

# Joshua 7-15, 22-24

Last week

## Who is Joshua:

-The New Moses

-85 years old when he took over

-Joshua means “God’s Salvation” or “Jehovah is Savior”. Jesus is the Greek equivalent of “Joshua”. So, Joshua is a TYPE of Jesus. As Jesus leads us to our Promised Land in heaven, here Joshua is leading Israel to their promised land.

## Outline of the Book of Joshua

4 Movements:

-CH 1-5 Joshua leads Israel into the promised land

-CH 6-12 Battles and Hostility from the Caananites 6-12

-CH 13-22 Joshua Divides up the land

-CH 23-24 Joshua’s Final Words

## Last week we hit Movement 1

### Ch 1 God speaks to Joshua

Joshua speaks to the leaders

The leaders speak to the people

The people speak to Joshua

Big Takeaway – God sets up leaders and leaders need to develop confident leaders!

### Ch 2 Israel sends spies into Jericho

Rahab makes a covenant with the spies

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

### Ch 3 The miracle of Israel crossing through the Jordan River

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.

#### Ch 4 Israel sets up memorials of the crossing

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

#### Ch 5 Joshua consecrates Israel by setting them apart by circumcision.

Didn't have this last week - Big Takeaway- If God asks you do something, don't let fear or circumstances keep you from doing it.

New Note: All of the men who came out of Egypt died during the journey in the wilderness. All of the men born in the wilderness were not circumcised.

Why? It is a mystery but some speculate

1. The Babylonian Talmud (written opinions of thousands of rabbis) indicates it could have been because it was dangerous due to illness or weakness

There ARE speculations, but none of them really give a good excuse. Israel celebrated Passover along the way and circumcision was a prerequisite to celebrating Passover. There were plenty of times where Israel was stopped for long periods of time.

#### Movement II Begins – Battles and Hostility from the Caananites 6-12

#### Ch 6 Who's in Charge Here?

-Joshua encounters a man, the commander of angels. This COULD have been Jesus. Really 2 primary view

It was a powerful being. Joshua gave him reverence. Joshua calls him Lord, but that could have been a general word of respect

This could have been a theophany, or a visible appearance of God (Jesus). This is supported by the burning bush story when Moses met God.

The man was the commander of the Lord's army, not the Lord himself. So Joshua was bowing out of reverence.

Joshua becomes a participant in God's plan, rather than his own plan

-Instructions from God on how to conquer Jericho. Israel obeys and the walls fall

But....Achan stole some of the devoted things and hid them

#### Chapter 7 – Achan's Sin and defeat at the city of Ai.

-v2-3 Joshua sends spies who report back that it isn't going to take very many men to conquer this city. In other words, this battle is going to be a cake walk. WAY easier than Jericho. Sounds a little bit like they were relying on their own strength here. But if Israel had sent 100k men, they still would have lost. This was somewhat merciful.

-v3-5 Israel attack them and 36 men die and the rest are chased off. Now who's hearts were melting like wax? This showed Israel that they COULD LOSE! They weren't invincible.

-Remember that Rahab had told the spies that all of Canaan's hearts were melting like wax?

-v6-9 Joshua cries out to God. This is where he turns for comfort and guidance.

-v10-15 God responds to Joshua's question and tells them that Israel had acted in disobedience. Crazy that ALL of Israel was punished because of one man's sin! But isn't the parallel interesting when a leader or a Pastor makes a mistake how the whole church can be impacted?

Paul in 1 Cor 5:6 says that a little yeast works through the entire batch. A small amount of sin that is accepted can lead many others away.

God gives instruction on how to find the root of the sin

-v16-19 – Joshua and the leaders follow God's plan. Somehow, tribe by tribe they step forward.

The Tribe that the Lord takes shall come forward.

The Family that the Lord takes.

The one within that family has the devoted things.

-v20 Achan confessed and judgement was served. Harsh? 36 men died as a result of his sin. At least his sin was caught early in their journey. This was also a reminder to all of Israel to obey.

The Lord's anger was subdued.

## Chapter 8 – Israel takes the City of Ai

-God reassures Joshua that He is once again for them. They dealt with their failure and they are moving on

Maybe you need to hear that today! Get over your failure. Root out the sin and move forward!

Too often we stay condemned. Romans 8:1-3 There is no condemnation! Christ fulfilled the law and you are no longer subject to the law of death.

-Amazing battle plan

-They divide 30,000 troops and take some of them and sneak behind the City at night, hiding in the forest

-Ai had chased them off before, so when Joshua and the rest of them came to the front of the City, the entire army of Ai came out and began chasing them again.

-When Joshua turned around and pointed his javelin at the city, the men in hiding took over the city, set it on fire and then pursued the army of Ai from behind. Their army was surrounded and their city was on fire

-Joshua held his javelin in place until the battle was over. Sound familiar?

The entire City was wiped out.

V30-34 Joshua builds an altar to God, an altar according to instructions given to Moses.

-They gave fellowship offerings and fellowship offerings

-Joshua copied on stone, the law of Moses

Half of the people stood on Mt Gerizim and half stood on Mt Ebal. Natural amphitheater effect

This fulfills Deut 27-28 when The Lord told Israel that when they come into the promised land, to come to these mountains. Mt Ebal represents curses and Mt Gerizim represents blessings.

The law contains both blessings and curses



## Chapter 9

V1-16 Several Kings that were on the promised land side of the Jordan river were afraid because of what happened at Jerich. This includes the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. They combined forces to stand unified against Israel. Usually these cities would attack each other, but evil must now unite against God.

-Prior to any battles that we read about, the people of Gibeon took a different approach. They sent a delegation of people. They put on old dirty and worn out clothes. They loaded donkeys with old skins of water to make it look like they had been traveling forever out in the sun. Their sandals were all worn out. They took dry, old, moldy bread and told Joshua that it was fresh when they left home.

They asked Joshua to make a treaty with them and Joshua's men do not inquire of the Lord. They try their moldy bread and taste their stale water. They trusted their senses rather than trust the Lord.

Joshua makes peace with them.

-Then Israel advances to take on the next City and after 3 days they come upon the cities of the Gibeonites. This city was close by! There were 4 cities or towns v17. But the leaders of the cities came out and told them that they had made a treaty with Israel.

- The people of Israel were not happy, but the leaders of Israel were not going to break their treaty.
- Joshua confronts the leaders about their deception. He keeps their treaty but forces the Gibeonites into forced labor and they accept the punishment, but they are not wiped out.

They cut wood for sacrifices and carried water for use in the tabernacle.

But Israel also gained some skilled and strong men. We learn that in Chapter 10

Jericho couldn't win using walls

Ai couldn't win with weapons

But the Gibeonites won in a sense with deceit.

Satan tries one device after another to defeat God's people, and we must constantly be on guard.

It is often after victories that Satan begins his subtle attacks.

-It was after the victory at Jericho that Israel was defeated by Ai

-It was after Israel's defeat of Ai that Joshua was deceived by Gibeon.

Not to be afraid, but we should beware of his schemes. 2 Cor: 2-11 says "so that we are not outwit by Satan, for we are not unaware of his schemes.

Jas 1:5 promises that God will give us wisdom if we ask for it.

-Christians must beware of worldly alliances (2Co 6:14-18), those that don't know Jesus will often even unknowingly conspire against us.

-We shall see here in Jos 10:1-43 that Joshua was forced to defend his enemies because of his hasty covenant.

-Moses warned Israel in Deu 7:1-26 that friendship with these heathen nations would only lead Israel into sin, and that is what happened.

## Chapter 10 & 11

-The Kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon unite to come against Gibeon and attack Gibeon.

-Gibeon sends word to Joshua who they are now united with and Joshua sends up his men.

-God tells Joshua not to be afraid, that they are going to win.

Joshua walks all night and takes them by surprise at night. Joshua was a good military strategist!

The Lord throws all of the enemy armies into confusion and Israel wipes them out. As they are chasing them,

God ups the theatrics and throws huge hailstones and more are killed by the hail storm than by all of the fighting men.

God goes a step further and holds the sun in place v12 for a full day!

-During the battle, the Kings of these Cities hid in caves. Israel rolled stones in front of the caves so they couldn't escape while the battle continued. Almost all of the enemy armies were wiped out but a few made it back to the safety of their towns. Maybe a good thing as word would spread by the few that returned.

-After the pursuit and everyone came back, Joshua had the 5 kings brought out and Joshua kills them. Of the kings, one of them, the king of Jerusalem named Adoni-Zedek is worth mentioning as he is seen as a TYPE of the anti-Christ

His name means, "Lord of Righteousness"

He was the pagan king of Jerusalem.

He led a confederation of kings.

He fought against Joshua.

He resisted God's occupation of the land.

The Bible tells us of a coming false messiah ([Revelation 13:3](#))

who will rule over Jerusalem ([2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#))

who will lead a confederation of kings ([Revelation 17:12-13](#))

fighting against Yeshua ([Revelation 17:14](#))

resisting His occupation of the land ([Revelation 19:19](#))

and hiding in caves ([Revelation 6:15-17](#)).

All in all, Adoni-Zedek is a fascinating picture of the coming Antichrist.

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

### **Movement 3 – 13-22 – Joshua divides up the land and we see a short chapter about Cities of refuge**

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.

While this is not a particularly fun read and seems unimportant, to these Tribes, it was the fulfillment of God's promise to them. It was a VERY big deal.

One cool shoutout is in Chapter 14. The tribe of Judah approaches Joshua and Caleb steps forward to talk to Joshua.

He tells him that at age 40 he was sent by Moses to explore. This tells us that he was a slave in Egypt.

He was a bit of a mixed heritage. His father was a Kenezite and his mother was from the tribe of Judah.

His father was Hezron who was in the ancestry line of Jesus!

He was a slave, but saved by the Passover lamb and now receiving an inheritance of land.

We read about Caleb and Joshua way back in Numbers 13-14. Two years after the escape from Egypt, Moses sent 12 spies into the promised land territory of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb believed that God would give the land to Israel but the other did not. Israel then wandered for another 38 years. The 10 spies died, Joshua and Caleb lived to see the promised land.

Caleb speaks to Joshua at age 85! And is given his inheritance.

#### **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 Canaanites.

Tells them to turn away from the Canaanite 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 Canaanites 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....

Joshua died when he was 110 years old. Only one other patriarchal figure lived exactly to 110: Joseph. And the Book of Joshua connects these two leaders in the final lines of the book. After Joshua has already passed away and was buried, we find this in 24:32

“The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem

Joseph was responsible for bringing the Israelites down to Egypt. But Joshua has led the people back to the land of Canaan, officially ending the exile and opening a new chapter in Israelite history in which the people inherit their homeland