



GOD IS FAITHFUL

BOOK OF JOSHUA



2022 TERM 2

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So the LORD gave Israel all the land
he had sworn to give their ancestors,
and they took possession of it and settled there.

The LORD gave them rest on every side,
just as he had sworn to their ancestors.

Not one of their enemies withstood them;
the LORD gave all their enemies into their hands.

Not one of all the LORD'S good promises to Israel failed;
every one was fulfilled.

Joshua 21:43-45

Resources

The following resources may help with reading/learning about Joshua.

1. Davis, Dale Ralph, *Joshua No falling words*. (Focus on the bible series. Christian Focus Publications Ltd. 2000.
A helpful and approachable commentary that consistently looks to apply the passages to Israel and to us. This was a prime source of content and encouragement in creating these studies.
2. Woudstra, Marten H. *The book of Joshua*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament – NICOT series. Eerdmans. 1981.
Detailed and technical yet looks to share theological insights. Used to help explore topics in more detail.
3. The Bible Project overview video of Joshua.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqOqJIFF_eU
Helps to visualise the story and themes of the book.
4. The Bible Project – Article on Land
<https://bibleproject.com/blog/land-thermometer-covenantal-faithfulness/>
Non-technical and helpful summary of the role of land throughout the bible. Traces the repeated possessing/exile patterns from Eden, promised land, return to the land, and then via Jesus.
5. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Inter-Varsity Press. 2000.
p165: summary of the book of Joshua and key themes.
p632: development the theme of land throughout the Bible.
6. *Promise to Fulfilment*. Moore Theological College correspondence course (“PTC”) notes. 2007.
Study 10 The Eternal Inheritance. Land and Israel’s inheritance and how it is used today (particularly 1 Peter 1:3-5).

Overview of Joshua

Approach

These studies explore the main themes of the book as they are developed and have an emphasis on reading chunks and considering the context for the original hearers. Having appreciated that message in context we can then consider how it relates to us today post Jesus’ death and resurrection.

One difficulty faced in studying the Old Testament is the lack of familiarity we have with names, places, and the historical context. Handouts associated with these studies look to provide enough background information to help you. Each study also has a brief introduction to help set the scene. Another challenge is the volume of material to cover. Sections of the book are skipped to reduce the amount of reading - where this is done a summary is provided to help with continuity.

A question followed by a star in superscript (^{*}) indicates that the notes at the back have more information.

Quick Facts

Author: Joshua, though some sections added by others (eg Joshua’s death)

Purpose: Joshua is a positive book which emphasises the fulfilment of the promises made to the patriarchs regarding the possession of the land of Canaan. Joshua 21:43-45 stresses this, particularly v45 *“Not one of all the LORD’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.”*

Joshua speaks to us today, as Marten Woudstra summarises in his commentary back in 1981. “In the present age of insecurity and fear, of staggering worldwide problems and challenges, the primary need is to stress the truth of the everlasting faithfulness of God as set forth in Joshua.”¹ We can take heart and have confidence and hope as God remains true to his word today as he did then.

Timing: Approx 1400 BC

¹ Woudstra p33

Joshua Outline

Time (approx) Chapter	1 month						~7 years					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Theme (land)	Entering						Taking					
	Joshua installed	Spy out Jericho	Cross Jordan	Stone Memorial	Covenant Rituals	Jericho	Sin of Achan	AI	Gibeon Deception	South Campaign	North Campaign	Kings defeated
Events	Shittim						Central					
Location	Gilgal						Whole					

Time (approx) Chapter	~8 years													
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Theme (land)	Possessing						Allotting						Keeping	
	Land Remaining	Caleb	Judah	Joseph, Ephraim	Manasseh	Survey and lots	Joshua	City of Refuge	Levite Towns	Altar Crisis	Charge Leaders	Charge Israel		
Events	Gilgal						Shiloh						Shechem	
Location	Gilgal						Shiloh						Shechem	

Study 4 Q7: Not really related to the question, but Josh 6:26 notes a curse on Jericho. This is fulfilled much later as recounted in 1 Kings 16:34. What does this say about Israel remembering her history?!

Study 5 Q8: We come from a commonly assumed idea that we (and especially children) are basically good (or not too bad any away) and we don't deserve judgement (or not too much anyway). But for anything more than the end of humanity to be extended beyond Genesis 3 is a testimony to God's incredible grace extended to us. When we understand God's true and just view of sin then the total devoting (and destruction of) all to God is merely what we all deserve. Dying young or a whole town dying all at once is God, as horrific as it is, is a signpost indicating that one day Christ will return and all humanity – young and old – will be judged (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3).

Study 6 Q1: Note the news goes as far up as Lebanon (past Tyre and Sidon coastal towns in the north). Very detailed map <https://www.bible.ca/maps/maps-master-archeological-bible-study-map-israel-promised-land-black-white.jpg>

Study 6 Q4: God's wrath is always morally conditioned and represents a holy reaction on God's part towards a human infraction upon his holiness. (Woudstra p163). Israel fears to act in a way that would arouse God's wrath further by breaking their vow even though their lack of wisdom has brought about this situation. They have to live with the consequences. (Numbers 30:2).

Study 8 Q2: We know from Deuteronomy 12 that Israel are to worship God in only one place, the place God choses. If a tribe (or 2 ½ tribes) defy God, they will be like the nations they're displacing, facing God's judgement.

If any part of God's foundational 12 are disqualified, then God's people would need a new 12 foundational people, a new Exodus, a new Land, a new covenant, and new hearts where there will no more sin.

There is so much hope at the end of Joshua that this is the final foundational chosen 12 that sin will not turn their blessing into curse. "God's people in God's place under God's rule."

We're left hoping the next period of settlement in the land – led by God's Judges - will be a period of such blessings and unity for a 1000 years (and into eternity) of obedience (Deuteronomy 5:10, 7:9). It's wonderful to hope and project forward at the end of Joshua, before we too quickly dive into Judges. But we know that God has promised to deal with sin, and have a people, in a place and forever under his rule. Such hope!

Notes

Study 1 Q2: “Canaanites” (Gen 12:6) is a useful but also confusing term commonly used as the collective reference for all the various pre-Israel inhabitants (enemies) of the promised land. We know Genesis 9:18-27 that Canaan is the son Ham who’s the youngest son of Noah’s three sons, and is cursed and so this line remains under the judgement of God. Even from just Genesis 15:12-21 we see the inhabitants also being collectively referred to as the “Amorites” (v16) but then itemised: “Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.” (v19-21). From Genesis 10:15-18 we know “Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of the Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites.” In Genesis 13:7, 34:30 we see the inhabitants referred to as the “Canaanites and Perizzites”.

When we get to Joshua, the lists are:

3:10, 24:11 Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, Jebusites.

9:1 Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites.

9:7 Gibeonites are Hivites.

2:10, 9:10, 24:8 Transjordan (east of Jordan) inhabitants are Amorites.

→ It’s much easier to just say: “These are all the cursed Canaanites”.

Map: http://www.jesuswalk.com/joshua/app2_peoples.htm

Study 2 Q4: Joshua 13:7, 14:2-3, 21:5, 25, 22:7 refers to “half the tribe of Manasseh” which is because Manasseh has geographically half its tribe inheriting on the west side of the Jordan river and half on the east side. There is another common use of the term “half-tribe” referring to the two sons of Joseph (Manasseh and Ephraim) that form 2 of the 12 land inheriting tribes with their 10 uncles (Genesis 48:5 - noting Levi is not land inheriting – thus making the 12 land inheriting tribes). This second use of “half tribe” is not a biblical reference and is often confused with the Biblical geographical usage or that somehow these tribe are “half” compared to the other ‘full tribes’.

Study 4 Q6: Israel are to possess the land, but God will give it. The giving is part of a bigger picture plan as indicated by Genesis 15:16 which involves judgement of the nations living in the land currently. This is important to remember when considering why the total destruction of the inhabitants seems harsh. They have had ~400 years to repent, (and then 7 final ultimatum days of marching around Jericho) but it only confirmed the ‘full measure’ of their guilt.

Tribal Distribution in the Promised land



Character study: Joshua

Before starting the studies, or as readings in parallel to them, you might like to learn more about what Joshua was like.

1. Ex 17:8-16
2. Ex 24:1-18
3. Ex 32:15-18
4. Ex 33:7-11
5. Num 11:24-30
6. Num 13:1-16²
7. Num 14:1-12
8. Num 27:12-23
9. Num 34:17
10. Deut 1:37-38
11. Deut 3:21-29
12. Deut 31:1-8
13. Deut 34:5-12

1. What do we learn about Joshua's character and faith?

2. What experiences does Joshua have?

3. How might these ready Joshua for leading Israel?

Prayer

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD". (24:15)

Pray this for yourself and Christians you know.

Give thanks for the opportunity to delve into Joshua this term.

Pray for Christians to be discerning – able to identify potential dangers well and deal with them by ever returning to Christ alone.

² Num 13:16 Moses renames Hoshea (He has delivered) to Joshua (The LORD has delivered), which is the Hebrew name for Jesus.

remember God's deliverance and power in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

7. Joshua challenges Israel to commit wholeheartedly. What commitment does Jesus place on our lives today?

8. What can you do to ensure you remain faithful to God?

9. What are some practical ways we can ensure the next generation knows God?

Piles of stone in the land

Seven times in Joshua a stone or stones are used. What purpose do they serve?

Joshua	What	Purpose
4:4-9, 20-22	At Gilgal	
7:24-26	Over Achan	
8:28-29	Over King of Ai	
8:30-32 Dt 27:1-8	Copy of Law Mt Ebal	
10:25-27	Over Amorite kings	
22:10-11, 34	Altar at Geliloth	
24:25-27	Stone of Witness	

Introduction

In Joshua 1:1-2 we are poised to enter the promised land, this is a very significant moment in Israel’s history. The promises made to the patriarchs are about to be fulfilled. This study seeks to place the theme of land and inheritance within the wider context of the bible, looking at the history of this promise up to Joshua, the development of this theme in Israel’s history and into the New Testament.

Discuss

What does the hope of heaven mean to you?

Investigate

1. What does God promise Abraham? (Gen 12:1-7, 13:14-17, 15:12-16)

2. What do we learn about the current inhabitants of Canaan* from Gen 15:12-21?

3. How will God bring Israel from slavery in Egypt to the promised land? (Ex 6:1-8)

4. Why is God able to give (and take) the land? (Ex 19:3-6, Lev 25:23-24)

5. What is the basis of giving of the land to Israel? (Deut 7:7-11, 9:4-6)

6. How is the land described? (Deut 12:8-12)

7. What would God’s people be expecting of life in the promised land?

Read Josh 23:1-16

4. There are three sections to Joshua’s farewell (cf Moses in Deuteronomy).

Passage	What God has done	Exhortation or consequence
v1-8		
v9-13		
v14-16		

5. Joshua exhorts the next generation to follow God. What does Israel have to do to continue to enjoy living in the promised land?

Josh 24:1-13 Summary

Through Joshua, the Lord had set the stage for the covenant ceremony by presenting to his people a summary of his great acts of deliverance (v2-13)⁷ – from Abraham to Jacob in Egypt, Moses and the exodus, the giving over of the Amorites, Balaam forced blessings, victory at Jericho - not via Israel’s military might but by God’s hand. (v12)

Read Josh 24:14-33

6. How does Joshua challenge the people? Summarise their response.

Passage	Joshua’s challenge	The people’s response
v14-18		
v19-22		
v23-24		

Reflection

The stone (24:27) serves as a witness to Israel’s commitment. The journey of Israel serves as an example to us. As Christians we too are in a (new) covenant, we too are called to

⁷ Woudstra p358

Study 8 Joshua 22-24 Future Faithfulness?

Introduction

Joshua 1-21 show God's faithfulness to his promises in giving the land to Israel. Chapters 22-24 pose the question: once Joshua dies, will they continue in faithful obedience to the covenant that they belong to?

Josh 22	Eastern Tribes set up an altar
Josh 23	Leaders charged with following God
Josh 24	Israel charged with following God

Discuss

How can a faithless generation arise from a faithful one?

Investigate

Read Josh 22:1-8

1. Joshua commends the eastern tribes for their faithful obedience (Consider Josh 1:12-18). What does he ask them to do? Why is this so important?

Read Josh 22:9-20

2. Why might setting up an altar arouse such a swift response from the western tribes? What is the issue at stake?*

Read Josh 22:21-34

3. What responses do the tribes have to the resolution of the matter? How would you summarise Israel's relationship with God at this point?

The gift of the land is an expression of God's covenantal commitment to Israel. The land is not a reward for their actions, but a place for them to make ethical choices, but will they live in covenantal obedience? One reliable way of gauging Israel's faithfulness and obedience will be their continuing occupation of the land.³

Moses in his parting speeches in Deuteronomy warns Israel that they are to obey and serve God lest the covenant curses will be brought down on them, resulting in their removal from the land.⁴ Over the next ~800 years we see that Israel's persistent disobedience leads to their exile at the hands of the Babylonians in 586BC.

Losing the land is a crisis for Israel's faith. The land was fundamental to their understanding of their relationship with God. Eventually some of Israel return to inhabit the land (restoration), but it is not the same, they will be living under foreign rule. The prophets start to develop a new concept of land and inheritance, one that transcends geographical boundaries where even foreigners will be included in God's purposes. They look forward to a new covenant.

Stretch (if you have time)

8. We see the prophets look forward to what God will do, using concepts from Israel's history. What aspects are different or new about these expectations?
 - a) Isaiah 66:17-25
 - b) Ezekiel 47:13-23
 - c) Jeremiah 31:31-34

³ New Dictionary of Biblical Theology p625

⁴ Deut 27-28

Reflection

The theme of land is not developed in the New Testament, rather the concept of inheritance is. Abraham was graciously chosen, given a promise, his ancestors became Israel who were redeemed from slavery through mighty acts of judgement and protected and sustained and brought to the promised land. There are parallels to us as Christians today as we look to God's promises, are redeemed by Christ's death and resurrection, through grace and look forward to a future inheritance.

Read Galatians 3:7-14

9. Why is it important that we are considered children of Abraham?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

10. What is the inheritance we look forward to? How is this different to Israel's inheritance of the land?

Prayer

Praise God for his faithfulness to his promises, as seen in Joshua and in Jesus.

Pastoral Care – for awareness and care of our church family's needs, especially through our Growth Groups. For those with mental illness, undergoing cancer treatment, relationship difficulties, dealing with addictions, prodigal children, elderly parents.

Pray for Seniors Ministry – as elders to "youngers"; as parents & grand-parents and aunts and uncles; Aged Care Facilities (John Paul Village, Moran, Garrawarra), Kids Hope mentoring, for our seniors to retire and age well as great examples to our church family.

Josh 18:11-21:42 Summary

The allocation by lot of the land to Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Naphtali, Dan, and finally Joshua. Chapter 20 covers the cities of refuge – an important part of Israel’s justice system. These cities provided a way for a death to be investigated and dealt with to avoid defiling the land. Chapter 21 covers the allocation of Levite towns, noting they don’t receive land, as their inheritance is the Lord. The towns, like the cities of refuge, are allocated across Israel’s inheritance.

Read Josh 21:43-45

8. This closing section emphasizes God’s faithfulness – what are the promises referred to here? (cf Gen 12:7, Num 11:10-12, Deut 1:8)

Reflection

Israel was to trust in the adequacy of God. He will fulfil his promises – this is emphatically demonstrated by the end of Joshua. Today, 2 Cor 1:20 states that “no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ.”

9. What promises of God do you look forward to?

10. How does seeing God fulfil his promises in Israel’s history encourage your faith today?

Prayer

Give thanks to God for his faithfulness to his promises.

Praise God for the everlasting inheritance we have through Jesus.

Pray for term 2 to be a reach term of Build Up for Christians and Reach out to those who don’t know Christ as their king yet.

Pray for our Mission Partners <http://www.eac.org.au/partners>

Note: 3 of our 4 mission partners grew up at our church, and 3 are now serving the Lord in the Middle East!



Karen
Middle East



Mal & Charissa Forrest
Amman, Jordan



Kurt & Bec Langmead
Lightning Ridge



Sam & Marinka
Middle East

Study 2 Joshua 1-2 Faith or Fear?

Introduction

After wandering in the desert for 40 years due to disobedience (Num 13-14) Israel come to the edge of the promised land. Moses is not allowed to lead them in and after his death the nation mourns for 30 days (Deuteronomy 34:8). Leadership now transitions to Joshua – will Israel learn the lessons of the past?

Josh 1 Joshua installed

Josh 2 Jericho spied out

Discuss

What is it like to fear something? What impact can it have on you?

Investigate

Read Josh 1:1-9

1. What is the basis for Joshua to be strong and courageous?
2. What promises and commands does God make/give to Joshua?
3. Not that we're told, but would it be easy or hard for Joshua to trust God?

Josh 13:8-14:5 Summary

Reminded that Manasseh, Reuben and Gad possess the land to the east of the Jordan, this was established during Moses's leadership. The remaining 9 and 1/2 tribes are to have their inheritance allocated by lot – as the Lord had commanded Moses. Obedience to this command is indicated in 14:5. The remaining text provides more details of how this was achieved.

Read Josh 14:6-15

3. What does Caleb repeatedly refer to in support of his request?

4. Describe Caleb's attitude towards taking the land.

Josh 15:1-17:13 Summary

Judah's possessing the land is described, noting the failure to dislodge the Jebusites (Josh 15:63). Joseph's tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh possession is described, noting the failure of Ephraim to dislodge Gezer (Josh 16:10) and of Manasseh to dislodge the Canaanites (Josh 17:12).

Read Josh 17:14-18

5. Compare and contrast the attitude of Caleb in Josh 14:6-15 to the tribes of Joseph regarding taking the land.

6. What does this tell us about possessing the land and Israel's responsibility? (cf Num 13-14)

Read Josh 18:1-10

7. God has promised them the land and indeed given it to them. Yet Joshua in v3 says they are slack! What is Israel failing to do?

Introduction

*So if you have read chapters 14-17 as though they comprised an ancient, tedious geography lesson, you have wrongly read them.*⁶ Faith in God and God's faithfulness to his promises are key themes in this section. Taking the land is a precursor to possessing the land, the settling down and inhabiting of land already won takes time. Note there are sections that are thematic rather than chronological.

Josh 13	Much Land still to be won
Josh 14	Faith of Caleb
Josh 15	Judah's possessing the land
Josh 16-17	Joseph's tribes possessing the land
Josh 18	Survey and lots drawn for remaining land
Josh 19	Joshua possessing the land
Josh 20	Cities of refuge allocated
Josh 21	Levite towns allocated

Discuss

What promises of God do you find helpful to remember?

Investigate

Read Josh 13:1-7

1. How much area remains to be taken? Look at a map.

2. Regarding the remaining land, what does Joshua have to do? What will God do?

Read Josh 1:10-18

4. This situation is an opportunity for disunity. Why is unity so important now? (Num 32, Deut 3:18-20)*

5. How do the people respond to Joshua?

Read Josh 2:1-24

6. Joshua sends out two spies, is this an act of faith or uncertainty?

7. What is Rahab's response to God's mighty acts from 40yrs ago? How does this compare to others in Jericho?

⁶Davis p126

Stretch (if you have time)

8. Compare the response of the spies this time to that of their predecessors in Num 13:31-32, 14:8-9

Reflection

Joshua was to be strong and courageous based on God's commands and promises. He might have been tempted to view the opposition and battle with fear, yet, like Rahab he looks back to the Exodus and recent events to see that God is powerful and responds in faith. We too can look back, not only to the exodus but to God's power in raising Jesus from the dead.

9. Hebrews 11 uses many people from the Old Testament as examples of faith, including Rahab (Heb 11:31). In response what does Heb 12:1-3 exhort us to do?

10. God promises to be with Joshua (Josh 1:5) and hence he should be strong and courageous. Can we apply this to ourselves today? (Read Heb 13:5-8)

Prayer

Give thanks to God for the inheritance we receive as follows of Jesus, that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Pray that many more people in our area would hear the good news and be born again.

Pray for Kid's Ministry – Sunday Kids and youth churches Engadine 9 & Heathcote, Kids Plus Engadine & Heathcote, Kids Hope, SRE Scripture, GFS, Gorillas, Playtime. For all those who dedicate themselves to discipling our youngest members.

Pray for Marriages & Families – to grow in love with Christ at the centre. And for those officially or unofficially separated – for trust in God; for healing of the relationships; for (grand)children involved; for our church to show support for all involved.

Reflection

God has been faithful to his promises, he has given Israel their inheritance, the promised land and they have rest from war. Possessing the land is not complete however, as we will see in the remainder of Joshua. Inheritance and rest are concepts developed in the New Testament (eg a future eternal Hebrews 3-4).

9. How is our understanding of Inheritance and rest enriched from Israel's history?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

10. What is the Christian Inheritance we look forward to receiving? How different is it to Israel's?

Read Hebrews 4:8-11

11. The writer exhorts us to listen to the gospel and be obedient (unlike Israel in Numbers 13-14). What is the rest spoken of here?

Prayer

Give thanks for God's grace in saving sinners (like us!)

Pray that, as God's people, we will always remember his presence with us and fixing our eyes on Jesus we will not grow weary.

Praise God for our whole church, full of faithful servants. Pray that we keep training and sending our best young leaders into the world. Pray for MTS to keep developing, so we can send at least one person to Bible college each year or two.

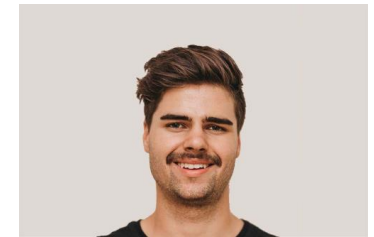
Archbishop Glenn Davies, Moore College, Youthworks, CMS, Generate, AFES, SMBC, beach/urban/rural missions

Welfare – Anglicare, Anglican Aid, Mission Australia, Hammond Care.

Pray for our Ministry Apprentices <http://www.eac.org.au/apprentices>



Sam Begg
ANU, Canberra (MTS Year 2)



Ben Warren
UNSW (MTS Year 1)



Tim Griffiths
EHAC (MTS Year 2)



Alec De Gennaro
EHAC (MTS Year 1)

Study 3 Joshua 3-4 Remember and Respond!

Introduction

Joshua and Israel face the Jordan river in flood, which was possibly more than a kilometre wide, over a metre deep and traversing tangled bushes. For some 2.5 million people plus livestock how will they cross?

- Josh 3 Cross Jordan
- Josh 4 Stone memorial established at Gilgal

Discuss

What is a miracle? Do you believe we should still expect miracles today?

Investigate

Read Josh 3:1-8

1. What is the significance of the ark leading the people?

2. Why would Israel need to consecrate themselves (Ex 19:9-13)?

Read Josh 3:9-17

3. How will Israel know God is really among them and give them the promised land?

Read Josh 10:1-15

6. Complete the table below. What actions are ascribed to God and to Joshua? Who is responsible for the victory over the five kings?

Passage	God	Joshua
v8-9		
v10-11		
v12-13		

Josh 10:1-12:24 Summary

Five kings are pursued and defeated. They are treated in the same manner as the king of Ai. The pace of the narrative quickens, and we see a summary of the southern kings being defeated, most likely over several years. Israel have taken the land and subdued it (conquered) but haven't yet possessed it via settlement. Chapter 11 describes the northern kings being defeated, whilst chapter 12 emphasises the unity of Israel on both sides of the Jordan and the faithfulness of God in giving Israel the land via a long list of defeated kings.

Read Josh 11:16-23

7. These verses describe God's sovereignty in action, hardening their hearts resulting in their destruction. Do you find this difficult to accept? Why? (cf Gen 15:12-16, Ex 11:9-10)

8. In 11:23 (cf 1:13, 14:15, 21:44, 22:4, 23:1, Deut 12:10, 25:19, Gen 2:2-3) the land is given rest from war. What is the significance of this?

Study 6 **Joshua 9-12** **God's Faithfulness**

Introduction

These chapters summarise the battles and the taking of the land in which Israel had to persevere over several years (estimated 5 years 14:10). We see God's sovereignty in action in giving the land as well as Israel's responsibility to take it. The section ends with Israel receiving their inheritance and the land being at rest from war.

Josh 9	Gibeonite Deception
Josh 10	Victory over southern Kings
Josh 11	Victory over northern Kings
Josh 12	Summary of defeated Kings

Discuss

How sure can you be that God is able to do what he has promised to do?

Investigate

Read Josh 9:61-15

1. How far has the news of Jericho/Ai spread? Look at a map*
2. What do the Gibeonites say and do to convince Joshua/Israel to make a treaty?
3. Both the Gibeonites and Rahab respond to hearing about God's mighty deeds – how are their responses similar/different?

Read Josh 9:16-26

4. All Israel is unhappy with the oath. Were the leaders right to keep the oath?*
5. What is ironic about having to keep this oath?

Read Josh 4:1-9

4. Why would future generations need a sign?

Read Josh 4:10-24

5. What do the 12 stones mean?
6. How does crossing the Jordan cause future Israel to fear the Lord? (v24)

Reflection

Seeing an amazing miracle is not enough to sustain faith long term. The greatest enemy of faith is forgetfulness (Moses in Deut 8 drives this point home). Joshua sets up a memorial to remind Israel and future generations of God's power, that He is able to save, to give Israel the land despite impossible odds. God is lord of all the earth (Josh 3:13) and they are to respond in godly fear.

7. How do you respond to reading the events described in Josh 3-4? What impact does it have on your faith?

Read Ephesians 1:18-21

8. We see God's power and strength in raising Jesus and giving him all authority. How are we to respond to this?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:2

9. How can we ensure the next generation knows and remembers God?

Prayer

Ask God to help us better understand how much we deserve his wrath, and to grow in appreciation for the fact he has saved us from this wrath via the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Pray for:

- Anchor Youth – Friday nights, Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoon Anchor senior high bible study.
- Christian groups – Engadine High, Heathcote High, Shire Christian School, ISCF (state schools) & Cru (private schools), Scripture Union & Generate, High School SRE.

Reflection

Some people say they don't like the Old Testament God – "It's too harsh" – and they prefer the New Testament message. But if God is unchanging then this approach to ignoring difficulties is inadequate. Perhaps we don't really understand the necessity of God's wrath because sin doesn't bother us much?

10. Is the New Testament's view of God and his wrath any different to the Old Testament? (Hebrews 10:26-31, 12:25-29)

11. What is Jesus's view regarding sin and our response to it? (Matthew 5:27-30)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, Romans 5:6-11

12. Should we fear the wrath of God today, and what does this look like for us?

Prayer

Pray that we will remember all that God has accomplished for us in Jesus.

Pray for our church:

- Sunday gatherings – Engadine 9am, 1045am , 6pm & Heathcote 9:30am

- Growth groups – the relational heart of so much of our church build up

- Pastors
 - James & Di Warren - Josh, Ben, Emma
 - Michael & Christina Dodd - Luke, Audrey, Ben
 - Ian & Megan Morrison - Jade, Timothy, Luke
 - Dan & Shannon Bishop - Ezekiel, Jedidiah, Abigail, Moriah
 - Jeremy & Felicity Smith - Albie

- Office
 - Michelle & Mal Mallows - Rachael, Bec, Daniel
 - Jackie & Pat Coffey - Kate, Ben, Jon

Study 4 Joshua 5-6 Covenant Relationship I

Introduction

God has been providing for and disciplining Israel for the last 40 years. Israel have crossed the Jordan and celebrate the Passover. Their first step in taking the land is Jericho – a heavily fortified city (walls 3.8m high and 1.8 m wide). Will obedience be enough to gain victory?

Josh 5 Covenant remembered
Josh 6 Victory over Jericho

Discuss

In the Bible, what does it mean to be in a covenant relationship? What is expected?

Investigate

Read Josh 5:1-12

1. What was the purpose of the covenant of circumcision? (Gen 17:1-14, Deut 10:12-22)
2. What act does the celebrating the Passover recall? (Ex 12:1-11, 48, Deut 16:1-8)
3. What is the significance of the provision of manna stopping in 5:12? (5:6, 24:12-13, Ex 16:35, Deut 6:10-11, 8:1-5)

Read Josh 7:13-26

4. How do you view/react to the severity of this judgement in v24-25?
5. What does this tell us about God's view of sin?
6. What is the purpose of rock pile in v26?

Read Josh 8:1-29

7. Israel is now victorious over Ai, what is different this time?
8. The treatment of the king of Ai in v29 is a solemn sign that he (and Canaan) stands under God's curse and judgement⁵ (Genesis 9:18-29, Deuteronomy 21:22-23). What does tell us about God's view of sin?*

Read Josh 8:30-34

9. What does the ceremony make clear about possessing the land? (Deut 28:1-11 cf 28:15-20)

⁵ Davis p71

Study 5 Joshua 7-8 Covenant Relationship II

Introduction

Chapters 5 to 8 form a carefully constructed literary unit. Ch 5 starts with covenant ceremonies and Ch 8 ends with a ceremony commanded by Moses in Deuteronomy 27-28. The blessings and curses of the covenant were to be pronounced from Mt Ebal and Mt Gerizim. In-between we see battles where the result is determined by Israel's obedience (or lack thereof) to the covenant - echoing the blessings and cursing theme.

Josh 7 Sin of Achan

Josh 8 Victory over Ai and Covenant blessing and curses

Discuss

Are we able to be obedient to God's commands?

Investigate

Read Josh 67:1-12

1. How is the attack on Ai different to Jericho? Why do they fail?

2. How is Joshua's response different to Israel's in Numbers 14:1-3?

3. V1 tells us one person was unfaithful. What are the consequences in v10-12?

Read Josh 5:13-6:5

4. The commander's response, and the battle plan, are perhaps unexpected. Describe the plan.

5. What does this plan emphasise about Israel's role in the taking of the land? (Deut 9:1-6, Gen 15:16, Lev 18:24-25)*

Read Josh 6:6-27

6. Rahab and her family are spared. What does this tell us about God's judgement on Canaan?*

Reflection

To be in covenant relationship requires us to obey its terms and conditions. In the case of Israel, they were to observe the rituals and festivals AND to act in obedience. Canaan was under the Judgement of God, but even as this is being executed, we see mercy being afforded to Rahab and her household.

Read Ephesians 2:11-13

7. How are we brought into relationship with God? What are the terms and conditions?

Prayer

Praise God for his mercy, that both Jew and Gentile can come to him through the blood of Christ

Pray for your Growth Group members far more specifically (you might split this – a few members each week to allow for more extended time each).