

OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE - Dr. Chris Miller

Session 1 - The Life of JOSHUA

Land - Joshua

Nation - Exodus

Leader - Joshua - takes over for Moses, crosses Jordan, name means "Jesus"

Joshua 1-12 The Conquest of the Land

Joshua 1-5 Israel's Preparation for Conquest

- **God's Initiation of the Action**

*"Moses my servant is dead. Get ready! Cross the Jordan River! Lead these people into the **land** which I am ready to hand over to them. I am handing over to you **every place you set foot**, as I **promised Moses**. Your **territory** will extend from the **wilderness** in the south to **Lebanon** in the north. It will **extend** all the way to the great River Euphrates in the east (including all of **Syria**) and all the way to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to resist you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not abandon you or leave you alone. Be strong and brave! You must lead these people in the conquest of this land that I **solemnly promised to their ancestors I would hand over to them**. Joshua 1:1-6*

Land with a twist... Land in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham.

*Make sure you are very strong and brave! Carefully obey all the law my servant Moses charged you to keep! Do not swerve from it to the right or the left, so you may be successful in all you do. **This Book of the Law** (Deuteronomy 17) must not leave your lips! You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful. Joshua 1:7-8*

If you want to be a leader... you have to know God's Word.

- **1st Stop? Jericho**

- Jordan River to the east and Jerusalem to the west. Jericho is at sea level causing a 40 degree weather variance. Harrod had a winter palace there. Jericho is described in the Hebrew Bible as the "city of palm trees", is the oldest city in the world, and it is also the city with the oldest known protective wall.
- Jesus of Nazareth passed through Jericho where he healed blind beggars (Matthew 20:29), and inspired a local chief tax-collector named Zacchaeus to repent of his dishonest practices (Luke 19:1–10). The road between Jerusalem and Jericho is the setting for the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

- **Rahab's (?) faithful response to God. Joshua 2:1-24**

- Whose story is it really? The spies or the prostitute?

- Note her loyalties: King of Jericho vs King of Israel

*Joshua son of Nun sent two spies out from Shittim and instructed them: "Find out what you can about the land, especially Jericho." They stopped at the house of a **prostitute named Rahab** and spent the night there. The king of Jericho received this report: "Note well! Israelite men have come here tonight to spy on the land." So the king of Jericho sent this order to Rahab: "Turn over the men who came to you - the ones who came to your house - for they have come to spy on the whole land!" But the woman hid the two men and replied, "Yes, these men were clients of mine, but I didn't know where they came from..."*

When we heard the news (of what God had done at the Red Sea - faithful response) we lost our strength and no one could even breathe for fear of you. For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below! Joshua 2:1-4, 11

- Note the three conditions the spies give her:

*When we invade the land, tie this **red rope in the window** through which you let us down, and **gather together in your house** your father, mother, brothers, and all who live in your father's house. Anyone who leaves your house will be responsible for his own death - we are innocent in that case! But if anyone with you in the house is harmed, we will be responsible. **If you should report what we've been up to**, we are not bound by this oath you made us swear." She said, "I agree to these conditions." Joshua 2:18-21*

Joshua 3-4 The people's obedient crossing, Note the Geography & the Theology!

- **Theology for the Canaanites:** Canaanites to the west. Israel to the east. The Jordan river isn't huge but floods a couple weeks of the year. Canaanites worship the river as a life-giving force and think they're safe for awhile. Our god is between us and them. God is about to do in the Jordan what he did in the Red Sea. Psychological warfare: Here's what Yahweh does to your gods. Turn from Baal... only Rahab and the Gibeonites make this choice.

Baal: god of the rain/raindrop, he brings the water and the rain. Everything in an agricultural setting needs rain. (Elijah - Mt Carmel)

*Sing to God! Sing praises to his name! Exalt "the one who rides on the clouds!" For the Lord is his name! Rejoice before **Him!** Ps 68:4*

- **Theology for Joshua:** This is really poor administration, Joshua. Moses would have thought ahead and not brought us out here at this time...

*The Lord told Joshua, 'This very day I will begin to honor you before all Israel so they will know that I am with you just as I was with Moses. Instruct the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, 'When you reach the bank of the Jordan River, wade into the water.'" Joshua told the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God!"... "**This is how you will know the living God is among you** and that he will truly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites. Joshua 3:7-10*

Why did the Israelites cross the river?

- A. To get to the other side.
- B. To get to know God in the process.

- **The People's faithful observance of the covenant. Joshua 5:1-12**

- Israel is now in enemy territory. Ex 4: God sought to kill Moses, his wife circumcised his sons. Gen 35: Jacob's daughter Dinah, raped by the prince of Shechem who wants to marry her, they go to Simeon & Levi, you can marry our sister only if you circumcise the entire town, they use this as an opportunity to destroy everyone.

Joshua has the people circumcised... the sign of faith in the promises. God protects them. It's not about the strength of your army but their faithfulness.

Joshua 5-12 Israel's Conquest of the Land

- **The divine initiative and direction**

What does it remind us of? How is it different?

*While Joshua was near Jericho, he raised his eyes and saw one who stood facing him, drawn sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "**Are you one of us or of our enemies?**" He replied, "**Neither.** I am the captain of the host (angel) of the LORD and I have just arrived." Then Joshua fell prostrate to the ground in worship, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" The captain of the host of the LORD replied to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy." Joshua obeyed. Joshua 5:13-15 (burning bush - Moses - God uses miracles/plagues vs. Joshua the man - God uses the military)*

Why did he say neither? Because he's not here to help them on their way, he's here on a mission and if YOU and to help ME... that's great. If you think God is here to help us get what we want... you're mistaken about what the mission is. We're here to further God's plan.

Joshua 6-1 The Central Campaign

- **The successful battle for Jericho Joshua 6:1-27**

- Note the brilliant strategy! No one will doubt it's God.

Have all the warriors march around the city one time: do this for six days. Have seven priests carry seven ram's horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day march around the city seven times, while the priests blow their horns. When you hear the signal from the ram's horn, have the whole army give a loud battle cry. Then the city wall will collapse and the warriors should charge straight ahead."

Joshua 6:3-5

- Note the directions. Similar to the first fruits offering, it goes to God by faith that he will give more, in this case... the rest of the land.

The city and all that is in it must be set apart for the Lord, except for Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house, because she hid the spies we sent. But be careful when you are setting apart the riches for the Lord. If you take any of it, you will make the Israelite camp subject to annihilation and cause a disaster. All the silver and gold as well as the bronze and iron items, belong to the Lord. They must go into the Lord's treasury." Joshua 6:17-19

- **The defeat of Ai, Joshua 7:1-26**

*But the Israelites disobeyed the command about the city's riches. **Achan** son of Carmi... from the tribe of Judah, **stole some of the riches**. The Lord was furious with the Israelites. Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai (which is located near Beth Aven, east of Bethel, 13 mile - 3000 feet incline, at the top you can march into Jerusalem) and instructed them, "Go up and spy on the land." So the men went up and spied on Ai. They returned and reported to Joshua, 'Don't send the whole army. About two or three thousand men are adequate to defeat Ai. Don't tire out the whole army, for Ai is small.' So about three thousand men went up, but they fled from the men of Ai. The men of **Ai killed about thirty-six of them** and chased them from in front of the city gate all the way to the fissures and defeated them on the steep slope. The people's **strength melted away like water**. Joshua tore his clothes; he and the leaders of Israel lay face down on the ground before the ark of the Lord until evening and **threw dirt on their heads**.*

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." Achan replied, 'It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.' (treasonous act) Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan..., the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. (trouble) Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since. Joshua 7: 1-6, 19-21, 24-26

- **How do Rahab & Achan compare?** (Gen 4 & 5 Lamech and Enoch)

	<u>Rahab</u>	<u>Achan</u>
Gender	Female	Male (he clearly has the power in this culture)
Heritage	Canaanite	Judahite - Messiah could come through you
Status	Prostitute	Upstanding
Future	Die under rocks	Live in the land
Faith	Much	None - Don't take the stuff!
Result	Family lived	Family died
Relation to Messiah	All reality found In the line	All potential lost Could have been in the geneology

- **The Victory at Ai Joshua 8:1-29**

*You will destroy them as you destroyed Jericho and its king. **But this time you may keep the captured goods** and the cattle for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city. Joshua 8:2*

- **The means of Conquest: Covenant Renewal Joshua 8:30-35**

- Shechem is between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal.

Jesus speaks to the woman at the well.

"Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, (Mt. Gerizim) but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." John 4:20

- Moses says to Joshua before he died...when you get in the land, make sure everyone recites the blessings and cursings of Deuteronomy 28. It will serve as a reminder that we don't succeed because of our strength but because of our faithfulness.

Joshua 13-24 The Settlement of the Land

- **The Allotment of Land West of the Jordan Joshua 14:1-19:51**

- Hebron, highest city in southern Israel, cool place in a hot land, Abraham, Isaac & Jacob are buried here. Caleb asks permission to conquer the inhabitants that live there.

(Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.) Joshua 14:15

- Bittersweet--- +85 year old guy who beats the biggest Anakite
Could've been there at 45...

- Acsah, Caleb's daughter

She replied, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs. Joshua 15:19

- Why does Joshua add all this? **It was the fulfillment of a promise!**

Because Caleb... follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land... and his descendants will inherit it. Num 14:24

Joshua 22-24 Conditions for Continued Settlement

- **Joshua's address concerning breaking the covenant Joshua 24:1-27**

	+ Serve God	- Abandon Idols
14	Serve him	Throw 'em away
18	We will	???
19-20	Serve him	Don't follow them
21	We will	???
23	Yield to him	Throw 'em away
24	We will	???

*"Now fear the Lord and **serve him** with all faithfulness. **Throw away the gods** your ancestors worshiped, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. **We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.**"*

*Joshua said to the people, "**You are not able to serve the Lord.** He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you. But the people said to Joshua, "**No! We will serve the Lord.**" Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. "Now then," said Joshua, "**throw away the foreign gods** that are among you and **yield your hearts to the Lord**, the God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "**We will serve the Lord** our God and obey him.*

Joshua & Victory

Joshua 24 - The people never decided to get rid of the foreign gods. They hung onto the things that they thought gave them what they wanted.

Judges & Defeat

- **The passing of leadership Joshua 24:28-33**

- **Land** - the land has been taken mainly
- **Nation** - the nation is good
- **Leader** - $\frac{2}{3}$ the way there... stay tuned

And Joseph's bones, (best picture of the seed we've ever had) which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem... This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants. Joshua 24:32