

Conquering the Land – Lesson 8

Joshua was close to Moses.

When the spies entered Canaan, Joshua was one of the twelve that returned with a good report.

- Joshua also led the battle against the Amalekites in Ex 17.8+.
- He went up with Moses to Mt. Sinai when the Ten Commandments were given (See Ex 24.12-13)
- He was there when Moses cast the tables to the ground after finding the people engaged in idolatry. (Ex 32:16-19.)

It was natural for Joshua to succeed Moses when Moses smote the rock contrary to the command of God.

He and Caleb received a commendation from the Lord in Nu 32:11-12 that they wholly followed the Lord. We read in *Deuteronomy 31:23, And he* (Moses speaking for God) *gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee. Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.*

These words, **Be strong and of a good courage**, became the mantra for Joshua in the battles that lay ahead. See Jos 1:6-9,18; 10:25. Here was the secret of his success: *Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Joshua sends spies into the land

The Promised Land and its boundaries were confirmed to Joshua by the Lord. Jos 1:2-4.

In Jos 2 Rahab, the harlot, provides a hiding place for the spies that Joshua sent into the land. Because of her action she and her family were spared. Like the ark of Noah and the Passover, she had to remain inside the house to be saved. The scarlet cord (pictures the blood of Christ) that the spies used to escape became the token that protected her house. (Jos 6:25; Heb 11:31)

Who was this woman named Rahab?

- (1) She was a Canaanite, a *stranger to the commonwealth of Israel*, and had but little help for faith, and yet she was a believer (see Josh 2:9-13);
- (2) She was a harlot, and lived in a way of sin; she was not only a keeper of a public house, but a common woman of the town, and yet she believed that the greatness of sin, if truly repented of, shall be no problem for the pardoning mercy of God. Christ has saved the chief of sinners. *Where sin has abounded, grace has superabounded.*

What did she do by her faith:

- (1) *She received the spies in peace*: the men that Joshua had sent to spy out Jericho, Jos 2:6, Jos 2:7. She not only bade them welcome, but she concealed them from their enemies who sought to cut them off, and she made a noble confession of her faith, Jos 2:9-11.
 - a. *This is the same as found in Matt 10 and Luke 10 when the Lord instructed His disciples to go into a village/town and find the “man of peace” or household of peace.* That would be a home where they were willing to accept the disciples as followers of Christ.

(2) She engaged them to covenant with her to show favor to her and her family.

- a. True faith will show itself in good works, especially towards the people of God.
- b. Faith will take the necessary risks in the cause of God and his people; a true believer will sooner expose his own person than God's interest and people.
- c. A true believer is desirous, not **only to be in covenant with God**, but in **communion with the people of God**, and is willing to cast in his lot with them, and to fare as they fare.

Crossing Jordan

Follow the ark - Jos 3.4...*that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore*. Jesus is our Ark. This is good advice for anyone in an uncertain situation. In other words, what would Jesus do? The Jordan dried up when the foot of the priests touched the water. It was a matter of faith like when Moses raised his rod, believing the Red Sea would part. The inhabitants of the land had heard about the Red Sea, but now they saw God's power in their own Jordan. Twelve stones were set up in the Jordan, and 12 stones were set up on the shore for a witness. Joshua was magnified in the eyes of the people, and the hearts of the enemy were smitten.

It was necessary to circumcise all the males as a token of God's covenant because the people neglected to do it while wandering in the wilderness. Then they journeyed to Gilgal and kept the Passover there.

Jericho

This was a strange battle. It is hard to describe more concisely than the Bible. *Joshua 6:3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. Joshua 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. Joshua 6:5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.*

Do the underlined words sound like the Rapture? This happened **after six days**. See 2pe 3:8. (1 day=1000 years). Jesus appeared in His glory on the mount after six days (Mark 9.2)

AI: (That does not mean Artificial Intelligence!) After a great victory came a great defeat due to sin and pride.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

There was sin in the camp. Achan had taken a wedge of gold and a Babylonian garment and hid it in his tent. In addition everyone was overconfident sending only a small group to battle against Ai (Jos 7:3).

1. They didn't pray and ask counsel of God.
2. After the humiliating defeat and repentance, God gave them instructions for an ambush, and Ai was defeated.

The Gibeonites

Because of fear, the Gibeonites plotted to trick the children of Israel into sparing them. Wearing old clothes and carrying moldy bread, they said they came from a far country. The Jews made an oath with them against God's command. **They forgot or neglected to pray**. They felt compelled to honor the oath, even though it was made in deception. They would soon have to defend the Gibeonites in battle. See Jos 10:6+.

The Sun Stands Still

In defending the Gibeonites God fought for Israel and caused the sun to stand still about a whole day. There was no day like that before or after.

Eventually the land was subdued (over a period of about six years.) It took an additional fourteen years to divide and occupy the land. Unfortunately, they did not follow God's command to drive out or kill all the inhabitants. See Nu 33:52,55. This failure has continued to cause the nation of Israel trouble to this day.

Dividing the Land

The land was divided by lot with two and a half tribes (Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh) on the east side of Jordan. The land west of Jordan was divided to the remaining tribes except for Levi which had no land inheritance. *Joshua 13:14 Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.*



Six cities of refuges were established - *Nu 35:11 ... that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares.* See the map with cities marked with red(west) or black(east):

Joshua Charges the People - Joshua 23-24

Joshua 23:6 Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

Joshua is old and ready to die. He reasons with the people:

- Not one thing that God promised has failed.
- Remember what He has done. In chapter 24 Joshua gives them a Big Picture class.
- You have seen it.
- Therefore, choose you this day whom ye will serve - Jos 24:15

Types

The Jordan pictures entering God's perfect will

Joshua in Hebrew is the same as Jesus in Greek and means Jehovah is salvation The inhabitants represent besetting sin (Heb 12.1) to be slain or driven out.

Rahab pictures gentile salvation. She was saved by abiding in the house (Christ), and the scarlet cord represents the shed blood of Christ that saves. Rahab is also an illustration of the relationship between faith and works. See Heb 11:31 and James 2:25.

Applications

- Teach your children about the works of God when they ask - Jos 4:6,21
- Achan shows the downward progression of lust, sin, and death. Compare James 1:14,15
- Drive out the inhabitants – sins in your life.
- When victory comes, take heed not to fall. Remember God and serve him.
- Pray first.
- Be strong and of a good courage.

Review Questions on Conquering the Land:

1. Joshua was Moses' _____.
2. He fought against the _____ and prevailed when Moses' hands were in the air.
3. Joshua was on _____ with Moses.
4. Only Joshua and _____ brought a good report of the land of Canaan.
5. When Moses' sinned by _____ the Rock, Joshua became the leader of Israel.
6. Moses told Joshua and he told Israel to be _____ and of _____.
7. Joshua sent spies before the battle of _____.
8. _____ hid the spies and was saved as a result.
9. When the people crossed the Jordan, 12 stones were taken out for a _____ so when the children asked in times to come what they mean, the parents could testify of the Lord.
10. All the men but Joshua and Caleb needed to be _____ again.
11. The _____ ceased when they ate of the land.
12. The captain of the host, _____, appeared to Joshua with sword drawn.
13. The people encircled Jericho _____ times before the walls fell down flat.
14. The _____ also happens after six periods of time when the trumpet sounds and a great shout is heard.
15. Israel was defeated at Ai because of _____ and the _____ thing which was a sin unto the people that God could not bless.
16. The second time at Ai, Israel used an _____ to win the battle.
17. The _____ were able to deceive the people of Israel because they did not _____ first – the same thing that happened at Ai.
18. God made the sun stand still about a _____ so the battle could be won.
19. _____ tribes stayed on the east side of the Jordan River.
20. The Red Sea crossing pictures salvation and the Jordan pictures 2 things, the _____ and the death of the Christian before entering heaven.
21. _____ in the _____ is like the ups and downs of the Christian life.
22. The inhabitants were to be driven out. This pictures _____ in the Christian life.
23. Joshua is the Old Testament name for _____ and means Jehovah is Salvation.
24. The people served God all the days of Joshua and the _____ that saw God's mighty works. Then a new generation arose that knew not the Lord.