

Bible Reading Notes
JOSHUA

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Joshua 1

1:2-4 – These verses serve as an outline of the book as they trace the progress that Israel will make in receiving the Land of Promise from the Lord.

1:6 – Be strong and courageous – This is the same message the Lord gave Joshua at his commissioning (Deuteronomy 31:23). Joshua will be told this seven more times in the book. It is likely that Joshua lacked these attributes.

1:8 – Book of the Law – Joshua’s strength and courage would come from his meditation on the word of God.

1:9 – is with you – It is the presence of the Lord that is the basis for Joshua’s strength and courage.

1:10-18 – These tribes had already received their inheritance on the eastern side of the Jordan River. But in exchange they had agreed to go with the other tribes to conquer the land the Lord was giving them.

Joshua 2

2:1 – Rahab – Who would imagine that a Canaanite prostitute would be the great-great grandmother of King David and in the same line as Christ (Matthew 1).

2:10-11 – The mighty works of God from the Red Sea to the defeat of Sihon and Og, have made an impact on the Canaanites. The Lord’s glory has been made known to the Gentiles.

2:24 – Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands – Forty years before Caleb and Joshua had delivered this message to Israel (Numbers 13), but Israel rejected it and had to wait in the wilderness for a generation to die. Now Israel will believe and move forward.

Joshua 3

3:4 – 2,000 cubits = 3,000 feet or 10 football fields.

3:7-10 – Part of the purpose of parting the Jordan River was to convince Israel that the Lord was with Joshua as he had been with Moses.

3:17 – With 1.5-2 million people crossing the Jordan, this would have taken a considerable period of time, even if they passed over in haste (4:10).

Joshua 4

4:9 – in the midst of the Jordan – This could be a second heap of stones but is more likely to be understood as the stones that had been in the midst of the Jordan.

4:20 – twelve stones – These stones would serve as a memorial to the Lord's great power and work for his people.

4:24 – God's work always has the primary purpose of revealing his glory.

Joshua 5

5:2-9 – This is the final preparation required for Israel to be ready to take the land. They had to bear the sign and seal of the covenant, which was necessary to partake of the Passover (vv. 10-12).

5:14 – Commander = the Lord himself appeared to Joshua just as he did to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3).

Joshua 6

6:9 – The armed men – According to Numbers 25 this was a force of about 600,000. This must have been a terrifying sight for the people of Jericho.

6:17 – devoted to the Lord for destruction – This was the Lord's command for every town within Canaan to punish the Canaanites for their sin (Genesis 15:16) and to protect Israel from their idolatry and practices (Deuteronomy 7:2-4). Israel was acting as the Lord's agents of righteous judgment.

6:26 – Hiel of Bethel ignored Joshua's words. The fulfillment of Joshua's curse is recorded in 1 Kings 16:34.

Joshua 7

7:1 – People of Israel broke faith – All of Israel is affected by the sin of one. This is still true in the family and the church. They did not share Achan's sin, but they shared in its consequences.

7:6-9 – Joshua is doubting whether the Lord's promises will be fulfilled. This gives us an indication as to why he had to be told repeatedly "be strong and courageous."

7:12 – By taking the devoted things, Israel has now become devoted to destruction herself.

7:21 – Notice the order here – **saw – coveted – took**. This is the same language used of Eve when she ate the forbidden fruit in Genesis 3:6.

7:26 – Achor means "Trouble."

Joshua 8

8:2 – plunder for yourselves – This time the Lord allows Israel to have a share of the spoils.

8:30-35 – Renewal of the covenant was done in obedience to Deuteronomy 27.

8:30 – Mt. Ebal – This is the same area where the Lord first promised the land to Abraham (Genesis 12:6-7).

Joshua 9

9:6 – distant country – Gibeon was about 20 miles away, just north of Jerusalem.

9:14 – The failure of Israel was they “did not ask counsel from the Lord.

9:21 – congregation – The congregation is another term for the tabernacle (v. 23).

9:24 – The leaders of Gibeon’s deception was an act of faith in that they believed the reports of God’s great work and were convinced that the Lord’s plan could not be thwarted.

Joshua 10

Joshua 10 recounts the southern campaign by Israel. They had taken the central portion of the land and now will take key cities in the southern portion.

10:14 – Israel’s victory was because the Lord fought for them (v. 42), as exemplified by the hailstones (v. 11) and the sun standing still (v. 13).

10:40 – The defeat of all the cities was done in obedience to the Lord to bring his judgment upon them.

Joshua 11

Joshua 11 will give a summary of Joshua's campaign into the northern country.

11:15 – Joshua was faithful to do all that the Lord commanded him.

11:21-22 – Anakim – These were the giants that scared the first spies to the land (Number 13:33). Joshua and Israel defeat them.

11:23 – took the whole land – This is a reference to the areas that Israel has taken so far. Chapter 13 will show that are other areas yet to be taken.

Joshua 12

Joshua 12 is a summary of the kings that both Moses and Joshua defeated in order for Israel to receive the land of promise.

Joshua 13

Joshua 13 starts the second half of the book. The second half focuses on the division of the land among the tribes of Israel.

13:1 – Joshua was old – He and Caleb would have been the oldest men in the nation, being in their 80's.

13:1 – very much land to possess – Earlier chapters gave a summary of the large parts of the land that Joshua conquered, but there yet remained other areas that Israel had not yet conquered.

13:8-33 is a summary of the division of the land east of the Jordan which was divided among 2 ½ tribes.

Joshua 14

The author continues with the division of the land on the western side of the Jordan River.

14:8 – wholly followed the Lord – This statement of Caleb is confirmed by Moses and the Lord (vv. 9, 14).

14:12 – give me this hill country – In true form to all we know of Caleb, he desired not the easy inheritance but the difficult one believing the Lord will give him victory.

14:15 – Hebron – After it is conquered, Hebron was designated as a City of Refuge (21:11).

Joshua 15

Joshua 15 begins a seven-chapter summary of the allotment of the land by tribe.

15:63 – could not drive out – No reason is given but this situation will be seen in the coming chapters in other tribes as well. David will finally conquer Jerusalem for his royal city (2 Samuel 5).

Joshua 16-17

Joshua 16-17 reveals the allotment of land that is given to the two sons of Joseph – Ephraim and Manasseh.

Ephraim will increase in size and influence, and in the future the northern tribes will collectively be called Ephraim.

16:10; 17:13 – As was the case with Judah, the sons of Joseph did not drive out the Canaanites from their territory as the Lord had commanded.

17:3-6 – This was done in fulfillment of the Lord's directions in Numbers 27.

Joshua 18-19

Our reading for today will cover the allotment of land to the other tribes.

18:10 – cast lots - This was the means by which the Lord revealed his will.

19:1 – in the midst of Judah – Later Simeon will be fully incorporated into Judah.

19:49-51 – Joshua’s inheritance was a city within Ephraim, since he was from the tribe of Ephraim.

Joshua 20

Today’s reading concludes the allotment of the land with the designation of the Cities of Refuge and the cities for the Levites.

20:1-9 – All six of the cities of refuge were Levitical cities.

20:2 – cities of refuge – The Lord had given directions for these cities in Numbers 35:6-34.

Joshua 21

Joshua 21 lists the 48 cities that were given to the Levites (21:41), since they did not receive a land inheritance like the other tribes.

21:43-45 – This is a key summary statement of the Lord’s faithfulness in doing all he had promised. His word from the days of Abraham forward has been fulfilled.

Joshua 22

22:1-9 – Now that the land has been conquered the 2 ½ tribes can return to their inheritance on the eastern side of the Jordan.

22:5 – The 2 ½ tribes are called to remember to be covenantal faithful to the Lord.

22:10 – built there an altar – This was perceived as a breach of faith (v. 16) since the Lord had been clear that offerings were to be made at the tabernacle which was on the west side of the Jordan. It appeared that the 2 ½ tribes were going off on their own.

22:10-34 – A crisis is averted as the 10 tribes understand that the altar built by their brothers was not for worship but as a witness that the 2 ½ tribes also were the people of God (vv. 27, 28, 34).

22:26-27 – a witness between us and you – The purpose of the altar was not for sacrifices but as a monument for future generations to know of the union there was between all the tribes of Israel. This is repeated in vv. 28 and 34.

Joshua 23

Joshua 23 is Joshua's final warning to Israel to remain faithful to the Lord. If they do, they will receive blessings (14). But if they don't, the curses of the covenant will be theirs (15).

23:12-13 – Israel will not heed the Lord's commands about this and will suffer the consequences as the book of Judges makes clear.

23:14 – The blessings that will come from covenant faithfulness.

23:15 – The curses that will come as a result of covenant unfaithfulness.

Joshua 24

Joshua 24 is a covenant renewal much like what happened just prior to Moses' death.

24:2-13 – Joshua first recounts the Lord's covenant work on behalf of Israel.

24:2 – When God called Abraham, he was an idol worshipper.

24:14 – The command to be faithful to the Lord is always in response to his prior work of grace.

24:19 – You are not able to serve the LORD - Joshua had witnessed Israel's ongoing rebellion through Moses's ministry and his own. They and we needed someone who would achieve perfect obedience for us.

24:23 – Israel still had foreign gods among them.

24:27 – **stone shall be a witness** – At other covenant making occasions, the mountains served as witnesses to what Israel had done.

24:32 – Joseph had directed that they take his bones from Egypt and bury them in the land of promise (Genesis 50:25).

