-v3 that God himself is going with them, ahead of them (just like He lead them through the dessert).

-And in V 6 he says something that we refer to a lot, to "Be strong and Courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because the Lord goes with you. He will never leave you or forsake you."

**That one is worth underlying in your Bible.**

-7-8 we see Moses calling up Joshua and gives him the same pep talk to be Strong and Courageous. To be confident that God goes with him and to not be afraid.

-9-13 Moses writes the law. Just like Kings would write their own laws, Moses writes a copy of God's laws as he is now uncrowned as the leader of Israel. He tells them to make sure to read the law publically every 7 years.

We do see this being followed in other places in the Bible. Joshua 8, 2 Chron 17 & 34. But the fact that we don't see it more in scripture may be a sign that Israel was on the wrong path. Israel was likely neglecting what Moses had instructed them to do which was for their own benefit.

-14 we see the retirement ceremony and in a way a pre-memorial ceremony. Moses and Joshua are brought to the Tent of meeting and God shows up to MC the whole event.

What does God say?

-First, Moses you are about to enter your rest. That's nice

-Then, Moses, all of your work, sorry but all these folks are going to fall away. I'm going to turn my face away from them because they are going to break covenant.

-Next, v19 God tells Moses to write all of these things down and write a song about it and teaches the song to Israel

-Moses then takes the law that he wrote, I would imagine this song as well and put it next to the ark of the covenant as a witness to this whole story.

Moses has some painful final words. Saying “you were unfaithful while I was here to remind you over and over again. How unfaithful are you going to be when I’m not here!

### **Chapter 32 is Moses’ song**

Made up of a couple key Song – We call these Verses in music

Song Verse 1 Opens with a declaration of who God is and how corrupt the people are

Song Verse 2 Goes into a time of remembering how faithful God was and how Israel abandoned God’s kindness

Song Verse 3 Is God withdrawing and punishing Israel

Song Verse 4 is about God states his case against Israel and asks Israel to consider it all

Moses teaches them the song and encourages them once again to learn it and teach it to future generations

The chapter ends with Moses being told to go up to the top of Mount Nebo, to look at the land promised to Israel and he dies.

BUT BEFORE HE DIES. This is like an “oh yeah, let me remember my mess ups right before I die” moment.

### **Chapter 33 The New Blessing**

As Moses looked at Israel with a shepherd’s heart, he could not leave them without blessing them. It must be this way. Moses could not leave this earth without a final blessing of the people he has loved and served in the LORD for these 40 years.

This chapter is similar in its effect to the blessing of Israel (Jacob) upon his twelve sons as recorded in [Genesis 49](#). Since Moses was the one who recorded the blessing of Israel in [Genesis 49](#), it is not a stretch to think he consciously modeled his blessing on Jacob’s previous one.

### **Chapter 34 The New Home**

Moses had prayed that God would relent and allow him to enter the Promised Land, but God had refused (Deut. 3:23–29). God knew that Joshua (“Jehovah is salvation”) would lead the people into their earthly rest, just as the heavenly Joshua, Jesus Christ, would lead His people into spiritual rest.

PLEASE NOTE: Moses did visit the Promised Land on the Mount of Transfiguration, with Elijah; and he discussed with Christ the “exodus” (decease) He would accomplish at Jerusalem (Luke 9:27–31).

At this time, God permitted Moses to view the land. God alone was present when Moses died, and God buried him. If people knew the location of his grave, they would undoubtedly make it an idolatrous shrine.

The people wept for Moses for thirty days. Often a leader is more appreciated after death than during his or her life. The book closes by reminding us of the unique character of Moses’ ministry—he was a man to whom God talked face to face. The people were now ready to enter and claim the land, and this will be our study in Jos<sup>2</sup>

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A few other general thoughts as we wrap up this book:

**New challenges:** All Israel had known was being unsettled; they had been pilgrims. But now they were to enter their Promised Land and become a settled nation. There would be battles to fight, and they needed to be prepared. The best way to prepare for the future is to understand the past. “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” a famous philosopher has said. Moses wanted the nation to remember what God had done.

**New Leadership:** Moses was about to die, and Joshua would take over the leadership of the nation. Moses knew that the success of the nation depended on the people obeying God, no matter who their human leader might be. If they were grounded in the Word and loved the Lord, they would follow Joshua and win the victory.

**New temptations:** A settled people in the land would face different problems than a pilgrim people in the wilderness. Moses wanted them not only to possess the land, but also to maintain that possession, so he warned them of the dangers and gave them the way of success. Remember Moses pointing out that they were about to enter a pagan land that worshipped many gods. Worshipping these gods would also be a temptation.

As we read Deuteronomy, we cannot help but be impressed with the deeper message Moses gives concerning the spiritual life of his people. We find the word “love” repeated at least twenty times in the book, an emphasis not found in Genesis through Numbers. “Love for God and God’s love for the people” is a new theme in Deuteronomy. While the previous books certainly speak of love and prove God’s love for Israel, Deuteronomy emphasizes this theme as never before.

The nation was gathered on the Plains of Moab “on this side of Jordan.” It had taken them forty years to get there, yet v. 2 states that the journey **should have taken eleven days!** This is the tragedy of unbelief: it wastes time, energy, and manpower; and it robs God of the glory due His Name. Moses began to “declare” God’s Law, and this word “declare” literally means “to engrave.” He wanted to make it clear, to write it on their hearts.

Obedience brings blessings. Disobedience brings destruction, now or in the future.



## Joshua 1-7

The story so far:

1. God Chose Abraham and his family became the people of Israel who are enslaved in Egypt
2. Through Moses, Israel is rescued. God makes a covenant with them on Mt Sinai and brings them through the wilderness to the promised land.
3. Israel then camps outside of the land promised to them and Moses reminds them that they are to obey, so that Israel can show all the other Nations what God is like.
4. Joshua picks up right after Moses dies and Joshua is the new leader and Israel is about to enter the land

### Who is Joshua?

-Joshua was born in Egyptian slavery. His father was Nun, of the tribe of Ephraim (1Ch 7:20-27); we know nothing about his mother.

-Originally his name was Oshea or Hoshea, which means “salvation,” but Moses changed it to Jehoshua (or Joshua), which means “Jehovah is salvation” (Num 13:16).

-He was a slave in Egypt and served as Moses’ minister during the journeys of the nation (Exo 24:13).

-He led the army in the battle against Amalek (Exo 17:1-16), and was one of the two spies who had the faith to enter Canaan when the nation rebelled in unbelief (Num 14:6). As a result of his faith, he (with Caleb) was permitted to enter the Promised Land.

-Jewish tradition says that Joshua was eighty-five years old when he took Moses’ place at the head of the nation.

-Joshua 1-12 (the conquest of the land) covers roughly the next seven years.

-Joshua then spent the remainder of his life dividing up the inheritance and ruling the nation. He died at 110 (Jos 24:29).

The NT makes it clear that Joshua is a **type** of Christ.

The name “Jesus” in Greek is equivalent to “Joshua”; both mean “God’s salvation” or “Jehovah is the Savior.”

Just as Joshua conquered earthly foes, so Christ has defeated every enemy through His death and resurrection.

It was Joshua, not Moses (representing Law), who brought Israel into Canaan, and it is Jesus who leads us into spiritual rest and victory.

As Joshua assigned the tribes their inheritance so Christ has given us our inheritance

Whatever Israel received in the Promised Land, they received through the hand of Joshua; whatever we receive from God we receive through Jesus Christ, our Joshua

The book of Joshua has 4 main movements – high level, and then we’ll go a little deeper chapter by chapter later

### Movement 1: Joshua first leads Israel into the promised land Ch 1-5

- a. Here Joshua is taking over for Moses and he is considered a New Moses
- b. He commands Israel to obey the Torah, the covenant
- c. He sends spies into the land, just as Moses did (Numbers 13&14)
  - i. It goes way better this time and even some Caananites turn and follow God
- d. He takes Israel over the Jordan river into the promised land
  - i. Just like the sea parted for Moses, the river parts for Joshua
- e. In Chapter 5 the book shows that Israel looks back on God’s covenant

- i. New generation is circumcised and they celebrate Passover
- f. Then Joshua has a strange encounter with a warrior, the angelic commander of God's army.
  - i. Joshua asks the angel if he is for Israel or for the Caananites.
  - ii. The angel says neither. This shows that all of these battles are God's battles, not Joshua's.
    - 1. Israel is a spectator to what God is doing or participants in God's plan

### **Movement 2: Battles and Hostility from the Caananites 6-12**

- g. We see two specific battles
- h. Then we see short stories that condense years of battles in a few brief summaries
  - i. Battle 1 is against Jericho which portrays God's Faithfulness
  - ii. Battle 2 is against Ai which portrays Israel's Failure

Battle of Jericho - Israel is passive. They take God's presence in the form of the ark and they walk around the city to music for 6 days. Just like Rahab turned to the God of Israel, maybe this Caananite city would turn to God. They don't, so on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after walking around the city, the priests blow the trumpets and the walls tumble down. The point of this story is that God is leading them to victory. He is in charge and Israel needs to trust and wait.

Battle of Ai - This story shows Israel's failure. During the battle of Jericho, Achan steals treasure from the city, against command and he hides it. They were goods that were to be devoted to God alone. He lies about it which is pretty lame considering all that God had done for Israel.

So when Israel goes up against Ai, they are totally defeated. Once there is repentance and Achan is severely punished for his sin which we see in Chapter 7 Israel starts winning again which we see in Chapter 8 These two stories remind Israel that if they are going to inherit this land, they MUST be obedient and trust in God's commands.

### **Movement 3 – Dividing up the land.**

After their victories Joshua divides up the promise land 13-22 as the inheritance for the 12 tribes of Judah. Joshua is getting older. Most of the reading is lists of boundary lines. While the list is like reading a map without pictures and is not exciting. To Israel this was the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham (Gen 12:6-7) and God's promise to divide up the land.

### **Movement 4 - Final speeches of Joshua to the people 23-24.**

They are very similar to the final speeches of Moses.

Reminds them of God's generosity, how He brought them into the land and gave them victory over the Caananites.

Tells them to turn away from the Caananite gods and to be faithful to the Torah/the covenant they made.

If they do, it will lead to life and blessing. If they do not, they will experience the same judgement that the Caananites faced and be kicked out of the land in exile (which we WILL see later)

He gives Israel a choice. What will they do? Which is where the story ends....

### ***Quick Pause***

**What may strike you is the sheer amount of violence in all of these stories and it may bother you.**

Q: Why is God always declaring war? If God is loving, how can he do these acts?

A: We need to look at the Caananites which we learned about earlier in Lev 18. They had a culture of not only absolute corruption especially surrounding sexual immorality, but they also sacrificed their children, Deut 12.

God had given these nations hundreds of years to repent and give up their evil ways. They refused.

God did not want these evil practices to continue and he didn't want any part of that happening with his people. The Caananites had to go.

Throughout the process, there were warnings given to these cities. In some cases like Rahab and the Gibeonites, some were saved. Any person or city could be saved.

Q: Did God actually command that Israel was to entirely wipe out a people group, like a genocide?

“They totally destroyed them” “no survivors” “kill everything that breaths”

A: These statements and stories are Hyperbole (exaggerated statements, not to be taken literally)

Deut 7 – Israel is first commanded to drive the Caananites out, but then to totally destroy them. And then Israel is commanded to not intermarry with them or have business deals with them. How can you do business or marry a person that has been totally wiped out?

The stories in Joshua are written the same way. In Josh 10: Israel left no survivors in the Cities of Hebron and Debir. But in chapter 15 we see these towns again and they are still populated by Caananites.

Joshua's battle accounts follow other earlier battle accounts by using non-literal hyperbolic language as part of the narrative.

In fact God was open to saving people like Rahab or the Gibeonites that were willing to turn to Him.

Q: These stories mark a unique moment in Israel's history. These battle accounts are limited to the people living in the Caananite territories. With all other nations, Israel was commanded to pursue peace. Deut 20.

So these stories do not give us or anyone permission to commit crimes or violence in God's name. Instead this is showing that God was a God of justice against human evil during a specific time in history and how God preserved Israel rather than them being wiped out by the Caananites.

Go a little deeper into Joshua 1-8 tonight

**Chapter 1:**

**V1-10 God speaks to Joshua.**

Gives him the promise of the land

Gives him the promise of His presence

Gives him assurance that He will keep His word

Gives him a reminder, as He gave to Moses to Be strong and Be Courageous

As Moses was anointed by God and God did what He said he would do, Joshua is anointed and prepared for this task

**V11-15 Joshua speaks to the people**

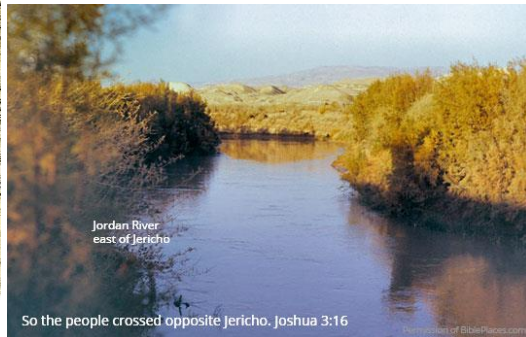
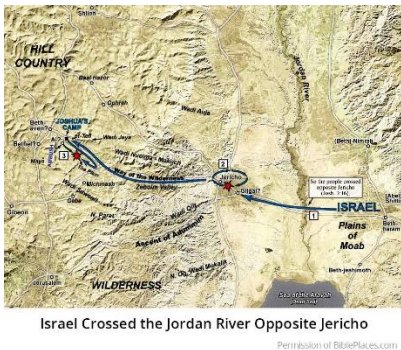


- E. She believed the Word
- F. She proved her faith by works
- G. She sought to win others
- H. She was delivered from judgment
- I. She went to a wedding – Heaven is the great wedding banquet. Remember that we've learned so much that creation and all that God has been doing, He sees the church as the bride

Of ALL people who lived in Jericho, we know the name of only one, Rahab.

**Big Takeaway – God is in the business of saving and anyone, even the worst person can be saved.**

### Chapter 3 The miracle of the crossing



Day 3 has come – its time to cross the Jordan with all of Israel and their possessions. Stop for a moment and think back to all that has happened since Israel fled Egypt. This is the moment! Can you imagine their hearts and thoughts?

It wasn't up to Joshua to invent some way of crossing the river. Israel had seen this before. Hard to believe that they could just come to expect this miracle.

-The key word in this chapter is "Ark." What does the Ark represent? Presence of God

Ark is mentioned 14 times in 17 verses in the original writings.

God wanted Israel to know that his presence was with Joshua as it was with Moses

God wanted Israel to know that it was His presence that would give them safe passage and victory

-The River was at flood stage PICTURE– normal is 90-100' wide, but this was flood stage. Normal is 3-10 feet.

In 1854 an expert swimmer was not able to make it across the river because of the width and currents

It was stopped entirely and the ground was dry all by the time they needed to walk on dry ground

-They had to step into the water before it would stop flowing.

-Israel was to keep its distance from the ark so that everyone could see it to know which way to follow and obviously to honor the nature of what it was

-Israel was to consecrate themselves. – They were to set themselves apart and focus on the Lord

**Big Takeaway – As We can always look to Jesus for direction. We need to keep our eyes on him. As we do, and step out in faith, rivers of impossibilities will dry up before us.**

## Chapter 4 The memorials of the crossing

OK, so now we've crossed the river with this massive group of people. Now what? Do we go conquer? Does the atmosphere feel different 100' away?

What does Joshua have them do? It is important to be in that moment and remember! Israel stops, collects stones, one for each of the Tribes, including those that are going to remain on the other side of the river and they build a monument.

They get the stones from the middle of the riverbed.

Carried on their shoulder, so they weren't little rocks.

Brought them back to their camp and Joshua built the memorial.

Studies show that there were actually 2 memorials. V9 says that Joshua took stones that had been in the Jordan and set them up at their camp, but early translations say that Joshua took stones in the midst of the Jordan and built a memorial. So that every year when the Jordan would dry up in drought, everyone could see that monument.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> monument was built at Gilgal which became their center of operations for the conquest of the entire land

12 stones – representing all 12. Even though they are different, they are unified in this!

***Big Takeaway- Don't forget to remember, write down what God has done, so that it can be remembered for generations.***

## Chapter 5 - The Mark of the Covenant

- i. The word of God drying up the Jordan for Israel reached all of the Amorite and Canaanite Kings and they knew they were doomed. They totally lost heart.
- ii. But no sooner had Israel gotten into the promised land, with now the task of conquering all of these Cities, than God asked Joshua to circumcise all of Israel.

Why now? The scripture tells us!

All of the males born during the 40 years in the dessert had not been circumcised. They all to be circumcised when they left Egypt and this was an outward sign of Israel's consecration to God. This identified them as God's people.

From a military standpoint this was not wise, Joshua didn't know that these King's hearts were melted. He acted in obedience despite the risk! I love that.

Think about this. Some cool takeaways of this chapter.

1. Israel crossed at the most inopportune time, during flood season
2. In front of the most fortified Canaanite military outpost in Jericho
3. And disables their army
4. IN enemy territory.

Joshua trusted God in the hardest times and places. He had to trust God despite these obstacles.

- iii. God rolls back their sin
- iv. Israel practices Passover using ingredients from the land
  - a. Manna no longer showed up once they ate from their new land.

Big Idea: Do we trust God in the easy times but lose hope in the hard times? By building memorials, practicing gratitude, we will be able to trust in all seasons, in all places.

### End of 5 and into Chapter 6- Who's in Charge here?

- i. Joshua in route with his army, to take out Jericho, meets up with the commander of God's army. The Lord of Hosts. This is the battle title for God. It speaks of his supreme command of the armies of Israel and of heaven.
  - a. The man was telling Joshua that he is for God and this is God's battle, not Joshua's. He is the commander of God's army, so he commands Angels.
  - b. The man tells Joshua to take off his sandals for this is holy ground. Where have we seen this before?
    - i. The burning bush. Who spoke from the bush, God!
  - c. Joshua falls facedown. Leaders only bow down to greater leaders.
  - d. Joshua becomes a participant in God's plan of attack.

THIS WAS Jesus himself (before coming to earth to die), comes to direct the battle. This wasn't going to be won by their own strength.
  - e. The angel gives the battle plan
    - i. The armed men were to lead the procession (Jos 6:3, Jos 6:7), with seven priests following with trumpets (Jos 6:4). The ark was to follow (Jos 6:4, Jos 6:7), and then the rest of the people ("the rereward") finished the procession (Jos 6:9). The procession was to march around Jericho once a day for six days in absolute silence except for the trumpets blowing (Jos 6:10). On the seventh day, they were to march around seven times (making a total of thirteen marches), and on the seventh march they were to blow the trumpets and shout. What a strange plan for fighting a war! But God's ways are not our ways, and He uses what the world calls "foolish" to confound the mighty (1Co 1:26-31).
    - ii. Joshua submitted to leadership
    - iii. Israel followed orders and trusted the plan
    - iv. They exercised patience and faith
    - v. They trusted a plan that could have seemed foolish
    - vi. They obeyed in every detail.
      - 1. The walls fell, Israel takes the City and saves Rahab and her family
      - 2. V18 but stay away from the devoted things so that you won't be cursed
        - a. This was Israel's first conquest. The devoted things were another first fruit, devoted to God alone.
- ii. Israel captures Jericho

Chapter 9 – Talks about the Gibeonites. These folks do what Rahab does and makes peace with Israel and follows the God of Israel.

Chapter 10 & 11 – talks about other Canaanite Kings who join together to destroy Israel. Israel engages them in battle and wipe the floor with them.

Chapter 12 is a summary list of all of Israel's victories by both Moses and Joshua, which is a cool thing to see.

END HERE TODAY