



Joshua

AN 18 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES

By Lisa Hughes

Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig into the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

Scripture Paths Bible Studies are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.

6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming for. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY

Grace to you and peace John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and encourage others to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian, as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work,” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is employing those truths in your life.

As you study this book of the Bible, it is my prayer you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as *the* source of life and godliness, and that you will accept it, not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom and knowledge, overcome sin, and daily grow in godly conduct and love for Christ.

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
Lisa Hughes*

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting, nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further, I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. The easiest way to find the biblical definition is to use one of the many websites devoted to helping people study the Bible. Sites like www.blueletterbible.com and others like it, allow you to type in the Strong's number easily to find the word's definition. I do have a step by step guide for doing a word study the "old fashioned way," using books! If you plan to do your word definitions that way, then be sure to look for the guide I've put together to help you. *These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.*

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig into each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

And what could be better than that?

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Psalm 119:129-133

Joshua

Lesson #1, Overview of the Book

Before we begin studying the details of the book of Joshua, we need to understand its structure and purpose. Many times, the who, what, when, where, and why questions of a book can be answered directly from the text. With the book of Joshua, however, those questions can't be answered from the book alone. Start by looking for the answers in the book of Joshua itself—feel free to skim the pages looking for your answers. Once you've looked in the Bible text, then you can supplement your answers using your study Bible notes, commentaries on Joshua, or Bible encyclopedias to answer the following questions. One of my favorite resources for gaining insight into the make-up and background of a book is *Talk Thru the Bible* by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa. It's a "must have" for any student of the Bible!

1. *Who* wrote the book of Joshua?
2. *When* was it written?
3. *Why* was it written (what is its purpose)?
4. What *task* is the nation to accomplish in the book of Joshua?
5. Who are the *main characters* in the book of Joshua?

6. List a *simple outline* of the book of Joshua that *succinctly* summarizes the structure of the book. (For help locating an outline like this, look in your Bible's study notes or in a commentary or Bible encyclopedia).

7. The book of Joshua is the sequel to the events that transpired in the book of Deuteronomy. Read Deuteronomy Chapters 1-3 to write a short summary, explaining the circumstances leading up to the book of Joshua.

8. Though Moses had been raised up by God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, he was not the one to take them into the Promised Land of Canaan. Why? See Num. 20:1-13; Deut. 32:48-52; 34:1-8; Ps. 106:32-33.

9. What were Moses' last words to the nation of Israel before he died (Deut. 32:45-47)?

10. How did Moses pass the mantle of leadership to Joshua? See Num. 27:15-23; Deut. 34:9.

11. How did the people respond to the change in leadership just as they were ready to enter the land? See Josh. 1:16-17.

12. This might feel basic, but it's a good review. Please list the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch.

Joshua

Lesson #2, Chapter 1

Because the book of Joshua is so tightly knit to the books of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), let us first review the major events and important figures leading up to the book of Joshua.

1. Trace God's covenant with Abraham to see the importance of possessing the land. Note with whom God makes His covenant in each instance. See Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-8; 26:1-5; 28:10-15.
2. Summarize Israel's past history, starting from the Exodus from Egypt under Moses' leadership, then highlight the events leading up to the book of Joshua as the people stand ready to enter the land. (The books of Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy contain Israel's story. Feel free to use a Bible dictionary, study Bible notes, etc. to answer this question.)
3. What did the Israelites understand about God at this time in history? Think over the things we've already studied and read that God has done for the nation and look up the following verses to form your answer: Gen. 2:4; 15:1-21; Ex. 2:24-25; 3:6, 9; 6:2-4, 6-8; 15:11, 13.
4. Read the following verses, then describe who Joshua was, what his character was like, and the deeds he did up to this point in his life. Look up Ex. 17:9-10; Num. 11:27-29; 13:1-3, 8, 16; 14:6-10, 30, 38; 27:18-23; 32:11-12; Deut. 31:23.
5. When the book of Joshua opens what transition is taking place (verses 1-2)?

6. Notice how specifically God encourages and strengthens Joshua in verses 1-9. List those statements. Why did Joshua need that encouragement from God?

7. In verses 6-9 God commands Joshua three times to *be strong and courageous*. Note the different reasons and exhortations that accompany each “*be strong and courageous*.”

8. God tells Joshua the way to be successful with the huge task entrusted to him. What is the key to Joshua’s success (verses 7-8)?

9. What are some ways the world says you can achieve success? Where does biblical success begin?

10. Think about your life. How faithfully are you applying these exhortations to biblical success to your life? Are there any changes you need to make so that you can have true, biblical success?

11. What does Joshua instruct the officers to command the people to do in verses 10-11? Why are those instructions significant? See Ex. 16:35 and Josh. 5:12.

12. In verses 12-15 Joshua tells the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to remember their promise. What commitment did the 2 ½ tribes make? See also Num. 32:1-5, 20-27 and Deut. 3:1-20.

13. Taking into account what you learned in Question #12, why was it so important that the 2 ½ tribes help their brothers? See also Num. 32:6-15.

14. Eager Beaver: Num. 26:7, 18, 34 record that 136,930 men were of age to go to war. Yet Josh. 4:13 states that only 40,000 of these men crossed over to fight with their brothers. Turn to Deut. 20:1-9 to review God's weeding out process. What principle did God want them to know and practice, even in this crucial time of conquering the land?

15. What kind of response do the 2 ½ tribes give Joshua in verses 16-18?

16. Were the 2 ½ tribes being overly zealous when they promised to kill anyone who didn't obey Joshua? See Deut. 17:12-13.

17. Still looking at Deut. 17:12-13, consider *wit* means to be *presumptuous* (NIV *contemptuous*)? What is a presumptuous person rebelling against according to those verses? Why does presumption need to be dealt with so severely?

18. How would the 2 ½ tribes deal with *you*? Are you guilty of presumptuous sins against the leaders God has placed over you for your good or against God Himself? How should you respond when you discover those attitudes in yourself? See Ps. 19:12-14.

19. Look back over the chapter and note each time *LORD* or the *LORD your God* is used. What do you learn about the character of God from each instance?

20. Go through this chapter and list each of the commands given. For example: *Now arise, cross this Jordan* (both in verse 2).

21. Review the commands you wrote down in question #20. Some of the commands were not intended for us today, but quite a few of those commands transcend time to apply to us *today*. What are the consequences for not obeying these commands in your life? How can you begin *today* to follow the commands revealed in this chapter?

Joshua

Lesson #3, Chapter 2

Ask the Lord for His help to understand and apply His Word as you read Chapter 2 in preparation for this lesson.

1. As the rest of the nation prepares to cross the Jordan (1:11), Joshua secretly sends out 2 spies to Jericho. What might be a reason that he kept this mission secret? What was Joshua's previous experience spying out the land? Give a brief summary from Num. 13:17-14:10.
2. Where do the two spies end up once they arrive in Jericho (verse 1)?
3. Who finds out about the spies being in Jericho (verses 2-3)?
4. What does Rahab do for the spies in verses 4-6? Was she successful (verse 7)?
5. The spies go to the house of Rahab, the harlot (possibly the least conspicuous place) where she hides them on the roof. When the king enquires about them, she lies to protect them. Was it right for her to lie in order to save their lives? Does the end (the spies' protection) justify the means (the lie)? Look up the following verses to prepare your answer. Ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:11; Prov. 12:22; Titus 1:2; Rom. 3:23; Ps. 103:3; 130:3-4; Col. 3:5-10; I Jn. 1:9.

6. What does Rahab tell the spies that will be useful to report back to Joshua (verses 8-11)? How had this been prophesied before (Ex. 23:27 and Deut. 2:25)?

7. What does it mean when Rahab says, “*our hearts melted away with fear?*” Ps. 22:14 and Is. 13:6-9 will help you formulate your answer.

8. Verses 9-11 mention the morale of the people of Jericho. What events does Rahab cite to account for their demoralized state (verse 10)?

9. How is verse 11 a statement of faith by Rahab and how is her faith demonstrated? See verses 4-7 and 12-13. (Keep in mind her background, profession, pagan culture).

10. What pledge do the two spies make to her (verse 14)?

11. How did the two spies get out of Jericho without being seen (verse 15)?

12. What advice does Rahab give the two spies in verse 16?

13. The two spies give Rahab certain conditions to which she must comply, or they will be free from their oath of safety for her and her family. What are these requirements (verses 17-21)?

14. Where did the two spies go after leaving Rahab (verses 22-23)?

15. What did the two spies report to Joshua (verses 23-24)?

16. What was different about this reconnaissance mission from the one Joshua was a part of nearly 40 years previously (Num. 13:25-33)?

17. How is Rahab remembered in Scripture and what kind of life did she live later? See Josh. 6:25; Matt. 1:5-6; Heb. 11:31; and James 2:25.

18. What attributes about God caused Rahab to seek Him (verses 9-11)? How have those very same attributes of God been a source of encouragement and strength to you recently?

19. When Rahab heard the reports of God's miraculous doings, it ignited an intense faith in her that would not be ignored. That desire to know the One, true God of Israel caused her to put her life on the line to help the two spies, while also turning her back on her old way

of life. Is there that same intensity in your life to seek God, to be willing to follow Him no matter what the cost? Ask God to fan the flame of desire and devotion to Him.

20. Chapter 2 is a remarkable account of the grace and mercy God extends to sinners. Rahab was a prostitute, the lowest of the low, among a people God intended to destroy because of their great wickedness. Yet her heart was prepared by God to act in faith. She not only became a Jewish proselyte but was also part of the Davidic/Messianic line. Think back over your life. How has God moved you from a position of cursing to one of blessing? What changes has He made in you?

21. Think too, of the people God has placed in your life. Is there a Rahab or two who needs to hear of God's holiness and love and forgiveness? Write down their name(s). Begin praying for them, then actively look for opportunities to speak to them about the Lord.

- e. Heb. 9:4
5. Israel is told to follow the ark of the covenant. Was this a normal occurrence for them? How had the Lord been leading them the last 40 yrs.? See Num. 9:15-23.
6. God was faithful to lead Israel in the way He wanted them to go, whether as a pillar of fire, a cloud, or with the ark of the covenant. God is faithful to lead us in the way He wants us to go too. What do the Scriptures have to say about who God leads and how He leads them? See Ps. 23:2-3; 25:4-5, 8-10; 27:11; 31:3; 2 Cor. 2:14.
7. What does following God in your daily life look like? Are you endeavoring to follow Him in the way He prescribes, or do you follow in your own way? If you are following in your own way, can it really be called following? What are some examples of what following your own way might look like in your life?
8. The people have been prepared physically and militarily to cross the Jordan; now Joshua tells them to consecrate themselves — their spiritual preparation. Define *consecrate* (NKJV *sanctify*) from verse 5.
9. Look up the following verses and note what or who can be consecrated and for what purpose.
- a. Ex. 13:2; 19:10, 14-15; 40:9-13
- b. Lev. 11:44; 20:22-26; 22:32; 25:10; 27:14-16

c. Deut. 26:19

10. Is the idea of consecration still a valid one for us to understand today? What do you learn about consecration from Jn. 17:17; Rom. 6:22; 15:16; I Cor. 1:30; I Thess. 4:3-4, 7; 2 Thess. 2:13?

11. You may not be entering the land with Joshua, but the command of God is still clear that you are *to be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy"* (1 Pet. 1:15-16). Consider what unholy attitudes, habits, or behaviors you might have that would keep you separated from God. What do you plan to do to get rid of them, so you can follow God in the way He commands?

12. What promise did God make to Joshua in verse 7? What reason is given?

13. Eager Beaver: Did God exalt Moses in a similar fashion? See Ex. 14:30-31

14. What did God want the priests to do (verse 8)? For what purpose (verses 7, 10, 13)?

15. Joshua tells the Israelites what God intends to do for them. Read verses 9-13 and list what you learn about God and His character.

16. In verse 10, God is described as the living God. Read the following verses, then describe what you learn about the *living God*: Deut. 5:26; Ps. 42:2; 84:2; Jer. 10:10; Dan. 6:26-27; Matt. 16:16; Acts. 14:15; Rom. 9:26; 2 Cor. 3:3; 6:16; I Thess. 1:9; I Tim. 3:15; 4:7-10; Heb. 9:14; 10:31.

17. Verses 11 and 13 describe God as *Lord of all the earth*. What does that title teach us about God? See Ex. 19:5; Deut. 10:12-14; Job. 41:11; Ps. 24:1-2; Ps. 50:11-12.

18. God is still the *living God, the Lord of all the earth*. He does not change. How does your understanding of those names of God encourage you?

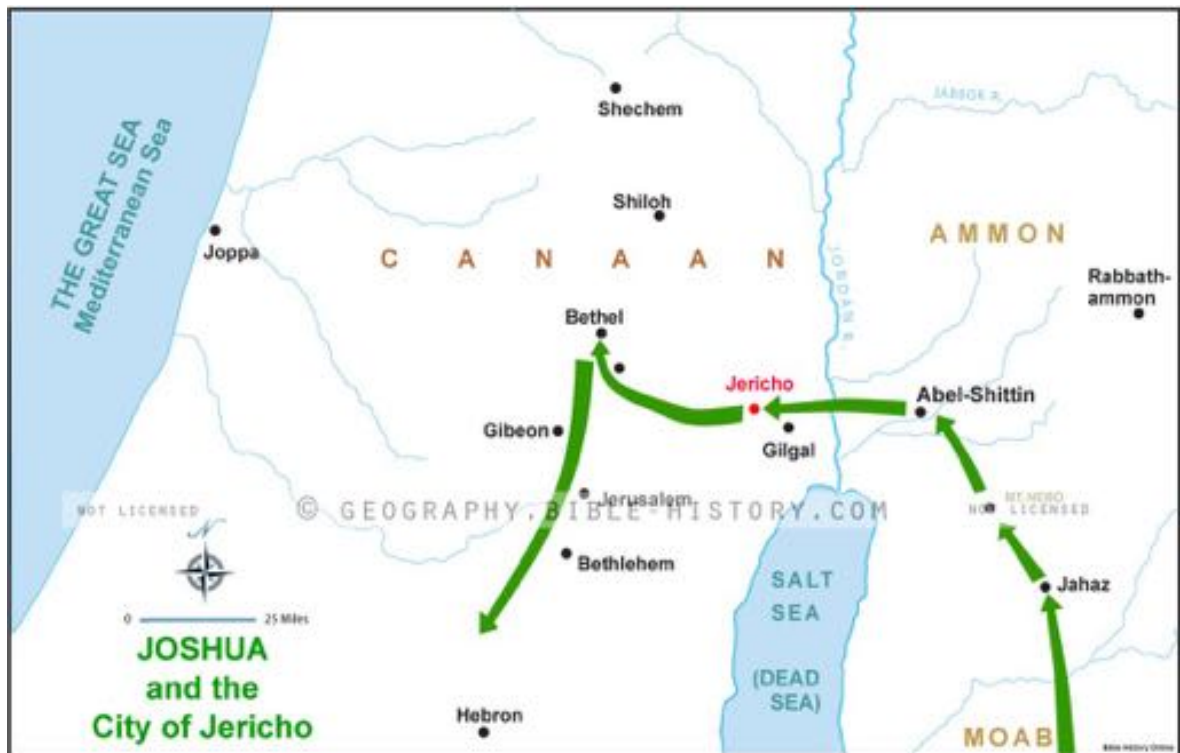
19. Read verses 13-17. What were the Israelites supposed to do?

20. What do you learn about the Jordan that would make stepping into the river an act of faith (verse 15)?

21. What details from verses 13-17 reveal the supernatural way in which God worked for His people?

22. Based upon the details from this chapter and using the map provided at the end of this lesson, draw a simple picture illustrating the crossing of the Jordan River.

23. The priests entering the Jordan with the water seeping into their sandals are a living illustration of Heb. 11:1, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Are you getting your feet wet in the waters of faith or are you standing upon the safety of the riverbank, holding back from trusting the Lord? John MacArthur challengingly asks, “What am I believing God for, that only God can do, so that when He does it, He gets all the glory?” What do you need to step out in faith for?



Joshua Lesson #5, Chapter 4

Read Chapter 4 before beginning this lesson, and as you do, seek the Lord's wisdom in understanding the rich truths hidden here.

1. Where is the nation at the beginning of Chapter 4? See Joshua 3:17 and 4:1. Where are the priests and the ark of the covenant (3:17)?
2. What does the Lord command the people to do in verses 1-5?
3. How do the people respond to this instruction (verses 8, 20)?
4. What is the purpose behind the command (verses 6-7, 21-24)?
5. The memorial stones were to be used as a tool to teach their children about God. What were some other ways the Israelites were to teach their children about the One, True God? See Deut. 6 and 11:18-25.
6. Define *memorial* (verse 7).

7. Memorials were to teach and remind the people of significant events, promises or covenants, miracles, and God's commandments. Look up the following verses and note what the memorial is and its purpose and significance.
- a. Gen. 9:13-16
 - b. Gen. 28:16-19
 - c. Gen. 35:14
 - d. Ex. 3:14-15
 - e. Ex. 12:1-14
 - f. Ex. 20:8-11
 - g. Num. 5:15
 - h. Num. 15:38-40
 - i. Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25
 - j. Josh. 22:34
 - k. Judg. 6:22-24

1. I Sam. 7:10-12
 - m. The New Testament has only one instituted memorial in I Cor. 11:24-25.
8. A second memorial is set up in verses 9-10. Who set up that memorial? Where is it located? What purpose does it serve?
9. Why were the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh specifically mentioned in verse 12? See Deut. 3:1-20.
10. Verse 14 is the fulfillment of a promise. What is it? See 3:7.
11. What was it about the crossing of the river Jordan that caused Joshua to be exalted and revered in the eyes of the people (verse 14)?
12. What happened when the priests came out of the riverbed (verse 18)?
13. According to Joshua 3:17 the priests who carried the ark of the covenant remained in the middle of the Jordan until all the nation finished crossing. How could nearly 2 million people cross in a day? Refer to Joshua 3:16 and the map at the end of this lesson to formulate your answer.

14. Compare this crossing with the crossing of the Red Sea in Ex. 14:21-31. What are some similarities and differences?

15. When Israel is told what to tell their children about this day, the crossing of the Jordan River and the Red Sea are linked together. Look up the following verses and note the author's purpose in recounting those events for their audience: Ps. 66:5-6; 74:12-13, 15; 114:3-8; Is. 50:2.

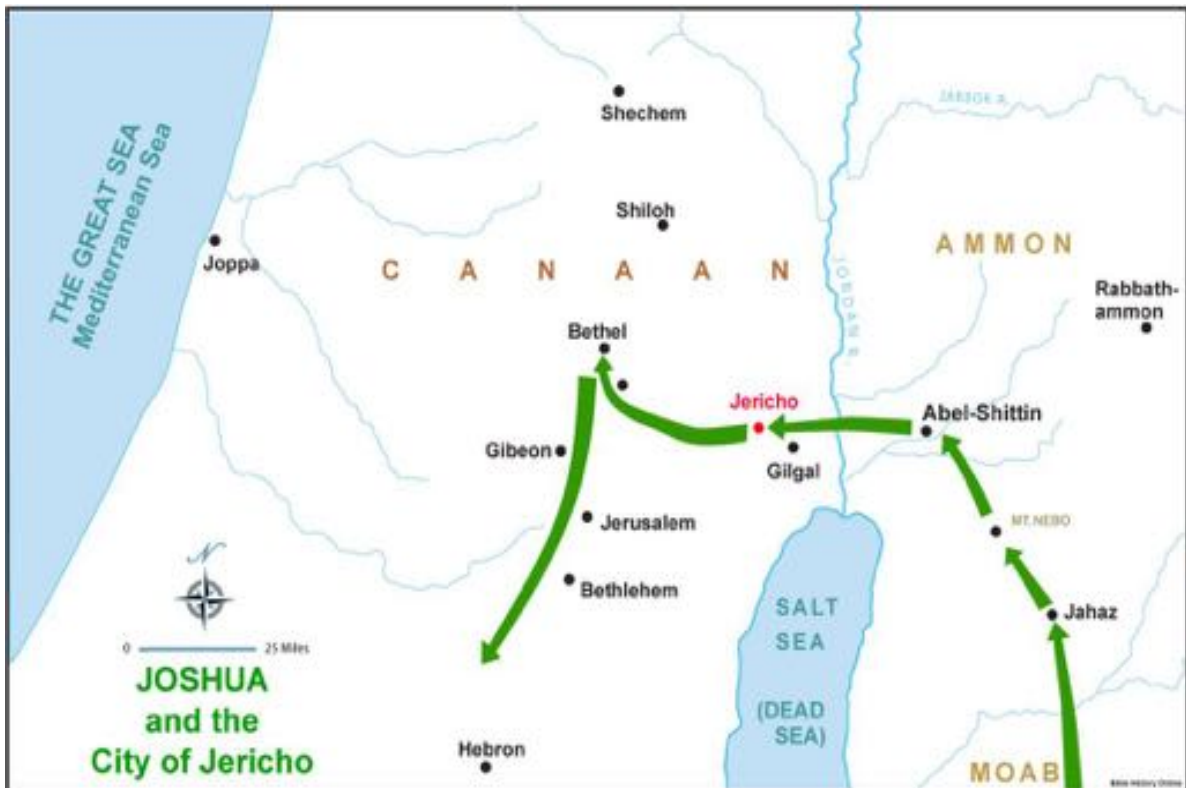
16. What day did Israel enter the land and what is its significance (verse 19)? See Ex. 12:1-12.

17. Where were the memorial stones set up after they were taken from the riverbed (verse 20)?

18. What were the 2 main reasons for setting up the memorial stones according to verse 24?

19. The Jordan River running at flood stage was a major obstacle in the way of entering the land. Yet in the midst of an impossible situation, God, through His power, worked a miracle. Are you currently facing a major obstacle or seemingly impossible situation? How will you begin to trust God today to divinely lead you through the crossing of your own Jordan River?

20. Chapter 4 introduces the use of memorials as a means of instruction, reminder, and praise about God. What are some *memorials* from your life that remind you of God’s faithfulness and care?
21. In this chapter we see God fulfilling His promises to the nation and to Joshua. No matter how much times elapses between the giving of the promise and the fulfillment of it, we know that God will honor His Word. How can that truth encourage you as you face different obstacles and trials along the way?



Joshua Lesson #6, Chapter 5

Prepare your heart by seeking the Lord before you read Chapter 5 and begin this lesson.

1. What did the kings of the land hear (verse 1)? What effect did it have upon their morale?
2. How was the response of the kings in Joshua 5:1 a fulfillment of the promise made in 4:24 that *all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty*?
3. Verses 2-12 record two things that the Israelites were to do as part of their entering the land. What were they?
4. While the enemy sits by completely demoralized, the Lord commands Joshua to circumcise the sons of Israel. Verses 4-7 give the reason for needing to do this rite. What is it?
5. Read Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27; Ex. 4:24-26; Lev. 26:41; Deut. 10:16; and 30:6 to see what the Israelites would have understood about circumcision at that time. Record your findings.
6. Now look up the following verses to gain a completed view of circumcision. Record your findings. Had the meaning of circumcision changed at all by New Testament times? See Jer. 4:4; 9:25-26; Ezek. 44:6-7, 9; Acts 7:51; 15:1-21; Rom. 2:25-29; 4:9-12; 1 Cor. 7:18-19; Phil. 3:2-3; Col. 2:11.

7. By renewing the rite of circumcision, which was the *sign* of the covenant, Israel would be reminded of the covenant itself. What was the covenant (Gen. 13:14-17; 15:18-21)?

8. Circumcision was a token reminder that God would keep His promises, just as a ring is a token reminder of a couple's pledge of love and faithfulness to each other. Why are symbols like that helpful? Do you have any mementos that remind you of God's faithfulness?

9. Circumcision refers to the spiritual state of the heart as well as a physical sign. An uncircumcised heart is hard, stubborn, and disobedient toward God while a circumcised heart is yielding, obedient, and seeking God. How would God view your heart *today*? Do you need to make any changes?

10. Eager Beaver: We see that Israel was to observe Passover and accomplish circumcision upon entering the land. What other things was Israel to do when they entered the land?
 - a. Lev. 19:23; 23:10

 - b. Num. 15:2-3, 18-19

 - c. Deut. 4:5-6; 7:1-2; 11:29-32; 18:9; 26:1-10; 27:2-3

11. There is some speculation about the meaning of verse 9 and the meaning of *the reproach of Egypt*, but the best interpretation can be determined from Ex. 32:12; Num. 14:13-16; Deut. 9:28. Record your findings.

17. How would the testing and training of the desert prepare the people for the Promised Land? What warnings did God give the people?

18. We often don't recognize the "manna" on our plates and view it more like "lima beans." Make a list of the ways God has provided, protected, and cared for you. As you review that list stop and praise and thank Him for all He's done.

19. God has spiritually prepared the people for battle by reinstating circumcision, Passover, and partaking of the fruit of the land. The final element before taking the land is the spiritual preparation of Joshua. In verse 13 what does Joshua see? What question does Joshua ask?

20. What reply is given to Joshua? Based on Joshua's response in verse 14 what can you assume that Joshua understood?

21. How is Joshua's encounter (verses 13-15) similar to the one recorded in Ex. 3:1-10?

22. This is none other than a *theophany*, a visible manifestation of God. (It would be more precise, in this case, to say *Christophany*, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ). How do we know that the Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Christ? Look up the following verses and note their common activity or attribute.

Reference to the Angel of the Lord	Common Activity or Attribute	Reference to Christ
Gen. 16:7, 13		Jn. 20:28
Gen. 48:15-16		Heb. 1:8
Ex. 3:2, 5-6, 14		Jn. 8:58
Judg. 13:15, 18		Is. 9:6
Ex. 23:20		Jn. 5:30; 6:38
Ex. 14:19		Matt. 28:20
Is. 63:9		Eph. 5:25
Josh. 5:13-15		Rev. 19:11-14

Chart from Pastor Jack Hughes' Deity of Christ study.

23. What is a possible reason why the commander of the army of the Lord replies no to Joshua's inquiry, *Are you for us or for our adversaries?*

24. How does this meeting with the Captain of the Lord's host prepare Joshua for battle?

25. God intends for us to meet with Him so that we will be strengthened and prepared for the battles we face each day. Have you met with the Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords, the King of kings, your God and King today? Have you humbly submitted to His leadership? Are you heeding the plans He has revealed in His word?

Joshua

Lesson #7, Chapter 6

Chapter 6 records the familiar account of Jericho's defeat. It is hard not to start singing the children's song, "Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho...." As with any section of the Bible that has been *popularized* through story and song, we must separate fact from fiction, reading for detail and examining context. Read carefully through Chapter 6 as you prepare for this lesson.

1. The Israelites are ready to take the land promised to them by God. Look at the map at the end of the lesson and locate Jericho. How is it situated in relation to the rest of the land? What strategy is there in attacking Jericho first (besides obeying the Commander of the Army of the Lord)?
2. What is the present condition of Jericho (verse 1)?
3. What words of encouragement are spoken to Joshua in verse 2? What did Moses prophesy about this subject? See Deut. 7:1-2, 17-23.
4. In Joshua 5:13-15 the Lord appeared to Joshua and 6:1-16 records the orders he received from the Lord. What are they? Be sure to take note of order, timing, specific commands to certain groups.
5. Even though his orders are not *typical* military plans, how did Joshua respond to the orders given to him? What does that indicate about the spiritual state of his heart?

6. How do the battle plans Joshua receives from the Lord insure that everyone will know that the Israelite's God is the Lord?

7. It is important to note that Joshua is only acting upon orders. Who is truly in charge? What do you learn from the following verses? Ex. 14:14; Deut. 1:30; 3:22; 20:1-4.

8. Why does God fight for Israel (See Deut. 4:32-40)? What does He want them to learn?

9. Seven priests were to carry trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the covenant. How were these trumpets used otherwise? See Lev. 25:9-12; Num. 10:1-10.

10. Eager Beaver: The number 7 appears throughout the Bible. The battle of Jericho repeats "seven" several times. What are some other "sevens" found in the Bible? See Gen. 2:3; Ex. 7:25; Lev. 23:24-44; Deut. 28:7; Matt. 12:45; Acts 6:3-5; Rev. 1:4, 20.

11. Eager Beaver: Who does Num. 10:25 say the rear guard might be as mentioned in Joshua 6:9 and 13?

12. What admonitions does Joshua give the people in verses 17-19?

13. The word “*ban*” can also be translated “*devoted to destruction.*” Look up the following verses and note what is under the ban and what is done with it. Also note if it’s devoted to destruction, who is it devoted to?
- a. Lev. 27:28-29
 - b. Deut. 7:25-26
 - c. Deut. 13:17
 - d. Josh. 7:1, 11, 15
 - e. I Sam. 15:20-23
 - f. I Kings 20:42
14. In the midst of the destruction of Jericho, which is only a precursor to the conquering of the land, we must look at the extermination of the people in the land and why that was necessary. See Gen. 15:12-21; Lev. 18; 20:22-26; Deut. 9:4-5; 18:9-12; 20:16-18. Note what you find out about Israel, the people of the land, and how God viewed it all.
15. What kinds of things has God put *under the ban* in your life? What should your response be in dealing with those things?

16. In I Sam. 15 King Saul didn't completely destroy things under the ban (King Agag, sheep, oxen, spoils). We're all tempted, just as he was, to allow things to live that should be put to death. The question is how quickly we put to death impure, unholy thoughts (Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5)? Consider if there are any areas of your life that need to come under the ban, so you can live completely for the Lord.

17. What is God's view of your life if you are not destroying the things He has placed under the ban? Jas. 4:17; 1 Sam. 15:22-23.

Saul, by casting an amorous eye upon Agag, lost his crown and kingdom; Samson, by dallying with his Delilah, lost his strength, sight, light, liberty, and life. But what are these losses to thy loss of spiritual strength, to thy loss of communion with God, to thy loss of the Spirit of light, life, liberty, and glory; to thy loss of joy unspeakable, and peace that passeth understanding? Thomas Brooks

To forsake sin, is to leave it without any thought reserved of returning to it again. William Gurnall

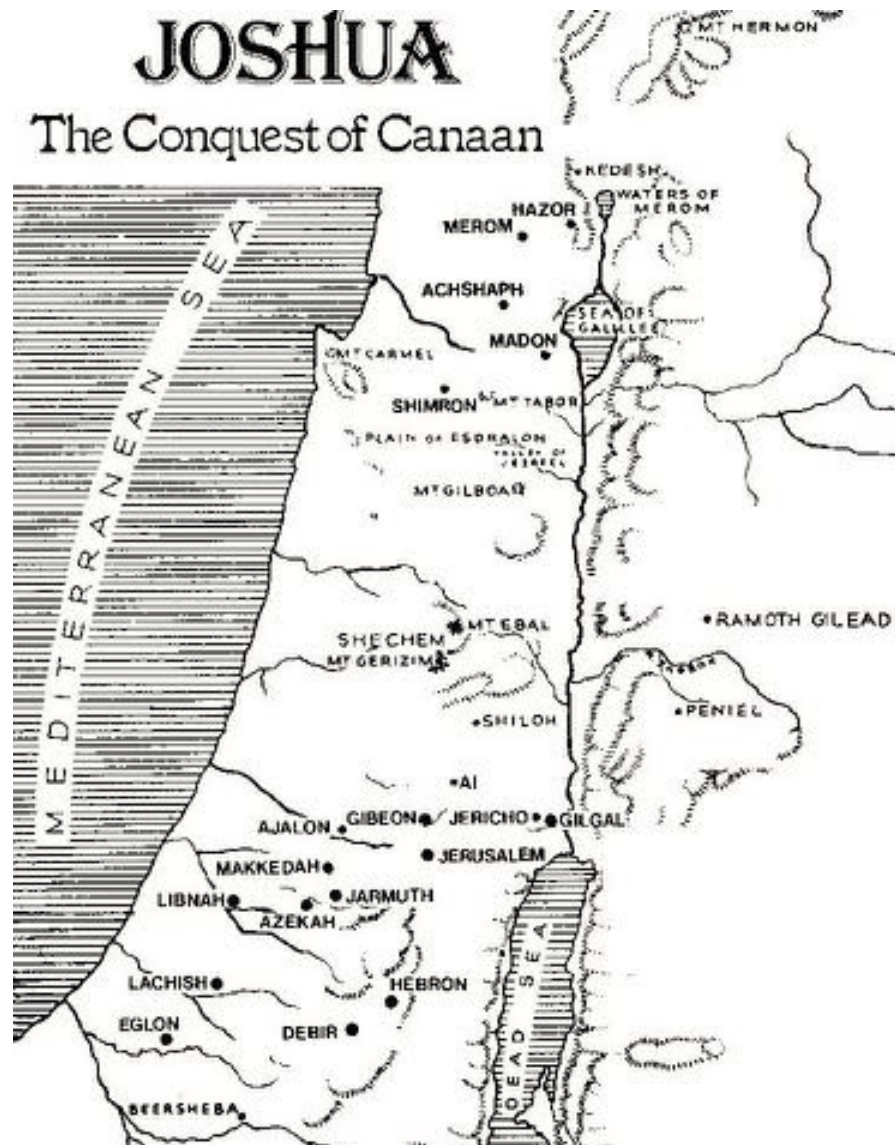
18. Who are the only ones not under the ban? Why? See verse 17, 22-25 and Josh. 2:12-14.

19. What is the curse on the city of Jericho (verse 26)? How was this fulfilled (1 Kings 16:34)?

20. Eager Beaver: Does verse 26 say that the city will never be *rebuilt* or never be *inhabited*? See Josh. 18:21; Judg. 3:13; 2 Sam. 10:5.

21. What is the result of utterly destroying Jericho (verse 27)?

22. Survey Joshua 5:13-6:27. List the things Joshua is required to do that you would find difficult. Consider why obedience would be difficult. If you think obeying these commands would be difficult, most likely Joshua did too. How is he an example of faith and obedience, even when it's hard?
23. What lessons about obedience can you learn from Chapter 6? What can you apply to your life today?



Joshua

Lesson #8, Chapter 7

Please stop before you begin this lesson to ask the Lord's help in seeing all the treasures hidden in Joshua Chapter 7.

1. What sin has been committed and by whom according to verse 1? What are the consequences of the sin as seen in verse 1?
2. Joshua, still unaware of the sin that had been committed, sends out spies to Ai. What do the spies report back? Is their report an accurate assessment? See verse 3 and 8:25.
3. The men of Israel march on Ai with the miraculous victory at Jericho still thrilling their hearts. They are confident of God's promise to give them the land. What happens to shake that confidence in verses 4-5?
4. In verses 2-5 we read of Joshua's defeat at Ai. According to verse 1, what can we be sure of no matter how many men Joshua would have sent to Ai?
5. What is Joshua's response to their defeat (verses 6-9)? Why does he respond this way (2:24 and Ch. 6)?
6. Eager Beaver: What is the significance of the of the clothes and putting dust on the head? See Job. 2:12; Rev. 18:19.

7. God doesn't allow Joshua to despair for long before He gives the reason for Israel's defeat. What is it (verses 10-12)?

8. God makes it very clear how He views Israel's sin. What phrases does He use to describe their sin and His own response to it? See verses 10-15.

9. What are the consequences of Achan's sin (verses 1, 5, 6, 12)? What does this tell you about the seriousness of sin?

10. Verses 13-15 describe God's purifying and weeding out process. What does He command Israel to do?

11. Verse 14 reveals the use of *lots* to determine God's will. "The method of taking by lot is explained as the high priest had two pebbles, Urim and Thummim, in his ephod (priestly garment), one stone indicating *yes* and the other *no*. Whichever the priest took from his ephod was believed to be the answer to the question asked. In all cases it is taken for granted that the lot cast was an expression and indication of the Divine will (from the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*)."

Look up the following verses to discover what the Bible teaches about the reliability and use of lots. Record your findings. See Lev. 16:7-10; I Sam. 10:20-21; 14:41-42; Neh. 10:34; 11:1; Ps. 22:18 cf. John 19:24; Prov. 16:33; 18:18; Jonah 1:7; Acts 1:24-26.

12. When Achan is revealed as the offender in verses 16-18, Joshua confronts him. How does Joshua respond to him (verse 19)?

13. How are we as Christians to confront a brother or sister in sin? See Lev. 19:17; Matt. 18:15-20; Luke 17:3-4; Gal. 6:1; I Tim. 5:1-2, 19-20.

14. Achan finally repents and confesses his sin in verses 20-21. Look at the verbs in verse 21 and describe the steps to his sin.

15. Eager Beaver: Compare Achan's progression into sin in verses 20-21 with Gen. 3:6 and 2 Sam. 11:2-4. What steps do you note in each?

16. Achan said he coveted the spoils from Jericho. Define *covet*. What does God say about coveting? See Ex. 20:17; I Cor. 5:9-11, 6:10; Eph. 5:5.

17. We all covet to one degree or another. When faced with the devastation that coveting can produce in our lives, it's important that we take some time to discover any areas of coveting, that if left unchecked, could lead us into sin. What are some ways you can shore up, deal with, or overcome any covetous areas in your heart?

18. In verses 22-23 Achan's sin is revealed for all to see. Imagine your shame if your sin was laid open for all to see, just as Achan's was. Someone said, "Secret sin on earth is open scandal in Heaven." We may try to hide our sins, but no sin can hide undetected in our hearts, as we're told in Galatians 5:19, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident." What are the first steps to bringing hidden sins to the light?

Take heed an hour produce not that which may shame us forever. ~George Hutcheson

19. In verses 24-26 not only is Achan judged guilty, but also his sons and daughters. For God's reason for this, see Deut. 24:16. What do you learn?

20. For the people just entering the new land, the judgment for the offender may have seemed harsh. Read Acts 5:1-11 and compare how God dealt with sin in the newly established church. What did God want the people to learn in both instances?

21. God's judgment may seem harsh to us, but is He truly being harsh? What are the wages of sin? See Rom. 5:12; 6:16, 23a.
 - a. Why aren't we all dead? See John 5:24; Rom. 5:21; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-9.

22. The Israelites constructed another memorial after Achan and his family were stoned (verse 26). In previous studies you learned that the memorial was to remind future generations of something. What would be the purpose of this particular memorial?

23. Unconfessed sin is a major obstacle in our relationship with God, even little things like snapping at our kids or being anxious about something must be confessed. Make it a point this week to confess each sin as soon as possible. Thank God for His forgiveness. Memorize 1 John 1:9 if you haven't already done so.

24. Achan's sin didn't affect only himself—it affected all of Israel. How would considering what consequences might ensue as a result of giving way to a particular sin help you not to fall into it? List, in a general way, different consequences you've experienced as a result of sins you've committed.

Final thoughts: Notice through this entire narrative, the plural is used to indicate Israel's guilt. Achan is singled out in the end, yet his sons and daughters are destroyed too. This seems to indicate that they too knew about the gold, for a hole was dug in their tent and it was hidden, most likely with their knowledge. But when Israel was defeated at Ai because of the banned things that had been taken, Achan's family did not come forward to reveal their father's sin. Instead, they banded together around their father and his sin, which caused them their lives, for they were destroyed along with Achan. Achan's wife is never mentioned. She may have died, or she may have tried to convince Achan to "give glory to God," and was therefore spared. There is a grave lesson here about choosing family allegiance above allegiance to the Lord when it comes to our love and obedience to Him.

Joshua Lesson #9, Chapter 8

If the theme of Chapter 7 was that the sin of one person can affect the whole group, then the theme of Chapter 8 can surely be that “one defeat or failure does not signal the end of a believer’s usefulness for God (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*).” Because Chapters 7 and 8 are so closely tied together in their storyline, please read the two chapters together before doing this lesson.

1. Now that the sin of Achan has been judged, Israel has been restored. How does God reassure Joshua of His commitment to the nation (verses 1-2)?
2. What are Joshua’s battle plans in verses 2-9?
3. Contrast this battle plan with the former one against Ai in Chapter 7. How did Israel’s previous defeat contribute to this new plan?
4. God used the Israelites’ previous defeat to their advantage in the battle against Ai. Consider how God has used your own *defeats* to bless and strengthen you. In the hands of an all-wise and infinitely good God, even our defeats, are turned into blessing. How can this encourage you as you consider the defeats and failures you’ve experienced?
5. Verses 3-23 detail the battle plans and the attack on Ai. Where do the battle plans come from (verses 1-2, 8)? Why is that an important piece of information to remember?

6. Lest we think ill of God when reading of the destruction of Ai, it is crucial to remember *why* God commanded the annihilation of the people who lived in Canaan. Why was it necessary to *utterly destroy* all who lived in the land? See Deut. 7:1-2; 9:3; 20:16-18.

7. Where does Joshua place the first contingent of the army (30,000 soldiers) whose job is to burn the city (verse 9)?
 - a. The second contingent is the diversionary force, where are they camped (verse 11)?

 - b. Where is the third contingent (verse 12)?

8. What happens when the King of Ai take the bait (verses 14-17)?

9. What was the outcome of the second stage of the battle of Ai (verses 18-22)?

10. Israel was successful because they followed God's battle plans. The key for us today is to search out God's recorded "battle plans" for us. What is God's battle plan for you today? What battle plans does God have for you to follow for the rest of your life?

17. Israel paused in her urgent and necessary acquisition of the land to publicly worship the Lord. What example does that set for you? What are some ways you prioritize and focus on the Lord in a similar way?

18. What is the purpose of the blessing and cursing ceremony that Moses commanded them to do? See Deut. 11:26-32.

19. There are 3 parts to this ceremony found in verses 30, 32, and 34. Please list them. Who participated in this ceremony (verse 35)?

20. In order to understand the importance of this ceremony, please read Deut. 27-28 which details all that Joshua read to the people. What did God want to indelibly print upon their minds?

21. What will cause the people to be cursed? See Deut. 28:15, 45. What will cause the people to be blessed? See Deut. 28:1-2.

22. According to Deut. 27:15-26 how were the people to respond when the cursings were read? What does this hearty assent by the people indicate about their commitment?

23. Israel recommitted themselves to God's covenant. As with any commitment it is the follow-through that matters. Are you diligent and faithful to follow through in the areas you have committed to, like reading your Bible, being faithful at Bible study, serving at church, witnessing, praying?
24. A puritan preacher, Thomas Adams, wrote, "*True obedience hath no lead at its heels,*" while in more modern times Elisabeth Elliot wrote, "*Delayed obedience is disobedience.*" Israel was quick to heed God's commands and follow-through to completion. What kind of obedience are you characterized by? Do you delay obeying when anxious thoughts invade your mind or when you'd rather be angry or when you need to show self-control? If your feet hasten to obey, but your attitude stays stubbornly behind, is it really obedience?
25. How is the maxim, "*Obey all the way, right away, and with a happy heart*" an apt description of obedience? If you are missing any of these components is it still obedience?

Joshua

Lesson #10, Chapter 9

Israel has now successfully driven a wedge through Canaan with the defeats of Jericho and Ai, effectively dividing the north from the south. God has prepared the nation for the northern and southern campaigns of the conquest of the Promised Land.

1. The kings of Joshua 9:1 are grouped into three geographical areas. What are they (verse 1)? Where are the Israelites in relation to these areas (8:30, 33)?
2. What events in Chapters 6-8 did the Canaanite kings hear about? What was their plan to withstand Israel's invasion (verse 2)?
3. Another group hears about Israel's invasion into the land. Who were they and how are they described in verses 3-4? Also look at verse 7 for another name for this group of people.
4. Fearing for their lives, the Gibeonites do some scheming. Describe their plan (verses 3-6).
5. For some reason the Gibeonites thought Joshua would make a covenant with them if they convinced him they were from a "far country." Why is that? See Deut. 7:1-2; 20:10-18.
6. What things do the Gibeonites do and say to convince Israel to make a covenant of peace with them (verses 3-13)?

7. Joshua inquires where the men are from. What is their answer (verse 9)? Locate Gibeon on your map. Approximately how far is it from Gilgal?

8. What did the Gibeonites know to be true of Israel and God (verses 9-10)?

9. The Israelites were justified in being wary of other people. What things had God said about making a covenant with the people of the land? See Ex. 23:32-33; 34:12-16.

10. Israel understood the clear command of God not to make a covenant with any of the peoples of the land, yet they were convinced to do so by the Gibeonites' appearance and smooth words. What should Joshua and the leaders of Israel have done? See Ex. 28:30 and Num. 27:18-21.

11. What three terms of commitment are made by the leaders with the Gibeonites in verse 15?

12. Joshua and the leaders of Israel foolishly trusted their own judgment and made their own plans without seeking God's counsel. We often do the very same thing. What does God say about trusting and seeking Him for guidance in the following verses? Ps. 9:10; 37:3-5; Prov. 3:5-7; 16:3; 28:26; Jas. 1:5.

13. What things do we need to keep in mind when dealing with an enemy or the ultimate enemy of all who follow God, which is Satan? See Prov. 12:5, 20; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 10:16; 2 Cor. 2:11b; I Pet. 5:8. How would understanding these truths about an enemy help you be more diligent in applying the verses you looked up in Question #12?

14. In verses 16-18 the deception is unmasked. How did the Israelite's react when they found out they had been deceived?

15. What reasons do the leaders give for maintaining the covenant, even though it was made under false pretenses (verses 19-20)?

16. Eager Beaver: See Judges 11:29-40; I Sam. 14:24-27, 44; Matt. 14:7-9; Acts 23:21 for other examples of unwise oaths.

17. Even though the Israelite leaders were deceived when they made the covenant with the men of Gibeon, the covenant was not nullified (verses 18-20). Why? See Lev. 5:4-5; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:23.

18. Even though it was an unwise oath, once it was made it was to be kept with all the responsibilities the relationship entailed. In what ways was that promise tested? See Joshua 10:6 and 2 Sam. 21:1-6. What do you learn?

19. What do the Scriptures have to say about keeping your word? See Deut. 23:21-23; Ps. 15; Rom. 1:31.

20. Sometimes keeping your word can cost you, as it did the Israelites, yet this quality reflects God's faithfulness. When do you struggle to keep your word? How have you seen growth in this area in your life? How is procrastination an example of not keeping your word?

21. Eager Beaver: How is Joshua 9:21 a fulfillment of the prophecy of Gen. 9:18-27?

22. What truth motivated the Gibeonites to proceed with their deception (verse 24)? What was their attitude toward the Israelites (verse 25)?

23. The people of Gibeon were sentenced to be wood cutters and drawers of water for the altar in the tabernacle. Yet what did their sentence allow them to be exposed to on a regular basis? See Ex. 30:1, 6-10; 40:10; Lev. 1:17; 4:18-20. How would that be a potential blessing for them?

24. Joshua and Israel's leaders were duped and consequently did not seek the Lord's counsel. What are some ways the enemy has fooled you into thinking you don't need God's guidance and direction in certain areas? In what way do the seemingly "small" things need to be entrusted to the Lord's care as much as the larger ones?

Joshua

Lesson #11, Chapter 10

As you work on this lesson, ask the Lord to help you think as He thinks. Seek His wisdom as you study Joshua Chapter 10.

1. Fear, courage, blood, bravery, destruction and obedience spill out upon the page in Chapter 10. It is good to be mindful of how God viewed the people of the land and what His intentions were for the Israelites. See Gen. 15:12-21; Ex. 19:3-6; Lev. 18:1-5, 24-30; 20:22-26; Deut. 9:4-5; 20:16-18. Record your findings.
2. Why is the king of Jerusalem fearful (verses 1-2)?
3. What does King Adoni-zedek's fear spur him on to do (verses 3-5)?
4. Locate the cities mentioned on the map at the end of this lesson. Take note of the route the 5 kings took to arrive at Gibeon.
5. With the armies gathering to attack, what do the Gibeonite's do? See verse 6.
6. How does Joshua respond to their plea for help (verse 7)? Why didn't he just ignore the plea and let the Gibeonites be destroyed (9:15, 18-20)?

7. What consequences does Joshua face because the leaders of Israel failed to consult the Lord first before making a covenant with the Gibeonites?

8. Sometimes the outcome of a foolish act stays with us for a long time. How has God used the consequences of a foolish act for good in your life? How has suffering the consequences of your own foolishness or sinfulness helped you to never commit that act of folly again?

9. For the sixth time in this book God encourages Joshua that He is with him. What does God remind Joshua in verse 8?

10. How does Joshua respond to that promise in verse 9?

11. Many times, we are guilty of not really heeding and applying the promises of God to our lives. God intends for His word to be a help and encouragement to us. Read the following verses and ask yourself: Do these promises really make a difference in my life? How have they helped me? Is my life different because I understand and apply these verses to my thinking? Luke 12:7 *Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.* Rom. 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* Heb. 13:5-6 *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?*

12. Locate Gilgal and Gibeon on your map. What is the distance between the two cities? See if you can find out more about the trek that the warriors of Israel took from Gilgal to Gibeon and record it here.

13. Verses 10 and 11 record the battle. What is so unusual about this battle?

14. Verses 10-11 record the battle in a compressed, generalized manner. Verses 12-15 record more specific details of the battle that ensued. With God's promise of verse 8 in his head, what remarkable thing does Joshua pray concerning the battle (verses 12-13)?

15. The sun stopped! God suspended the physical laws of the universe and miraculously aided the Israelites. "Various natural explanations have been given as to what actually happened at this time. But it is enough to know that it was a miracle which resulted in an extended day for fighting. Spurgeon says, 'How He did it is no question for us. ...It is not ours to try and soften down miracles, but to glorify God in them (From the Believer's Bible Commentary).'" Read Is. 40:12-31. List ten things you learn about God from that passage.

16. Verse 14 records that *there was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man*. In what way did God listen to the voice of a man? Did Joshua's prayer move the unchangeable will of God to do his bidding? Or was Joshua praying in line with God's will? (Keep in mind 1 Jn. 5:14.) How do clues from the context show that it was already God's intention to do mighty things for Israel? See verse 8, 10-11, and the rest of verse 14.

17. In verses 16-17 what do you see of the character of the five kings?

18. Why does Joshua keep the kings trapped in the cave rather than kill them immediately (verses 19-21)? What priority did he give his captains?

19. After the battle, the 5 kings are retrieved from their hiding place. What does Joshua have the chiefs of the army do (verse 24)? Why (verse 25)?

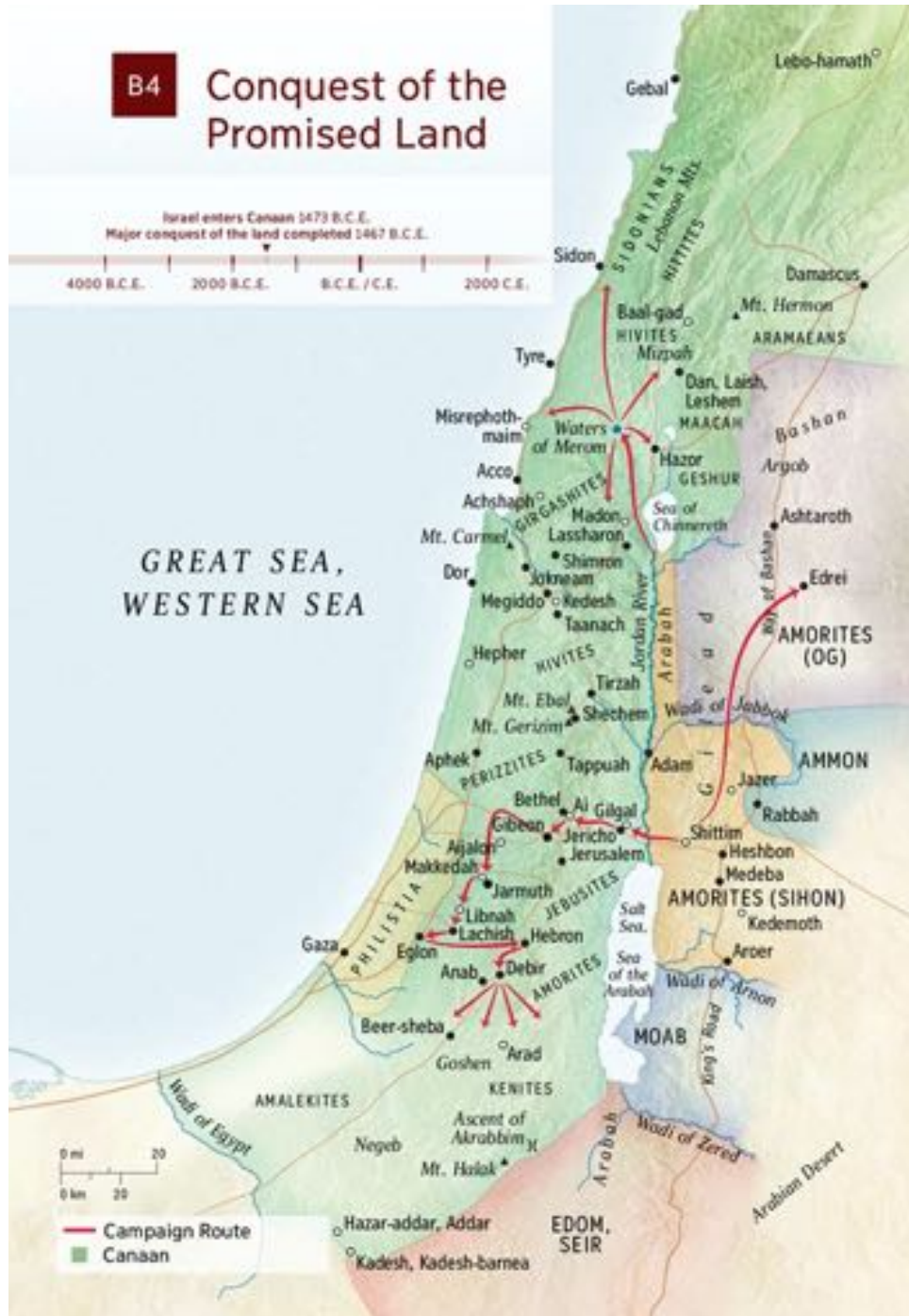
20. What valuable truths are the people of Israel learning about God during this time?

21. Why did Joshua have the dead bodies of the kings removed at sunset? See Deut. 21:22-23.

22. Verses 28-39 give the details of each city that was conquered, while verse 40 provides a summary of the whole chapter. What is it? What leadership qualities did Joshua show throughout this whole chapter?

23. This chapter is a wonderful example of God's miracles and how the battle belongs to the Lord. However, the Israelites did have to go to battle. The Lord expected them to fight. Joshua sprinted uphill to fight for Gibeon, then he fought solidly for two days. How can you be as diligent in the battles the Lord has called you to fight? Do you get discouraged and tire too easily? Consider 1 Cor. 15:10 and Phil. 2:12-13 in light of what we have learned from this lesson.

True valor lies, not in what the world calls success,
 but in the dogged going on when everything in the man says stop.
 ~ Amy Carmichael



Joshua

Lesson #12, Chapter 11

To be obedient to the Lord, Joshua needed to continue to take control of the rest of the land of Canaan. Chapter 11 testifies of Joshua's faithfulness to carry out God's commands: *Just as the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.*

1. Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of Israel's victories in central and southern Canaan and prepares a plan to defeat Israel. Who does he rally together and where do they come from (verses 1-3)? Locate as many places as possible on the map included in this lesson.
2. As the different armies meet at the waters of Merom, how are the kings described and what is their plan (verses 4-5)?
3. The Israelites were a small army compared to the huge force gathered together. What encouragement does Joshua receive from the Lord (verse 6)?
4. Horses and chariots were a sign of military supremacy and an army with many horses and chariots would be considered a formidable enemy. Why would God tell Joshua to cripple the horses and destroy the chariots instead of using them for themselves? See Deut. 17:16; Ps. 20:7; 33:16-17; Is. 31:1.
5. Joshua was facing the largest, best equipped, and most fearsome army yet of the conquest, but God was telling him not to fear. Have you ever encountered a time like that in your life, where circumstances were overwhelming, but God's Word was telling you to put your hope in Him? Explain how you are learning to live upon the truth of God's Word when you find yourself in similar situations.

6. What was Joshua's response to the Lord's encouragement (verses 7-9)?

7. We know nothing of Joshua's *feelings* about the wars and destruction that were part of conquering the land. However, the Bible says that *Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him*. Joshua acted in obedience to the commands of the Lord. What attitudes are necessary for obeying God's word? How much of a part should feelings play when it comes to obeying the Lord?

8. What is the fate of all these kings and their cities in the north (verse 12)?

9. What is the outcome for Hazor and why (verses 10-11, 13)?

10. Jericho, Ai, and Hazor all have the distinction of being the only cities that Joshua burned down. The rest of the cities of the land were left intact. What reason for doing so is given in Deut. 6:10-11?

11. Verse 12 says Joshua did as Moses had commanded. What had Moses commanded? See Deut. 3:21-22 and 20:16-18.

12. What is the key to victory (verse 15)?

13. *Just as the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.* Can the same be said of you? Have you left things undone that the Lord has commanded? Choose one of the following passages and meditate on it: Jn. 15:5-10; Phil. 4:4-9; Col. 3:1-25; Eph. 4:29-32; I Pet. 3:1-5; or I Jn. 4:21. As you consider those passages, think about your obedience in carrying out the Lord's will. If there are areas that you've left undone, what steps do you need to take to begin walking in obedience? Spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to help you target any areas you're not faithfully obeying.

14. Though the Lord repeatedly reminded Joshua that He would fight for Israel, Joshua still needed to be out on the battlefield. The Christian life is the same. God enables us, guides us, strengthens us, but we still have a part to play. Read Phil. 2:12-13, then explain the balance of God at work in you while you obey God.

15. Verses 16-17 summarize the conquest of Canaan. Chart on your map the "entire land" that Israel took.

16. Verse 18 records that waging war with all these kings took a long time. Why? See Ex. 23:29-30 and Deut. 7:22-24.

17. In the conquest of the land all the kings and inhabitants are destroyed in battle. Why? See verse 20; Deut. 7:2, 16; 20:16-18.

18. When the text says, *God hardened their hearts* (verse 20), it doesn't mean God made them disobedient for they had already made their choices. Rather, it means, "God confirmed the hearts of these unrepentant people in their stubborn unbelief before judging

them (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*).” Read Rom. 1:18-32. What are some of the things you observe of someone with a hardened heart?

19. One Puritan writer said that *though God is patient, He is not ever patient and He will punish sin*. Peter urges his readers to consider their own lives in light of this truth when he says in 2 Pet. 3:14 *Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless*. Even as believers there may be times when we are stubborn and unrepentant in a certain area. How can the truths mentioned here in this question be an encouragement to you today to not grow hardened about sin?

20. Verses 21-22 talk about the Anakim. Who were they and what role did they play in Israel’s history? Num. 13:28, 31-33; Deut. 1:26-28; 9:1-2.

21. Forty years earlier Israel’s fathers didn’t enter the land because of their fear over these giants. Now Joshua and his army rout them. What has made the difference?

22. When you are wrestling with your own fears, your own personal *Anakim*, what makes the difference in whether you conquer them or not?

23. What 3 results do you see from all the wars Israel fought (verse 23)?

24. Just reading, *Thus the land had rest from war* makes you want to put your feet up and breathe a sigh of relief. Ahhh, a break, a rest, a breather. As you battle against sin each day, make sure that you take a break and find rest in Jesus Christ. What is your pattern for taking time each day to spend with Jesus?



Joshua

Lesson #13, Chapters 12-14

Read Chapters 12-14 before beginning this lesson. You may be tempted to think that the chapters to come on the land allotments have nothing much to teach you, but nothing could be further from the truth. Ask yourself, “Why did God want these specific details preserved for us today? What possible things can I learn about God’s character in these chapters about the land inheritance?” May you be blessed in the Lord as you meditate on those questions.

1. Chapter 12 is a synopsis of the conquered land and kings. Who defeated the kings mentioned in verses 1-6?

2. Who defeated the kings listed in Joshua 12:7-24?

3. What would be the significance of *retelling* the defeat of Sihon and Og, the kings who lived on the eastern side of the Jordan, while listing the defeated kings from the western side of the Jordan?

4. God wanted this chapter with its list of defeated kings to be included in the Bible for some reason. What are some possible reasons that you can think of for including it?

5. The Lord reminds Joshua that he is old and advanced in years and still has some work to do. What is it (13:1)?
 - a. Why would Joshua’s age make completing this task a priority?

- b. Joshua is old, his death is imminent; yet God tells Joshua to divide the land. Instead of recommending Joshua rest and take it easy, God urges Joshua to complete the task given to him. What does this teach you about the importance of completing or following through on something God has given you to do?

6. What previous command is God reminding Joshua about in 13:6? See Num. 33:50-56. What warning is given in Numbers 33 to remind the people to finish possessing the land?

7. What area had the 2 ½ tribes already been allotted and how did they get it? See 13:8; Num. 32:1-5, 20-27.

8. Josh. 13:14 and 33 record that the tribe of Levi didn't receive an inheritance of land. How did God provide for the Levites since they had no land? See 14:3-4; 21:41-42; Num. 18:21-32; 35:1-5.

9. Reuben's land allotment is recorded in 13:15-23. Reuben was entitled to a double allotment because he was the first-born (Deut. 21:17). Why is it that he is receiving only a single portion? See Gen. 35:22; 49:3-4.

10. In the midst of the details of Reuben's allotment, we see the name of Balaam in 13:22. What is his story and why is he so significant that his death is mentioned here (Num. 22-25:5; 31:8, 16; Josh. 22:17; 24:9-10)?

11. The land allotments for Gad and Manasseh are recorded in the rest of Chapter 13. After so many years of each tribe waiting and dreaming of their inheritance, what attitude should accompany the inheritance given to them as seen in Ps. 16:5-6?

12. We don't have a specific land inheritance in Israel, but we do have an inheritance. What do you learn about *our* inheritance from these verses? See Matt. 19:29; Acts 26:18; Eph. 5:5; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Rev. 21:3-7.

13. How does knowing you have an inheritance waiting for you encourage you? Reread Ps. 16:5-6. Do your thoughts about your inheritance mirror those of the psalmist?

14. With the 2 ½ tribes' allotment completed, the narrative focuses on the 9 ½ tribes who will soon receive their inheritance. Who was in charge of apportioning the land and how was it done (14:1-2)?

15. Who is Eleazar? See Ex. 6:23, 25; 28:1; Num. 3:32; 20:25-28.

16. Why did Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, receive an inheritance? See Gen. 48; especially verses 14-15, 22.

17. Josh. 14:6-15 tells the story of Caleb's inheritance. Why does Caleb receive an individual inheritance?

18. Read Joshua 14:6-15; Num. 13:23-33; 14:6-10. Write a short paragraph summarizing the character of Caleb. What key phrase is used to describe his life in Josh. 14:6-15?

19. What is significant about Caleb asking for his inheritance in the hill country where the Anakim live (verse 12)? See Num. 13:25-33.

20. Caleb's trust in the Lord hadn't wavered for over forty years. Caleb was patient and willing to wait for the Lord to fulfill His promise to him. What are some ways you can practice patience as you wait for God to act in different areas of your life?

21. Three times in Joshua 14:8-14 we read that Caleb followed the Lord his God *fully*. How do Caleb's words and actions show that full and complete obedience? Examine Joshua 14:6-15 and Num. 13:25-33 for your answer.

22. In what ways can you follow in Caleb's worthy footsteps to follow the Lord your God *fully*? Are there any changes you need to make in your life so that you can follow Him *fully*?

"Precepts instruct us what things are our duty, but examples assure us that they are possible....When we see men like ourselves, who are united to frail flesh and in the same condition with us, to command their passions, to overcome the most glorious and glittering temptations, we are encouraged in our spiritual warfare."

~William Bates

Joshua

Lesson #14, Chapters 15-19

Chapters 15-19 chronicle the specifics of each tribe's inheritance. Reading the lists of boundaries and cities and villages can make anyone's eyes cross, but we must remember 2 Tim. 3:16-17, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.* Matthew Henry commenting on these chapters in Joshua says, "*And therefore we are not to skip over these chapters of hard names as useless and not to be regarded; where God has a mouth to speak and a hand to write we should find an ear to hear and an eye to read; and God give us a heart to profit!*" Keeping those admonitions in mind read Chapters 15-19 without falling asleep!

1. Chapter 15 outlines the inheritance for the tribe of Judah. Part of this chapter records Caleb receiving his inheritance. Who does Caleb drive out of his land and why is this significant (15:13-15 and Num. 13:27-33)?

2. Caleb's zeal to conquer the land extends to the stronghold of Debir (also known as Kiriath-sepher). How does he motivate war weary men to continue to possess the land (15:16)? What happens as a result of Caleb's offer (15:17)?

3. Read Judges 3:7-11 and record more about the character of Othniel.

4. What is the special request Achsah, Caleb's daughter, makes of her father in Joshua 15:18-19? What can you learn about the *Negev* (or *south country* as the KJV translates it) that would give added insight into her petition?

5. The land allotment of Judah included Jerusalem, which was inhabited by the Jebusites. Who were these people and what happened to them? See Gen. 10:15-16; Num. 13:29; Josh. 11:1-5; 2 Sam. 24:16-18; 1 Chron. 11:4-6.

6. The daughters of Zelophehad had an unusual situation. What was it (17:3)?

7. What previous instruction had been given about their situation? See Num. 27:1-11; 36:1-12 and Josh. 17:4.

8. How did the land allotments reveal the importance of maintaining a kinship between the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh in 16:9 and 17:9?

9. In 17:14-18, the sons of Joseph are dissatisfied with their allotment. What is their complaint and what do they fear?

10. What solution does Joshua offer to them (17:15, 17-18)?

11. Compare Caleb's response in 14:10-14 with the sons of Joseph's response in 17:16.

12. Joshua and Caleb stand as beacons of faithfulness and trust in God. They persevered through the long years of the desert wandering, waiting to obtain the promises of God. They worked, fought, and endured. In sharp contrast to their example, we read of the tribes who failed to drive out the inhabitants of the land. Look up the following verses, noting what tribe is mentioned and what they failed to do (15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13).

13. Israel was to root out the Canaanites because their perversions and idolatry would be a stumbling block to Israel. The Bible Knowledge Commentary points out, *“There is a spiritual principle here. It is all too easy for a believer to tolerate and excuse some pet sin only to wake up some day to the grim realization that it has risen up to possess and drive him to spiritual defeat. It pays to deal with sin decisively and harshly.”* It is easy to see and judge the transgressions of the Israelites and the future impact it had on them, yet you need to see your own sins just as clearly. If left unchecked, the consequences of your own sins can have a serious impact upon your future as well. Please consider whether you have some “Amorites” still running around in the land or have you routed them? How can you deal with those “Amorite” sins in a decisive, and equally unmerciful manner?

14. In 18:2-7 we read that some tribes had not yet divided up the land among themselves. Which tribes hadn’t received their inheritance? See 18:11; 19:1, 10, 17, 24, 32, 40.

15. Joshua is provoked by the apathetic attitude of the remaining seven tribes. Why? See Deut. 31:7; Josh. 1:1-4; 13:1; 18:3.

16. For whatever reason the remaining seven tribes were slow about taking possession of the land. This restraint on their part was an affront to God. Consider and explain how it is an affront to God when we are slow to appropriate the promises of His word, slow to believe His love and care for us, slow to accept His forgiveness, slow to apply what we know, slow to rid our lives of a favorite sin.
 - a. If you are “slow” in an area, what steps do you need to take to deal with it, so that it won’t be an offense to God?

17. Commenting on this attitude, H. L. Ellison perceptively states, “*The slackness blamed by Joshua (verse 3) may well have been due to an unwillingness to settle down. It was fine to have a “promised land,” but the reality showed the need for learning new skills and engaging in hard work. That is for many the disappointing side of God’s gifts; they are always given that we may serve the better. Even His rest is linked with a yoke (Matt. 11:28-30).*” How does Peter explain the need for working at the good gifts God supplies to us? See 2 Pet. 1:3-7.

18. In what way was the land portioned out for the seven tribes who had not yet claimed their inheritance? See 18:3-10.

19. What else do you learn about the character of Joshua from 19:49-50?

20. As mothers and wives, we are often the last to receive our portion, like when it comes to eating dinner or possibly getting new clothes or even receiving attention. What are some ways to cultivate a patient and contented attitude like Joshua, rather than a resentful and embittered one because you are the *last one* to receive something?

21. How does 19:51 summarize the last 5 chapters of Joshua?

22. Consider how the *lists* of boundaries and towns in Chapters 15-19 would be *profitable* (2 Tim. 3:16) for Israel *then* and for us *now* to study and think on?

23. Dale Davis, commenting on Joshua, writes, “*The God of the Bible tends to be concrete, His gifts tangible and visible. The inheritance He bequeaths is not an idea but boundaries, not thoughts but towns; in a word, **real estate**.*” How does seeing God’s faithfulness in granting Israel the land as their inheritance bolster your own sense of our future inheritance? Read Is. 65:17-25 and Rev. 21-22 keeping in mind God’s concrete and tangible gifts.

Joshua

Lesson #15, Chapters 20-21

In Chapter 20 the Lord, in His continual provision for the newly established land, has led Joshua to set up an essential system of regional courts to deal specifically with manslaughter. The cities of refuge removed the case from local jurisdiction, where the miscarriage of justice might possibly occur, to cities assigned to the Levites, where ideally, the laws given by Moses would be known, honored, and applied.

1. After each tribe had received their allotment of land, God reminds Joshua to designate cities of refuge, as He had previously commanded. What is the purpose of the cities of refuge? See 20:3, 9; Num. 35:11-12; Deut. 19:10.
2. What is the difference between killing someone unintentionally and murder? See Num. 35:16-28; Deut. 19:4-6, 11-12.
3. What law codes regarding murder were given to govern the new land? See Ex. 21:23-25; Lev. 24:17-22; Deut. 19:11-13.
4. Based on the Num. 35 and Deut. 19 passages we looked at earlier, as well as the verses cited above, what is the role of the blood avenger?
5. What was the procedure for someone who had fled to a city of refuge (20:4)?

6. How long did the manslayer need to stay in the city of refuge? See 20:6 and Num. 35:26-28.

7. How many cities of refuge were designated? What do you notice about the location of them that is significant? See 20:7-8.

8. If someone did accidentally kill someone, who was allowed to live in the cities of refuge? See 20:9 and Num. 35:15. What does this tell you about God?

9. Just like the manslayer, we can run to the Lord for help when we are in trouble. What do the following verses say about *our* refuge? Ps. 9:9; 32:7; 37:39; 40:17; 46:1; 62:7-8; 91:1-2; 142:5.

10. In what way do the laws concerning the cities of refuge reveal God's holiness and His desire that His people be holy?

11. God made sure there were six cities of refuge, so *all* the nation would have a way of escape, and innocent blood wouldn't be spilled. God has provided, in a sense, a *city of refuge* for us in 1 Cor. 10:13. How does that verse reveal the refuge we may run to in times of temptation?

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said—To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?”

“Fear not, I am with thee—O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.

“When thru the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When thru fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee—I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, tho all hell should endeavor to shake, I’ll never—no, never—no, never forsake.”

12. In Chapter 21 we see that God isn’t finished with establishing His people in the promised land. The heads of households of the tribe of Levi approached Eleazar and Joshua. What was their request? See 21:2 and Num. 35:1-8.

Note: Ex. 6:6-19 lists Levi’s family so that you can see the division of the Levites. Jacob had Levi who had Kohath, Gershon, and Merari. Eventually to Kohath’s family was born Aaron, whose sons were designated to be priests. The other sons of Kohath had no special distinction from that of the other Levite families.

13. Read Deut. 18:1-2; Josh. 13:14, 33; 14:3 and compare them to Num. 35:2-8; Josh. 14:4. Please explain the apparent contradiction between those passages.
14. What function were the Levites to fulfill besides being temple workers? See Deut. 33:8, 10; 2 Chron. 17:8-9; 35:3; Neh. 8:7-9; Mal. 2:4-7.
15. “Someone has estimated that no one in Israel lived more than 10 miles from one of the 48 Levite towns (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*).” Coupled with what you know about the Levites’ duties, what does that statement reveal about God’s purpose for the Levites and for Israel?

16. The tribe of Levi had been cursed in Gen. 49:5-7. What was the curse and its cause? Num. 25:10-13 records that the Levites were blessed. What was the cause for the blessing? How is Josh. 21:41 a fulfillment of the curse, but a blessing for the tribes of Israel?

17. Chapter 21:43-45 summarizes the distribution of the land. What did the Lord give them according to these verses?

18. The focus of 21:43-45 is the Lord and all He had done for Israel. What attributes about God do you see in these verses?

19. We read in this chapter of God's faithfulness. What else do you learn about God as a faithful God from the following verses? See Deut. 7:9; Ps. 91:4; Lam. 3:21-24; Mal. 3:6; II Tim. 2:13; Rev. 19:11. How does focusing on the Lord's faithfulness help you deal with the uncertainties of life?

20. Read 21:45 replacing "the house of Israel" with your name. What are some of the things God has fulfilled in your life? Take a moment right now to thank God for each thing on your list.

21. A. W. Pink in *The Attributes of God* writes, "There are seasons in the lives of all when it is not easy, no not even for Christians, to believe that God is faithful. Our faith is sorely tried, our eyes bedimmed with tears, and we can no longer trace the outworkings of His love. Our ears are distracted with the noises of the world, harassed by the atheistic whisperings of Satan, and we can no longer hear the sweet accents of His still small voice. Cherished plans have been thwarted, friends on whom we relied have failed us, a

professed brother or sister in Christ has betrayed us. We are staggered. We sought to be faithful to God, and now a dark cloud hides Him from us. We find it difficult, yea, impossible, for carnal reason to harmonize His frowning providence with His gracious promises. Ah, faltering soul, severely tried fellow pilgrim, seek grace to heed Is. 50:10, *“Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God”*.” If you are in or have been in one of those difficult seasons, how does remembering God’s faithfulness to His promises help you to carry on?

Joshua Lesson #16, Chapter 22

So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the Lord gave them rest on every side, according to all He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them: the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands (Josh. 21:43-44). At long last, the major battles for settling the land were over. In Chapter 22 we read about the 2 ½ tribes being released from their promise to help the other tribes conquer the land.

1. In Chapter 22 Joshua releases the 2 ½ tribes from their promise to help their brothers possess the land. What was his commendation to them (verses 2-3)? What charge did he give them (verse 4)?

2. What 6 exhortations does Joshua urge the 2 ½ tribes to do in verse 5?

3. Look back over the list of exhortations from the question above. Those commands are for us too. Are you *careful* to do them? How can you grow in your obedience, love, fellowship and service to the Lord? What busyness needs to be cut out of your life in order for you to be more careful about these things? If something needs to go in order to make God the priority, make the changes necessary and be blessed by obedience.

4. As the 2 ½ tribes return to their homes and families, what are they returning with (verses 7-8)?

5. Notice in verse 8 Joshua tells the fighting men to *divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers*. What does this tell you about the importance of those on the home front? See also Deut. 20:5-8 for clues as to who “the brothers” were who stayed home.

6. As the 2 ½ tribes prepare to cross back over the Jordan to their own territory, what do they do in verse 10? Where is it and what is its physical description?

7. Their actions cause an immediate reaction from the other tribes. What are the other tribes prepared to do? Why? See Lev. 17:8-9 and Deut. 13:12-16.

8. In verses 13-14 who is sent to visit the 2 ½ tribes?

9. How does the delegation from Canaan view the altar built by the 2 ½ tribes (verses 15-20)?

10. What examples of unfaithfulness do they link this act with (verses 17, 20)? See Num. 25:1-9 and Josh. 7 for the background of these examples. In light of Num. 25:1-9, what do you learn about Phinehas?

11. What is the delegation afraid might happen with the building of the altar by the 2 ½ tribes (verses 18, 20)?

12. What generous conciliatory offer did the delegation propose (verse 19)?

13. What do the 2 ½ tribes have to say and to whom do they appeal concerning their innocence (verses 21-23)?

14. What reason(s) do they give for building the altar (verses 24-29)?

15. Eager Beaver: What command did God give in Ex. 23:17 that would be another factor in maintaining the kinship between the Israelites on both sides of the Jordan river?

16. The Israelites reacted quickly and decisively against the 2 ½ tribes when they believed them to be unfaithful to the Lord. They were ready to go to war against their brothers because of the apparent sin of the 2 ½ tribes. While it is commendable that they wanted to deal quickly with this sin, they moved so quickly that they didn't gather all the facts. Imagine what the outcome would have been if the delegation hadn't taken the time to ask a few questions! Even in dealing with sin, there is wisdom in gathering all the facts. What do the Scriptures have to say about acting rashly? See Prov. 14:16-18, 29; 16:32; 25:8; James 1:19; 3:17-18.

17. How often do you react to what you see and think you know, only to later discover the true facts? What relationships have been damaged or strained because you reacted before getting all the details first? What are some steps you can take to prevent more rash acts based upon the verses we looked at in question #15?

18. The 2 ½ tribes respond commendably to the false accusations of their brother tribes, seeking only to explain their actions. They didn't respond with anger or hurl accusations back. How do you respond to loving confrontation or admonishment, even if you are wrongly accused? What example does Jesus set for us in 1 Pet. 2:21-24?

19. What is the response of the 9 ½ tribes after hearing the 2 ½ tribes' reason for building the altar (verse 30)?

20. How was this peaceful resolution an indication that *the Lord is in our midst* (verse 31)?

21. The 9 ½ tribes are to be commended for the zeal and fear of displeasing God, so much so that they would go to war against their brothers. How can their example be a model for you to follow in rebuking someone for sin?

22. Summarize the reasons given in this chapter why the 2 ½ tribes wanted to build the altar.

23. The 2 ½ tribes were active in making sure that they would be considered part of the nation of Israel in the years to come. They didn't want their future family members to be cut off from the covenant relationship with God because of distance and time. They were self-accountable to the rest of the nation. This pleasing attitude is necessary for us today when we place ourselves under the leadership of a local church and become part of a local body. What are some ways you can be *self-accountable* to others at church so that you will continue to be considered part of the "family?"

24. The actions of both sets of Israelites are to be commended in this chapter. Both had honorable motives and actions. What was most encouraging or convicting for you to read and study about this week?

Joshua

Lesson #17, Chapter 23

As the book of Joshua comes to a close, God has given the land rest from war, the tribes have received their inheritances, and Joshua is old and advanced in years. However, before leaving them, Joshua challenges the leaders and nation of Israel to remain obedient to God and His commands.

1. How old was Joshua by this time? For a clue see 24:29.
2. Note again the character of Joshua. By his own admission, he is old and advanced in years, yet he continues to shepherd the flock entrusted to his care. He will not relinquish his responsibilities until he takes his last breath. How is this an encouragement to you to continue ministering on into old age?
3. Verses 1-2 make it abundantly clear that Joshua will not be around much longer. Knowing this, Joshua tries to communicate as clearly as he can his last formal words to the people. List the main topics he covers in Chapter 23.
4. If you had your own Chapter 23 in which to communicate parting thoughts to your family and friends that would aid them in their walk with the Lord, what would you say?
5. Who does Joshua summon to hear his first address (verse 2)?

6. Joshua reminds the nation of what God has done for them. What does he say that God had already done in verses 3-5? What would God continue to do for them in the land as He had promised (verses 3-5)?

7. How is remembering what God *has done* and looking forward to what He *will do* the foundation of any believer's life? How is it a motivation for further obedience?

8. In verse 6 Joshua urges the nation to "be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses." Explain what it means to *be firm to keep and do God's law*.

9. Think about your life and how you obey God's Word each day. What does it take to have a firmness in obeying God's Word? Are you characterized by a resolute spirit to obey God's Word? If not, what do you need to change so you will be steadfast in obedience?

10. Since doing all that is written in God's Word may seem a bit overwhelming or vague, please read Romans 12:9-21 and consider how you can obey those few verses in the spirit of Joshua 23:6 by *being very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the Lord, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right and or to the left*. In what ways does Joshua 23:6 change how you put Romans 12:9-21 into practice in your life?

11. God had been faithful to Israel, now how are they to be faithful to Him according to verses 6-8?

12. What is the concern in associating with the people of the nations who remain in the Promised Land (verse 7 and Deut. 6:13-15)?

13. As Christians, we are to be light and salt to the world, and we are to share Christ with the lost. Should we ever be concerned about associating with unbelievers? Why? What verses support your answer?
 - a. What is the balance in this area, so that we continue to evangelize yet not become like them?

14. Joshua 23:8 reads, *But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.* How are Israel's actions and choices up to this point proof that they were clinging to the Lord?

15. What images are evoked with the verb "to cling?" When a person is clinging to God, what does it look like? How can you remind yourself to cling more to the Lord throughout the day?

16. Joshua reminds the nation a second time of God's faithfulness to them. How was God faithful (verses 9-10)?

17. Joshua 23:11 reads, *So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the Lord your God.* According to verse 11, what does it mean to take *diligent heed*? Who are we to be diligent toward? For what purpose (verse 11)?

18. What are some principles mentioned in verses 2-11 that would help you diligently love the Lord?

19. In Joshua 23:12-13 Joshua, gives a very stern warning against clinging to and intermarrying with the heathen nations. What severe consequences will result if the Israelites are disobedient (verse 13; Deut. 7:3-4; Ps. 106:34-43)?

20. What is God's standard today for Christians regarding close relationships and marriage *with unbelievers*? See 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 6:15-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; James 4:4 to formulate your answer.

21. Knowing his own death is imminent, three times in verses 14-16, Joshua discusses God's faithfulness to keep His promises. How are Joshua's words comforting, yet at the same time, a warning to the nation (verses 14-16)?

22. Joshua has emphasized three times in verses 14-16, God's faithfulness to the sons of Israel in fulfilling all His promises. God is immutable (unchanging) and can be no less faithful to us today than He was to Joshua and Israel. Likewise, He will fulfill all His promises to us. How are those truths encouraging and strengthening to you today?

Joshua

Lesson #18, Chapter 24

1. As Joshua makes his final address, he gathers all Israel together at Shechem. What significant history does Shechem hold for the nation? See Gen. 12:6-7; 33:18-20; 35:1-4; Josh. 8:30-35; cf. Deut. 11:29-30.
2. Before Israel makes a renewal of their covenant with God, He reminds them of some important moments in their history. From verses 2-13 list all the verbs that describe God's deliverance and protection of Israel. For example: *I took your father, Nahor; I gave to Esau.*
3. What is the significance of the history lesson given in verses 2-13? Why is God reminding them of all these things at this time?
4. There are two things to note here: 1) hindsight reveals the *active intervention* of God in His children's lives and 2) He wants us *to know* of His intervention in our lives. How would recognizing those two facts give you encouragement?
5. Another thing to note in this section is the slowness of God's clock. Isaac wasn't born until 25 years after the promise to Abraham. Isaac and Rebekah were married some 20 years before Jacob and Esau were born. Later, God sent Jacob's family to Egypt for 430 years; afterward, they wandered in the desert for 40 more years before the promises given to Abraham were fulfilled.

God keeps His promises, faithfully performing all He says He will do. Yet His timing is His own, not rushed or pushed into action by clock, calendar, or our own agenda. When it appears that God will bring about His plan on His timetable, how you can you foster a

patient and trusting spirit? How does the picture of God's faithful and persistent accomplishing of His plans encourage you?

6. What command is given in verse 14?

7. In verse 14 the word *therefore* serves to connect the previous section with the command to fear and serve the Lord (verse 14). How is the previous section a motivator for the command?

8. Define what it means to *fear* or *reverence* God. What does this look like in your life?

9. How are we to serve the Lord (verse 14)? Note how many times the word *serve* appears in this chapter, especially verses 14-15.

10. In verse 14 Joshua calls the people to a deeper commitment, by urging them to *put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord*. The people had been carrying around idols all the years of their wilderness wanderings and now wanted to carry them into the Promised Land. Isn't that just like us, carrying around things from our past that distract, interrupt, and isolate us from the Lord. What have you been carrying that you need to put away, so that you might serve the Lord more faithfully and wholeheartedly? See 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:16-24; Eph. 4:17-24; Col. 3:1-11; Titus 3:1-7.

11. In verses 14-15, what choices are presented?

12. How do the people respond to Joshua's challenge (verses 16-18)? What reasons do they cite for following the Lord? *Why* do you follow the Lord?

13. While they give a proper and right answer, Joshua is not totally convinced of their sincerity. How does he impress upon them the seriousness of their commitment (verses 19-20)?

14. Because we know God is forgiving, what did Joshua mean when he said, *He will not forgive your transgressions or sins*. See Ps. 51:17; 66:18; 86:1-5. What heart attitude must be present for forgiveness to occur?

15. In verses 15-22, Joshua presses the people for a decision to follow the Lord and requires that they consider the cost of following Him. Matthew Henry, commenting on this verse, says, "Joshua thus urges on them the seeming discouragements which lay in their way, that he might sharpen their resolutions, and draw from them a promise yet more express and solemn that they would continue faithful to God and their religion." Joshua does not want a lightly made, emotional response from them, but a convinced, determined commitment. Why is this a necessary and good thing to do?

16. Eager Beaver: Compare Jesus' call to commitment in Luke 14:25-35 with Joshua's here in these verses. What do you learn?

17. What does it mean to *incline your hearts to the Lord God* in verse 23? See I Kings 8:57-58; Ps. 119:36; 141:4 to gain further insight.

18. As in a marriage ceremony when the pastor requires the couple to keep the vows they have made “before God and these witnesses,” so here Joshua has witnesses to attest to the commitment Israel has made. Who are the witnesses (verses 22, 26-27)? What purpose do the witnesses serve (verses 22, 26-27 and in the illustration of the marriage ceremony)?

19. How is the covenant ceremony in this chapter *at Shechem under the oak tree* significant in light of Gen. 12:6-7 and 35:2, 4?

20. Verses 29-33 record three burials, not only indicating the close of the book of Joshua, but the end of an era. These men were the recipients of God’s faithfulness and now they are laid to rest in the Land of Rest. What title is given to Joshua (verse 29) that is a fitting epitaph for his life?

21. Verse 31 records the influence of Joshua and the effect of God’s workings. What is it?

22. What kind of influence are you seeking to effect upon the people in your life? What steps are you taking (or need to take) to bring about the desired result?

23. Verse 32 records the final chapter of Joseph's life. How is this final act the capstone upon Joseph's life of faith and trust? See also Gen. 50:24-26; Ex. 13:19; Heb. 11:22.

24. Verse 33 speaks of Eleazar's death. What role did he play in Israel's history? See Josh. 14:1; 19:51.

25. Joshua, Joseph, and Eleazar are all buried in the Promised Land. All three men throughout their lifetimes made the choice to serve the Lord. They lived well and they finished well. How has your study of the book of Joshua encouraged you to be faithful until the end? What lessons have you learned about steadfastness and perseverance?

26. Write a paragraph describing the things you have learned through your study in this book, as well as some of the resolves you have made to follow the Lord more fully.

- a. Now list the 12 history books.

- b. Next, write down the 5 poetry books of the Old Testament.

- c. List the 5 major prophets.

- d. Now write down the 12 minor prophets.

13. List the 12 tribes of Israel that were ready to enter the land. (Num. 26 can provide help if you need it).

14. List 3 things you've already noticed in the book of Joshua you find interesting. What do you hope to gain from your study in Joshua?