


Joshua



“Be Strong and of a Good Courage;
Be Not Afraid,
Neither be
Thou Dismayed:
For the LORD thy God
is with thee whithersoever
thou goest.”

Joshua 1:9

IMPORTANT!

PREPARATION for POSSESSING the PROMISED LAND

JOSHUA 1:1 --- JOSHUA 5:15

History & Foundation	5 Characteristics Promised Land Heavenly Places	The Man God Uses	A Three-Day Pause	The Crossing Of Jordan	Establishing Memorials	Renewing Our Committal	Get on the Winning Side!
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The Crossing of Jordan is not a Picture of Physical Death!
The Promised Land is not a Picture of Physical Heaven!

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #1

THE FOUNDATION OF UNDERSTANDING JOSHUA.

Seven Things to Understand about The Crossing of Jordan & The Promised Land.

I. The Crossing of Jordan

- A. The crossing of Jordan does not picture physical death.
- B. If it were physical death, then the Promised Land would picture Heaven - IT DOES NOT!
- C. When they crossed the Jordan River - there was a "war to be fought" for the Promised Land.
 - 1. Canaan had seven fortified cities who were the enemies of Israel, God's people.
- D. If you do not understand this truth - you will miss the entire meaning of the Book of Joshua.
- E. Crossing Jordan pictures dying to the "**self-life**" and living the "Christ-life."
 - 1. The New Testament picture is "revealed" in (Romans 12:1-2, & Galatians 2:20).

II. The Promised Land (Genesis 17:6-14). (READ!)

- A. The Promised Land does not picture Heaven. There are "No Wars in Heaven."
- B. It is the land that God made in a "Covenant" with Abraham to give to him and the people.
- C. It was a land "flowing with milk and honey."
- D. It pictures a place where Israel could enjoy all the blessings of God and His perfect peace.
 - 1. The New Testament picture is revealed in two manners.
 - a. The Promised Land of the Old - "Heavenly Places" of the New (Eph. 1:3, 2:6).
 - b. It is also referred to as "entering the Rest of God" (Hebrews 4:1-9).
 - c. Christ gives us an analogy to help us understand.
 - 1. He compares it to "His day of rest" (Hebrews 4:4).
 - 2. John 14:27 states, "My peace I give... not as the world..."
 - 2. To enter into "Heavenly Places" means we have placed our life in His hands.
 - a. That results in us having no worry, no anxiety, no fretting, etc.
 - b. It means we have "perfect peace" because of our trust in God.
 - c. We believe that "all things work together for good."
 - d. We believe that God is able to "do exceeding abundantly above..." (Eph 3:20).

III. The Promised Land and the Crossing of Jordan applies ONLY to God's People!

- A. These do not picture "salvation" in any manner.
- B. This study has nothing to do with "lost people & Heaven."
- C. Everything in this study applies to "God's People."
- D. The Crossing of Jordan can be traced to God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt.
 - 1. The Blood had been applied when they left Egypt (**Exodus 12:7 & 12-13**).

IV. The Covenant God made with Abraham was for "Promised Land" (Genesis 17:6-14).

- A. The Land is found in Numbers 34:1-2 & Ezekiel 47:13-20). (Map Included.)

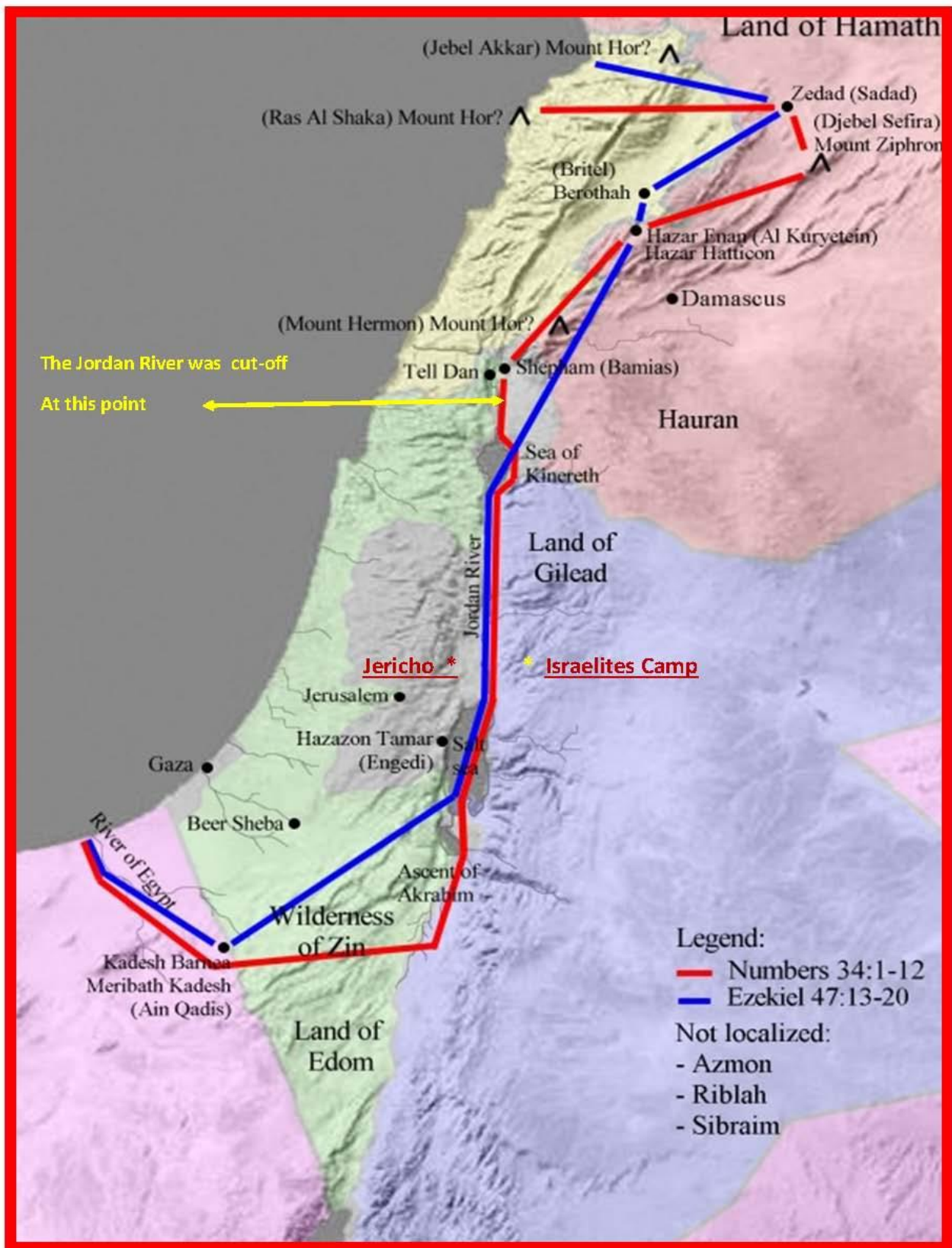
V. The Covenant God made with Abraham was for "His People."

- A. It was between - 1) Abraham, and 2) thy seed after thee in their generations (Genesis 17:9).
- B. It was an "everlasting" Covenant (Genesis 17:13 & 19).

VI. The Conditions of the Covenant (Genesis 17:6-14):

- A. **God's side:** He would give Israel the "Promised Land" (Genesis 17:6-14).
- B. **Israel's Side:** They would circumcise every male child 8 years old and up (Verses 11-12).
- C. God warned Israel that failing to circumcise would "break the covenant" (Verse 14).

- VII. The Covenant was kept by Israel until they "Lost Faith" at Kadesh-barnea (Deut. 1:19).**
- 1. Because Israel "did not keep" their part - God "breached" His promise (Numbers 14:33-35).
 - a. He was "relieved" of his Promise.
 - 2. Israel went for 38 - 40 years without circumcising anyone in the entire nation (Joshua 5:2-5)!
 - a. "Because of unbelief" (Deuteronomy 1:32).



THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #2

Five Characteristics of "The Promised Land" and "The Rest of God."

(NOTE: Be sure to notice that God is talking to "His people" - Not to lost people.)

I. Both the Promised Land and the Rest of God are the Goal Which God Purposes for His People.

A. The Promised Land:

1. God heard the cry and felt the affliction of His people in bondage (Exodus 3:7).
 - a. God Himself pledged to deliver His people from bondage.
 - b. God Himself pledged "The Promised Land" to His people (Gen. 17:8).
 - c. **THE LAW OF REPLACEMENT.**
2. God "delivers" FROM one thing - but purposes to REPLACE it with another.
3. God would have failed in fulfilling His promise to Abraham (Genesis 13:14-15).
4. This is a picture of the "New Testament Christian."

B. The Rest of God:

1. Every person who trusts Christ has been delivered from the penalty of sin.
 - a. They are on their way to Heaven.
 - a. However, there remaineth therefore a rest **"for the people of God." (Heb. 4:9)**
 - b. Many saved people - **wander in the wilderness instead entering God's Rest!**
2. God's purpose is for you to enjoy the "Peace and Rest" of God (Ephesians 1:3).
3. A saved person must "REPLACE the wilderness (earthly) with the Heavenly places."
 - a. God's goal for us is to **"not have a worry in the world"** (Philippians 4:5-7).
4. God's ultimate purpose is "for the perfecting of the saints" (Ephesians 4:14).

C. Let's Ask Ourselves Some Questions:

1. Have you realized the conditions and accepted your privileges as a child of God?
2. Are you still in the wilderness (earthly - and worrying)?
3. Have you entered the Promised Land God purposes for you?
4. Have you grown to the point that you can "tread the enemy of worry under foot"?
5. Do you fully trust in the "everlasting arms of God?"
6. Are you dwelling safely between His shoulders (Deuteronomy 33:12)?
7. If you do not, do you understand that you "frustrate the purpose" God has for you?

D. If not, you should purposely adopt *Philippians 3:12* as your life's verse.

*"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that **for which also I am apprehended in Christ Jesus.**"*

II. Both "The Promised Land" and "The Rest of God" are Impossible to Reach by the Law.

A. The Law of Moses is good and has no defects (Romans 7:12).

1. But, the law can never bring a person to "The Rest of God."
 - a. Paul confirms that in (Romans 7:22).

- b. In Romans 7:23-25, Paul sees "another law..." "There is another law."
 - c. The law of "sin - doubt - unbelief!"
 - d. The law is an "outward rule of our life" - to guide us to salvation
- B. Just as Salvation is a "free gift," the rest of God is a "free gift."
- 1. Peace and Rest are claimed BY FAITH (Philippians 4:7 & Proverbs 3:5-6).
 - 2. God said, "...my peace I **give** unto you..." (John 14:27).

III. Both "The Promised Land" and "The Rest of God" had a LEADER - Abundant Life.

- A. The Israelites had Joshua to lead them to "The Promised Land" (Joshua 1:1-2).
- 1. Joshua is a remarkable picture of Christ.
 - a. "Go over this Jordan, thou, and ALL this people."
 - 2. God promised: "No one will be able to stand before you" (Joshua 1:5).
 - 3. See, I have GIVEN into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof... (Joshua 6:2).
 - 4. "... for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land" (Joshua 1:6).
 - 5. **ALL was placed in Joshua's hand.**
 - 6. Joshua took the entire land - and GAVE it to "his people" as an inheritance!
- B. This is a perfect picture of Jesus Christ.
- 1. God has given Jesus Christ all things - in a "trust fund" for the saints (Colossians 2:9-10)
 - a. *"...and we are complete in him."*
 - 2. We are safe in His arms (Romans 8:33-39).
 - 3. God has given us ALL things freely to enjoy (**I Timothy 6:17**).
 - 4. Jesus, as Joshua did, is doing ALL possible to lead us to "The Rest of God."
 - a. The Rest of God gives **"peace that passeth all understanding."**

IV. Both had/have "Many People" who "wander in the wilderness" and never entered the "Promised Land" of the Old Testament. There are Many People" who are wandering in the wilderness of the world and will never enter the "Rest of God" in the New Testament.

- A. Israel knew these truths:
- 1. They saw God's power to deliver them out of bondage in Egypt.
 - 2. They saw the Red Sea open.
 - 3. They saw Pharaoh and his army drowned.
 - 4. They saw "water" come from a dry rock in the desert.
 - 5. They saw "manna" come down from Heaven.
 - 6. They saw "fire" lead them by night.
 - 7. They saw "a cloud" lead them during the day.
 - 8. They "knew" God's promise concerning the Promised Land – Deut. 1:20-21, 26, 29-31.
 - a. They would not believe (Deuteronomy 1:30, 35-39).
 - 9. They cried, "Would that we had died in the wilderness" (Numbers 14:2).
 - a. They got their wish. They "wandered" in the wilderness 40 years and died!
 - b. Not one of them that did not believe - entered the Promised Land!
 - 10. The Promised Land was "in view" - many did not enter in!
- B. The same is true of Christians today!
- 1. The "state of the Church" must be a sorrow to the Heart of our Leader!

2. In spite of Christians knowing:
 - a. The suffering and the blood that Christ shed FOR US on the Cross.
 - b. And knowing of the hundreds of promises He made to us, such as...
 1. Peace of God Philippians 4:6-7
 2. Peace from God Galatians 1:3
 3. Peace with God Romans 5:1
 4. Comfort Psalms 23 & Hebrews 13
 5. Forgiveness I John 1:9 & Psalms 32:5
 6. Heaven John 14:1-3 & I Thess. 4:16
 7. Salvation Romans 10:13; 6:47 & 3:12
 8. Eternal Life John 10:28; 6:47 & 3:16
 9. Joy Hebrews 13:5-6 & Philippians 4:4
 10. Provision Philippians 4:19 & Isaiah 40:28-31
 11. Guidance Proverbs 3:5-6 & Psalms 32:8
 12. Victory Romans 6:11-13 & I John 5:4-5

3. So few seem to be interested in trusting Him by faith -
 - a. And "entering into His Rest."
4. They died in the wilderness -
 - a. Today a great number of HIS people are dying in:
 1. Graves of worldliness!
 2. Graves of selfishness!
 - b. Here and there we find a Joshua in the church today.
 1. But the majority seem to be coming short of "God's Plan for Them."

V. Both "The Promised Land" of the Old Testament and the "Rest of God" in the New Testament are filled with a Multitude of Adversaries who oppose us.

- A. The Promised Land was occupied by at least 7 nations of Canaanites.
 1. Those nations hated God's People, Israel.
 2. Under Joshua's leadership, God gave them the victory and they entered the Land.

- B. The "Heavenly Places/The Rest of God" are not free from conflict, but -
 1. We are MORE than conquerors through HIM that loved us (Romans 8:38)!
 2. We will identify our enemies as the study progresses.

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1).

- C. PLEASE be sure that you are one that enters the "Heavenly Places."

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #3

THE MAN GOD USES.

Joshua 1:7-9

INTRODUCTION:

- I. The admonition "Be strong and of good courage" is used six times speaking to Joshua.**
 - A. Moses spoke that admonition to Joshua in Deuteronomy 31:6, 7, & 23.
 - B. God reiterated those same words to Joshua in Joshua 1:6, 9 & 18.

- II. This does not mean a man has to be "physically strong" to be used of God.**
 - A. Gideon was "the least in his father's house" (Judges 6:15).
 - B. Paul's appearance was weak (II Corinthians 10:10).

- III. It teaches us that a man must realize that he is totally inadequate to serve God successfully.**
 - A. A man must realize that "without Christ, he is nothing."

- IV. Joshua never dreamed that one day he would be in a position of great leadership.**
 - A. Joshua had been "Moses' servant" for many years.
 - B. Moses did not see Joshua as the next leader. He asked God... (Numbers 27:15-18).

- V. When God says to Joshua:**
 - A. "Be strong" means that Joshua thought he was too "weak" to take such great responsibility.
 - B. "Be of good courage" means Joshua was frightened by the thought!
 - C. "Be not dismayed" means Joshua thought he would surely fail.

- VI. Joshua is the type of man God calls and uses (I Corinthians 1:27-31).**
 - A. Most today feel they are "so strong" that God cannot use them (I Corinthians 1:29 & 31).
 - B. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength (Isa. 40:29).
 - C. He uses "things that are not to bring to naught things that are (I Corinthians 1:28).
 1. If Gideon had been the "great" in his father's house -
 - a. You would have never heard his name.
 2. If Paul had been "strong" -
 - a. He would not have preached the Gospel to Jerusalem.
 - b. He would not have been chosen to write 13 books of the New Testament.

THE SOURCE OF JOSHUA'S STRENGTH

- I. Joshua's Strength came from being "Faithful over Little Things" for 40 years (Joshua 1:1).**
 - A. Faithful over a few things – "ruler over many" (Matthew 25:23).
 1. One must learn to "take orders" before "giving orders."
 - B. Loyalty of a servant is a "stepping-stone" to The Royal Throne!
 - C. "Christ was highly exalted - given a name above every name" (Philippians 2:9).
 - D. Joshua served Moses about 40 years.
 1. He no doubt knew Moses while in bondage in Egypt.
 - E. Joshua "proved" himself.

1. War with Amalek (Exodus 17:9).
2. Gave a Godly report of the Promised Land (Numbers 14:6-10).
3. Joshua patiently endured for at least 40 years as a servant!

F. None of us can tell for what God is preparing us.

1. When the person is ready "God will send for him" (Joseph - Genesis 41:14).

II. **Joshua's Strength came because "He Knew He Had Been Called of God"** (Joshua 1:2 & 6).

A. When you know you are called - You know you cannot fail.

B. It is "not a matter of your ability - It is a matter of God's ability!"

C. If you are called...

1. Keep your mind on the "Purpose of God."
2. Yield yourself to the "Power of God."

D. God made Joshua "Seven" Promises. (Seven is the number of perfection.)

1. ...I will give you the Land (Verse 2).
2. There shall not any man stand before you all the days of your life (Verse 5).
3. As I was with Moses, so will I be with you (Verse 5).
 - a. Joshua had "seen" God's power with Moses.
4. I will not fail you (Verse 5).
5. I will not forsake you (Verse 5).
6. The Lord thy God is with thee wheresoever thou goest (Verse 9).
7. Thou shall have good success (Verse 8).

E. When God has called you - - GO FORWARD!

1. Rivers will dry.
2. Walls will fall.
3. Armies will flee.
4. There is NOTHING impossible with God.

F. *"...now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people..."* (Verse 2).

III. **Joshua's Strength came by Realizing the Presence of God with him** (Joshua 1:5).

A. "... I will not fail you nor forsake..." (Verse 5).

1. Joshua remembered the battles Moses faced.
2. Joshua remembered God said, "As I was with Moses, so will I be with you!"

B. Encourage yourself in the Lord.

1. The fire is hot - But He is with me.
2. The river is deep - But He is with me.
3. The current is strong - But He is with me.
4. The enemies are many - But He is with me.
5. "Fear not, I am with thee..." (Isaiah 41:10)

C. No weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

IV. **Joshua's Strength came from "Meditating in the Word of God Day and Night** (Joshua 1:8).

A. The Reason for God's Commandment (Verse 9):

1. God knew that Joshua was "afraid."

2. Joshua was going to face 7 powerful nations in "The Land of Canaan."
 - a. Canaanites
 - b. Amorites
 - c. Girgashites
 - d. Hittites
 - e. Hivites
 - f. Jebusites
 - g. Perizzites
3. Each of these were modern nations with powerful armies.
4. God instructing Joshua "be not afraid" means, "Joshua was afraid."

B. The Result of God's Commandment for him to "Meditate in the Word of God."

1. God wanted Joshua to have "Peace of Heart" that victory was sure.

C. The Release of God's Power is given to Jesus Christ.

1. Christ proclaimed, "**All** power is **given** unto me in Heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18).
 - a. That power was given to Him by God.
 - b. Christ holds "in trust" power for any saints who want it.

D. The Release of God's Power is "given" to us through the "Word of God."

1. Like as a fire and a hammer (Jeremiah 23:29).
2. Like a "Sharp two-edged sword" (Hebrew 4:12).
3. The Holy Spirit "gives" us that power when we "meditate" day and night.

MEDITATE:

Read, again and again.

Obey the Word – Do not turn left or right (Joshua 1:7).

Meditate on it until the Holy Spirit "Makes it real...gives you "the peace of God."

Until you realize that, "You can do all things through Christ..." (Philippians 4:13).

"To meditate therein day and night, that you might understand it and have it ready to use for any and all occasions."

If ever any man was so busy that he had reason not to find time to "meditate" in the Word of God, it was Joshua. He was preparing to lead some two and a half million Israelites across the Jordon River to war and destroy Jericho and six other "walled cities of great might - yet he MADE time to read, study, meditate, and obey the Word of God.

If you do not have victory through Christ Jesus, I can tell you why. It is because you are neglecting reading, meditating, and obeying the Word of God. Anyone who does not "MAKE time for God" will never have victory and rest in their life. God MUST have the preeminence in your life, or you will never find victory.

It is there for you to receive. God wants you to have it.

Believe it!

Claim it!

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #4

THREE REASONS FOR THE THREE-DAY PAUSE.

Joshua 1:11

INTRO: The entire Land of Canaan was "given" to Israel (Genesis 13:14-17 & Genesis 15:18-21).

The land was theirs! God had given it to them!

However, every square mile of it had to be "claimed."

God promised to "fight for them" (Deuteronomy 1:29-30).

They had to "move forward - by faith" and claim it!

God, our Father, has "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

However, every blessing has to "be claimed."

They are not ours until we claim them "by faith."

When we claim them, we need to "move forward" by faith and enjoy them.

We also have to "expect" things to "come up" which cause us to "wait."

Israel was preparing to "move forward" and claim their "promised land."

Suddenly, they ran into a "three-day delay" (Verse 11).

"...within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan,"

God's Purpose for the Three-Day Pause.

I. **First, Because Two and One-Half Tribes of Israel Needed "A Second Chance"**(Joshua 1:12-15). **The Reubenites - The Gadites - The Half Tribe of Manasseh.**

A. Those tribes had asked for land on "the East side" of Jordan (Numbers 32:1-5).

1. The "East side" of Jordan pictures "a Worldly Christian."

a. Saved people who want to "go to Heaven" but here on earth...

b. They want to "enjoy the world!"

1. Those people are "willing to settle for God's second best."

2. Moses was angry - but granted them "their wish" (Numbers 32:6-7).

3. The Lord was angry with those people (Numbers 32:10 & 13).

B. Joshua "reminded" them of their decision and gave them a "second chance."

C. Those people rejected Joshua's offer and confirmed the decision (Joshua 1:16-18).

1. They could "see" the Promised Land."

2. They even "went into the Promised Land" but chose to "enjoy the world."

3. They saw God "utterly destroy the 7 nations."

4. They "chose" to "go back across the river - and into the world."

D. God's purpose for His people is ...

1. "Enjoy all spiritual blessings in heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3).

2. "Enjoy the rest of God" (Hebrews 4:9).

- E. You want to do it "your way?" - God will let you!
 - 1. But; "Be sure your sins will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).
 - 2. They went into captivity to Assyria **and never returned.** (I Chronicles 5:25-26)

II. Second, Because There Was "One Soul" in Jericho Who Had Faith (Joshua 2:1).

- A. The entire city of Jericho was under the judgment of God (Joshua 1:5).
- B. God knew Rahab had "a little faith" and was seeking more!
 - 1. "For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light" (Psalms 36:9).
 - a. Rahab obeyed the light she had. God gave her more light.
 - 2. She acknowledge the God of Israel as the "God of Heaven & earth" (Joshua 2:6-11).
 - b. Rahab, no doubt, "had faith to be saved."
 - 3. Her "works" prove that was her belief (James 2:18).
 - a. She protected the spies from harm.
 - b. She identified with Israel by putting "a scarlet thread" in her window.
 - c. She brought her entire family to her home.
 - 4. She entered the Promised Land with Israel (Joshua 6:25).
- C. Rahab is mentioned twice in the New Testament.
 - 1. She is mentioned in James 2:25 proving, by her works, she was saved.
 - 2. She is mentioned in "God's Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11:31.
- D. "God is not willing that any should perish..." (II Peter 3:9).

Question: Are you and I that concerned - that much - - - over one soul!

INSERT "How did the people of Jericho know that the two men were Israelites?"

- A. The two spies were apparently DIFFERENT - That is the only explanation!
 - 1. The Philippian Jailer saw the difference (Acts 16:25-31).
 - 2. The people saw it in Peter (Acts 2:32-38).
- B. They were "God's people." - God's people are to "be different" (I Peter 2:9).
 - 1. They are to - "*show forth the praises of him who hath called them ...*"
 - a. Praises (Greek: arete)-The meaning is: Proper - Excellence -Virtuous
- C. Christians are to be different - in their looks, their dress, their talk, their walk, their attitude
 - 1. People should be able to "look at us" and say, "They are different!"
 - 2. If people do not "see we are different" - **There is a problem!**

III. Third, Because the People Needed Time to "Be Strengthened in Their Faith."

- A. The people needed time to realize it was "**impossible to cross the river**" (Joshua 3:15).
 - 1. They needed to "reach the end of themselves."
 - 2. They needed to realize that there was "no hope" without God.
 - 3. That faith seems to have come when the spies returned (Joshua 2:23-24).
- B. "The Pattern of Abraham's Faith" (**Romans 4:19-25**).
 - 1. Abraham waited 20-21 years on the promise of God.

2. He was not weak in faith (Verse 19).
3. He staggered not at the promise of God. (A seed at 100 years old! - Isaac) (Verse 20).
4. He was "strong" in faith (Verse 20). - - - "**Abraham waited...**"
5. He was "fully persuaded that ... He was able also to perform" (Verse 21).
6. **God said, "Now it was not written for his sake alone ... (Romans 4:23-24)**
 - a. But for us also... we are to **believe in the promises of God.**

C. *"They that wait upon the Lord... shall renew their strength"* (Isaiah 40:31).

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #5

CROSSING OF THE JORDAN RIVER.

Joshua 3:1-10

INTRO:

- A. Why God promised to "drive out & utterly destroy" seven nations from the land of Canaan?
 - 1. It was foretold by God to Abraham.
 - a. The "four generations" had passed. **Their iniquity was full!!!** (Genesis 15:16)
 - 2. Their Iniquity was ...
 - a. They were "an abominable, immoral lifestyle" (**Leviticus 18:12-25**).
 - b. They were "satanic spiritualism" (**Deuteronomy 18:9-12**).
 - c. **God is ANGRY with the wicked (Psalms 7:11 & 11:5).**

The Crossing of the Jordan River.

- B. The crossing of Jordan does not picture "physical death."
- C. The crossing of Jordan pictures death to the "self-life" (Galatians 2:20 & 6:14).
 - 1. "Stops **trying** - starts **trusting**." - Exercise FAITH!
- D. How did Israel, God's people, safely cross the river?

I. **God Guided Them Across the River, because "You Have Not Passed This Way Before."** Something new every day!

- A. The Israelites - LIKE US! -were fearful.
 - 1. The river was raging! - The river was flooding - over one-mile wide (Joshua 3:15).
 - a. They saw trees - stumps - logs - trash, etc.!
 - b. No doubt some said, "*Let's wait until the river is normal.*" (90 feet wide)
- B. Joshua told them, "...when **ye see** the ark of the covenant ..." (Joshua 3:3).
 - 1. "**... go after it.**"
- C. What is "The Ark of the Covenant?" (The Presence of God with His People.)
 - 1. Tabernacle - (Exodus 25:22) "There will I meet..."
- D. Do not look at the Destination. - Never been that way...
 - 1. Keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:1).
 - a. Abraham did not know where he was going (Hebrews 11:8).
 - 2. Joshua said, "Hereby **ye shall know...**" (Verse 10).
 - a. The "ark ... shall pass before you **INTO** Jordan" (Verse 11).
 - b. They "saw" the feet of the priests hit the water (Verse 15).
 - c. They "saw" the waters stop (Verse 16).
 - d. They "all" passed over on dry land (Verse 17)!
 - 3. They "Cross the Jordan" - by faith.
 - a. They had NO PART IN CROSSING - but to obey, by faith!
- E. They remembered that 38 years before - many DID NOT CROSS.
 - 1. Because "In this thing ye did not believe..." (Deuteronomy 1:32).
 - 2. **They learn from their failures!**

II. God Gave Them "Unfailing Promises" to Cross the River.

A. What is "The Ark of the Covenant?"

1. A "Covenant" is a "Promise of God." (**God with His People.**)
 - a. **Facing Jordon was facing "the impossible."**
2. Yet - "All the Promises of God are Yes, and Amen!" (II Corinthians 1:20).

B. Look at the "Unfailing Promises" (Verse 10).

1. God promised to "go before" them through the entire conflict (Joshua 3:4).
 - a. *"There shall be a space between you and the ark"*
2. God promised, "As I was with Moses... so will I be with thee"(Verse 7).
3. God promised to give them victory – "WITHOUT FAIL" (Joshua 3:10!)
 - a. God NEVER asks us to "face an enemy alone" He has not already defeated!
4. God promised that "The Ark/He would stand firm."
 - a. "until all the people were passed clean over Jordan" (Verse 17).
 - b. We are to put on the **Whole** Armor of God (Ephesians 6:13).
5. God promised that they would "come out victorious - on the other side" (Verse 17)!

C. Moses died, but the Promises of God never die (Psalms 119:89-90).

D. The Promises of God are for "All Saints, All Seasons & All Situations."

III. God Guarded them with "Unfailing Power" (Joshua 3:10).

A. God guarded the Israelites across the river.

1. The waters "rose up upon a heap."
2. The waters "rose up at Adam, a city beside Zaretan."
 - a. Zaretan was about 30 miles north of where they crossed!
3. They saw the mighty power of God - the river fled (Psalms 114:1-3)!
4. They saw the river dry up - immediately for those 30 miles.
5. They saw 2 1/2 million people cross on dry ground!
6. They saw "God fulfill every promise!"

B. You and I face an enemy that is IMPOSSIBLE for us to defeat (Ephesians 6:12).

1. Jesus "went **before us** to Calvary."
2. If He can win the victory over death - (I Corinthians 15:54-57)
 - a. He can win the victory over all things.
 - b. He can "Make them work together for good."

C. Jesus Christ ALWAYS goes before us (John 10:27-28).

1. God said, "**When you see the ark ... go after it!**" (Joshua 3:3).

D. You battle an "unseen" enemy (Ephesians 6:12).

1. You have an "unseen" Army of Angels guarding you (II Kings 6:15-17).

E. Many Israelites died in the wilderness, "because of unbelief"- Did not enter the Promise Land.

1. Will you be one who enters the "rest of God?" or "live in the wilderness?"

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMORIALS

Lesson #6

Joshua 4:1-24

INTRO: The Hebrew for Memorial is "Zikrown." It means: To Remember, Remind or Record.

THREE MAJOR MEMORIALS.

- I. The "Memorial Stone of God's Meeting Place" for His People** (Genesis 28:10-22).
 - A. God's Promise to Jacob (Verse 13).
 - B. God's Presence with Jacob (Verse 15).
 - C. This is THE FIRST MENTION OF "the House of God" (Vs. 15-17).
 - D. Jacob said, "*I will come again...*" (Verses 20-21).
 1. New Testament Counterpart (Hebrews 10:25). (**The church**)
- II. The "Memorial Stone of God's Promised Help" for His People** (I Samuel 7:7-12).
 - A. God totally defeated the Philistines (Verse 10).
 - B. Hitherto hath the LORD helped us (Verse 12).
 - C. **Ebenezer** - Means "The Stone of God's Help."
 1. New Testament Counterpart: (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- III. The "Memorial Stone of God's Plan" for His people** (Joshua 4:1-8).
 - A. God "heaped up the waters of the Jordan River."
 - B. God "Dried up the Riverbed."
 - C. Israel crossed the river on dry land and entered "The Promised Land."
 1. New Testament Counterpart: (Ephesians 3:20).

THREE IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE MEMORIALS IN JOSHUA CHAPTER FOUR

- I. First and foremost, it is Important Because "God Told Joshua to Build Them"** (Joshua 4:1).
- II. The First Memorial was "Carried on the Shoulders of Men"** (Joshua 4:2-8).
 - A. One man from each tribe - represented all the twelve tribes of Israel.
 1. The memorial was built as their lodging place, "in the Promised Land" (Verse 8).
 1. "Lodging Place" - Gilgal - (Verse 19)
 2. That was **Gilgal** where Joshua and Israel returned after battles.
 1. **Gilgal:** Three important things happened there:
 - a. Circumcision was started again - after 38-40 years.
 - b. Reproach of Egypt was wiped away.
 - c. The Passover was held - after 38-40 years.
 - B. Joshua returned there after every battle: Joshua 10:15 & 43
- III. The Second Memorial was "Built by their Leader" in the midst of the river** (Verse 9).
 - A. Joshua built the memorial in "the midst of the river."
 1. He kept the people safe from death - while they entered the Promised Land.
 2. "... when **ALL** the people were **clean passed over** ..." (Verse 11).
 3. The "Rest of God" is available to **EVERYONE!**
 - B. **Jesus Christ** the true leader Who "**stood**" in the place of death (Joshua 3:17 & 4:10).
A testimony that every person who "crossed" Jordan, **had died to the "self-life."**
A testimony that those who "arrived at Gilgal" **were resurrected to the "Christ-life."**

GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MEMORIALS

- I. **God wanted Israel to "Remember" all of the Mighty Works He had Done for Them.**
 - A. God warned Israel not to forget - (Deuteronomy 6:12) *"Beware lest thou forget the Lord..."*
 1. The Israelites in the wilderness "forgot" all God had done (Deuteronomy 1:21; 26-32)
 - B. Christians in the "time of Christ" were prone to forget.
 1. Ephesians: The Alps of the New Testament" - Paul found no fault in them.
 - a. Revelation 1:5 **"Remember** therefore from whence thou are fallen ..."
 - C. Christians "today" are prone to forget. **Examples: "We need some "memorials."**
 1. Do you remember? Salvation - Provision - Protection - Direction.
 - a. We need to "Put some Stones" - When discouraged - Look back - Remember!
- II. **God wanted Israel to "Remind" their Children of the Mighty Works that God had done.**
 - A. Important enough that God mentioned this twice (Joshua 4:6 & 21).
 - B. Commanded to raise our children... (Ephesians 6:1-4).
 1. Fathers are to "bring them up - nurture and admonition of the Lord."
 - a. Not using "unfair or cruel behavior."
 2. Fathers are to:
 - a. Instruct children to stay away from bad company (Proverbs 1:10-16).
 - b. Instruct children in the Word of God (Proverbs 4:1-4).
 - c. Instruct children to seek God's will in all things (Proverbs 3:5-6).
 - d. Instruct children to learn how to work (Proverbs 6:9-11).
 - e. Instruct children to stay away from wine (Proverbs 20:1).
 3. I "Remind" you, "Children are a gift of God" (Psalms 127:3-5).
 4. Fathers are to **"be a pattern"** for children to follow (Genesis 5:21-22).
 - a. "And Enoch walked with God **after** he begat...three hundred years."
- III. **God wanted Israel to "Reach" the Entire World that they might "know the Lord." (4:24)**
 - A. That is God's ultimate purpose for every saved person (Matthew 28:18-20)!
 - B. That should be the most important thing in your life (**John 1:41**).
 1. The "FIRST" thing Andrew did was ... **first** find his own brother..." - C. "Remember" God spared Jericho until "one soul" had been saved (Joshua 2:1).
- IV. **God wants Christians today, to "Recall" the Mighty Works that God did for Israel.**
 - A. We are instructed to "learn from history" (I Corinthians 10:11 & Romans 15:4)!
- V. **Two Reasons the People "Hastened" to Cross the River to the Promised Land (Joshua 4:10).**
 - A. **First:** We are not to "linger" in the "wilderness" (World).
 1. The "world" will do all it can to "keep you from leaving."
 - a. A Christian should get "as far away from worldly influence" as possible.
 - b. They were to get "as far away" as possible.
 - B. **Second:** We should be "excited" to enter the "heavenly places" God has prepared for us.
 1. When we "cross over" we are "safe in the arms of our Lord."
 2. There are enemies, but:
"No weapon formed against me shall prosper." (**Isaiah 54:17**)
 3. If you "linger" you will be tempted to "stay in the world."
 4. If you "linger" and wait for "a convenient time" you may frustrate God's patience!

THE RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

Lesson #7

Joshua 5:1-10

- I. **Look at Three Steps Leading up to this Scene in Gilgal (Joshua 5:2).**
 - A. God had shown Israel His mighty power by "stopping the river and drying the riverbed."
 - B. Israel had "passed" through the Jordan River.
 - 1. This is a picture of "the death of self." (**Imagine yourself being there!**)
 - C. Israel "set their feet on the Promised Ground" for the first time ever.
 - 1. This is a picture of "the resurrected - new life in Christ."

- II. **HOWEVER - God had made a Covenant with Israel concerning the land - (Genesis 17:4-14).**
 - A. God's side: "God would give them Canaan" (The Promised Land).
 - B. Israel's side: "Circumcision was a Token of that Covenant" (Genesis 17:11).

ISRAEL'S STATE AFTER THEY CROSSED THE JORDAN.

Israel had crossed the river, set foot on the promised land, but still had no victory.

- I. **Israel was still in a state of Apostacy (Joshua 5:5). - (The Sin of Unbelief!)**
 - A. This started at Kadesh-barnea. (Account in Numbers 13:26-33)
 - 1. They "refused to believe God's Promise" (Deuteronomy 1:19-20, 26, 29-32).
 - 2. Israel "wandered in the wilderness" for 40 years and had not circumcised in that time.
 - a. Israel CEASED to "keep their part and circumcise" (Joshua 5:5).
 - b. Thus, they could not take the "Passover" (Exodus 12:48).

- II. **God "Broke" His Part of the Covenant with Israel (Numbers 14:32-34).**
 - A. This was done due to the fact that Israel had not kept their part of the Covenant!

- III. **That Took Place 4 days Before the "Passover."** (Compare Joshua 4:19 and Joshua 5:10).

CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY!

- I. **Israel's Knowledge of the Enemy they Faced (Deuteronomy 7:1).**
 - A. They faced doing battle with seven such powerful nations!(Immediately)

- II. **"At this time ... " (Joshua 5:2-8) - (Israel was faced with a choice)**
 - A. *"At this time ..."* God tested their faith with a "two-fold" test.
 - 1. They HAD to be circumcised before they could partake of the Passover!
 - a. It was forbidden to take the Passover unless circumcised (Exodus 12:48).
 - 2. They HAD to partake of the Passover to be obedient to God and have His blessings.
 - a. Circumcision would leave them "physically disabled" (Joshua 5:8).
 - b. God is saying, "DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE AND TRUST ME...?"
 - c. They no doubt "remembered" what happened in the wilderness!
 - B. They Believed and Obeyed - "**At that time ...**" They COULD NOT SEE THE RESULTS!
 - 1. **All they had to go on, was "GOD SAID..."**

- III. **The Reproach of Egypt was Rolled Away (Joshua 5:9).**
 - A. This does not refer to when Israel was in bondage to Egypt.

- 1. That reproach was "rolled away" when God delivered them through the Red Sea!
- B. This refers to the "mocking of Egypt" found in Exodus 32:12).
 - 1. This "SHUT THE MOUTHS OF THE ENEMY OF GOD'S PEOPLE!"

IV. SUMMARY: Israel was repenting "of the sin of unbelief!"

- A. Israel was committing to "Trust God by Faith!"
- B. Israel partook of the Passover.
 - 1. The Passover commemorated "being freed from bondage in Egypt."

THE APPLICATION TO NEW TESTAMENT TRUTH.

I. Christians Today Should "Follow the Pattern" of the Israelites.

- A. Realize that you have been changed "legally" as a part of Christ's body (I Cor. 12:27)!
 - 1. We are "His Beloved."
 - a. He has forgiven us ALL our sins for ALL Eternity.
 - b. He has given us an inheritance (Romans 8:17).
- B. Realize that you have been changed "inwardly" to be like Christ (Romans 8:29).
 - 1. You made your committal at Salvation.
 - a. You have partaken of the Passover.
 - b. You are "circumcised with the circumcision made without hands" (Col. 2:11).
 - c. You have been buried with Him by baptism in death (Romans 6:4)!
 - d. You have been raised to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).
 - e. You are "complete in Christ" (Colossians 2:9-10).
 - 1. PAST TENSE!!!
- C. Realize that you are to be changed "outwardly" as we represent Christ.
 - 1. We should die to the "self-life" and should live the "Christ-life" (Galatians 2:20).
 - a. God has "made us saints - live like a saint" (Ephesians 5:3-4).
 - b. God has "made us light - walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).
- D. Realize that God expects us to "live by faith" and to "move forward by faith..." (Heb. 10:38).
 - 1. God expects us:**
 - a. To "renew our commitment." (They were circumcised - Token of obedience).
 - b. To "partake of the Passover."
 - c. To "put our eyes on The Ark."
 - d. To "move forward by faith."
 - e. To "continue to trust God by Faith..."
 - 2. Israel did not believe God would give them the land.**
 - a. **Do you believe God will "give you Rest & and Heavenly places?"**
 - 3. Will you "renew your commitment?"**
 - a. Will you "keep your eyes on Christ?"
 - b. Will you "move forward by faith?"
 - c. Be obedient to "everything" you know is God's will?
 - 4. Will you believe that "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28)?**

IN CLOSING: Let me close by pointing out one thing!

(Joshua 5:1) The kings feared..."WHY???" - - - - - because of the children of Israel!"

They "saw" and they "heard "

When you and I start "trusting God by faith - and - moving forward, the world will fear."

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #8

GET ON THE WINNING SIDE!

INTRO: Let's put ourselves in Joshua's place.

- I. Joshua and Israel had crossed the Jordan River.**
 - A. God had not told Joshua "How" he would take Jericho. (Fortified City - Impossible.)
 - B. Israel had circumcised the young men and taken of the Passover.
 1. The people were waiting for Joshua to tell them what to do!

- II. Joshua seems to have "gotten alone" and possibly was remembering the past.**
 - A. Israel had seen God deliver them from Egypt.
 - B. They had seen God open the Red Sea.
 - C. They came to Kadesh-barnea - saw the Promised Land.
 1. They turned back in "Unbelief."
 - D. He may have been wondering if they would "fail in their faith" again!
(READ: Joshua 5:13-15)

- III. "And it came to pass ..." (Joshua 5:13) - - - Joshua "...lifted up his eyes and looked..."**
 - A. "...*there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand...*"
 1. This is **"NOT a vision and was NOT a dream."**

 - B. **Joshua wondered, "Who is this man?"**
 1. Joshua asked the man a question, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?"
 2. Joshua - in reality - **no answer, just a statement!**

 - C. The man said, "Nay; but as Captain of the Host of the LORD am I now come."
 1. "And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship..."

 - D. Who was this man?
 1. Men fell at Paul's feet and Paul rebuked them (Acts 14:15).
 2. John fell at an angel's feet and the angel rebuked him (Revelation 19:10).
 3. Joshua fell at this "man's" feet to worship him - **but he was not rebuked.**
 - a. (Matthew 4:10) "Him only shall we worship."

 - E. This was none other than, "Jehovah, the God of Israel!"
 1. **CAN YOU IMAGINE MEETING JEHOVAH GOD?**
 2. We can endure as seeing "Him who is invisible..." (Hebrews 11:27).

THREE APPLICATIONS OF THIS PASSAGE.

- I. The application of the man Joshua saw to Joshua's leadership.**
 - A. He was "The Captain of the **host** of the LORD."
 1. God NEVER expected Joshua to stop being the "human leader of Israel."
 2. God expected Joshua to "obey" The Captain - by faith -

WHEN HE COULD NOT SEE THE FUTURE!

- B. "HOST" - (Hebrew: Tasba): "An unnumbered organized army" who would fight for Israel.
 - 1. No one could see this host or hear orders being given to them.
 - 2. But, they had their "**swords drawn**" and ready for battle.
- C. This is not the first time in Scripture we have read of this happening.
 - 1. It happened to Jacob (Genesis 32:1).
 - 2. It happened to Elijah (II Kings 6:13).
 - 3. It happened at the Cross of Calvary (Matthew 26:53) about 72,000.
 - 4. Angels are ministering spirits to the heirs of Salvation (Hebrews 1:14).
- D. Joshua and the army of Israel did not so much as "touch" the walls of Jericho.
 - 1. They "**Had Faith in the promise of God**" (**Deuteronomy 18:12**).
 - a. They Submitted - They Obeyed - They moved forward.
 - 2. They saw the walls fall and KNEW they were struck by "unseen warriors."
 - a. **Read Psalms 44:1-6**
- E. **The Key to Victory:** Joshua asked; "Art thou for us or for our adversaries?"
 - 1. The Man did not answer Joshua's question!!!
 - a. The Man did **not** say, "I am on your side."
 - b. He only said, "*I am come as captain of the host of the Lord.*"
 - 2. Christians do not "need God on their side."
 - a. "Our side" may not be the "best side." - May not be "for our good."
 - b. **Christians need "to be on God's side!"** (THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!)
- F. Joshua was "**On the Winning Side!**"

II. The Application of the Man Joshua saw to the Church.

- A. Joshua faced an enemy he "could see" and he realized it was impossible.
 - 1. Christians today face an enemy we "cannot see" (Ephesians 6:12).
 - a. Principalities.
 - b. Against powers.
 - c. Against the rulers of the darkness of this world.
 - d. Against spiritual wickedness in high places.
 - 2. We cannot see our enemy; many times we do not realize it is an impossible task.
 - a. We say, "*We are rich and increased with goods ...*" (Revelation 3:17).
 - 3. Today, the church has resorted to using "carnal weapons" (II Corinthians 10:4).
 - a. The church today has used questionable methods - borrowed from the world.
- B. The church needs to learn from Joshua.
 - 1. Joshua knew that he and all his army could not conquer that enemy.
 - 2. Joshua knew he could not "build ladders and sledge-hammers" and make the wall fall.
 - a. Can you imagine them making the walls of Jericho fall???
 - 3. Joshua looked to "the Captain of the Lord's Host."
 - a. By FAITH - Joshua knew the battle was won - **BEFORE** the warfare began!
 - b. (Joshua 1:2-5).
 - 1. **Israel's part was to "trust and obey, for there is no other way!"**
 - a. Walk around the walls ...
 - b. Blow the ram's horn ...
 - c. And SHOUT!

4. **The "Captain's" sword is drawn, and He is ready to fight** (Deuteronomy 1:30).
- C. When the church needs to "follow the Pattern" --
 - a. Look to "The Captain of the Host of the Lord!" - Use **SPIRITUAL WEAPONS!**
 1. His "Sword" is sharper than a "two-edged" sword (Hebrews 4:12).
 2. "My word will not return void" (Isaiah 55:11).
- D. **Church - "Let's Get on the Winning Side!"**

III. **The Application of the Man Joshua saw to Christians.**

- A. The rank of Captain in that day is today equal to "The Commander-in-Chief." (Highest.)
 1. Joshua *"fell at his feet and worshipped."*
 2. *"Loose thy shoes from off thy feet - the place where you stand is **holy!**"*
 3. **Holy** – Means, "Sanctified!" - NO KNOWN SIN OR DISOBEDIENCE.
 - a. **Joshua did two things:**
 1. **By Faith he "submitted" to the Captain.**
 2. **By Faith he "obeyed" His orders.**
 - b. **If we are going to be on "God's Side:"**
 1. We must be holy.
 2. We must put off the old man.
 3. We must put on Christ.
 4. We must "submit" ourselves to the Captain.
 5. We must "obey" His orders.
 6. We must live by "faith in the Son of God" (Galatians 2:20)!
- B. **The Battle is the Lord's** - (II Chronicle 20:15).
 1. **AND He has already won the battle against the "powers of darkness."**
 - a. Christ came to "destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8).
 - b. God has "delivered the church" from the powers of darkness (Col. 1:12-13).
 - c. God has "destroyed the powers of death" (Hebrews 2:14).
 - d. God has seated us in "heavenly places" (Ephesians 2:6).
 2. The Battle has been won! Victory has been "GIVEN" to every Christian!
 - a. No fear - No fretting - No worry - No anxiety - No discouragement,
Because: "We know that all things work together for good..."
- C. **Joshua obeyed The Captain's orders** - (Joshua 5:15).
 1. He "submitted." - He "obeyed." He "moved forward" (Joshua 6:2 & 5) - took Jericho.
- D. **The "Captain's" sword is drawn, and he is ready to fight (Deuteronomy 1:30)!**
 1. Have faith! - Submit! - Obey! - Move forward! -
 - a. Claim the "Promised Land" (Ephesians 2:6)!
 - b. **The Victory is sure!**
- E. **Christian - Let's Get on The Winning Side!**
- F. **Christ said, "I will build my church
 and the gates of hell
 will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).**

PROCEEDING TO POSSESS THE PROMISED LAND

Joshua 6:1 - Joshua 11:23

The Walls of Jericho Fall	Sin in The Camp	The God of a Second Chance	The Wiles of The Devil	The Return To Gilgal	The Captain Of the Lord's Host	The Land Rested From War
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The Walls of Jericho fell. The only part Israel had was “marching around the walls and shouting.”

Israel was beaten badly by the warriors of Ai—because there was “sin” in the camp.

Sin was delt with—sin was removed—God gave Israel a second chance and a great victory.

Israel was deceived because “They asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.”

Gilgal is a picture of where “God’s people” meet Him—The House of God.

Joshua met the Captain of the Lord’s Host—and “obeyed His command.”

God drove out the Canaanites. — Israel “claimed” the Promised Land.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #9

The Walls of Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

INTRO: Joshua & Israel have crossed Jordan - set foot on "The Promised Land" - By Faith.

A. Immediately, they are faced with an enemy - The City of Jericho.

1. They knew Jericho was their enemy.
2. They knew it was a great, well-fortified city (Deuteronomy 1:28).
3. They knew the city was "shut tight" (Joshua 6:1).

I. God's Instruction to Joshua Concerning "the Battle of Jericho."

A. God made it clear, "I have given you the city."

1. He DID NOT say, "I will give you the city..."
2. He said, "I have already given you the city."
 - a. This excluded any and all boasting by anyone.
 - b. This clearly credited "God and God alone" for the victory.

B. God's Plan seemed "unreasonable."

1. No trenches - No foxholes - No battering rams - No ladders.
2. No military action of any type.

C. God's Plan seemed "strange."

1. Walk around the city once for the next six days.
2. Walk around the city 7 times on the 7th day.
 - a. They no doubt thought, "Why???" It does not make much sense!"
3. Weapons of war are not mentioned.
4. The Marine Corp did not do it that way!

D. God's Plan placed the Ark "in the Center of EVERYTHING.

1. The men of war went first.
2. The Priest would bear the Ark. (God in the midst of His people!)
 - a. The Ark represented "The Presence of God."
 - b. **God was in the "center" of His people.**
 - c. That is ALL we need to know (Hebrews 13:5).
3. The people followed the Ark.
 - a. Everything centered around the Ark.
 - b. Joshua told the people "See the Ark - Go after it" (Joshua 3:3, Joshua 6:6, 7).

II. God Instructed the People of Israel to be Involved! Compass the City and do 4 Things.

A. He required them to be "still" (Joshua 6:10).

1. To be still is one of the most difficult things in the world to do (James 3:5-8).
 - a. They could not ask "why?"
 - b. They could not express their opinion.
 - c. They could not share their disagreements.

- d. They could not offer suggestions of a better way.
- e. They could not express displeasure.
- 2. "Be still - and know that I am God..." (Psalms 46:10-11).
- 3. **THE SCRIPTURES ARE COMPLETE!** - There is no further revelation!
- OUR PART! 4. "Be still - and hear my small, still voice" (I Kings 19:11-12). (Listen and learn.)
 - a. God was "testing their Faith."

B. He required them to "wait."

- 1. "They that wait upon the Lord..." (Isaiah 40:31). (Difficult!)
- 2. Abraham is a Bible illustration (Hebrews 11:8-10).
 - a. After six days - with no apparent success...they waited (Psalms 37:7 & 34)!
- 3. EVERY leader and every Christian should lay hold of this promise (Isaiah 49:23).

C. He required them to "obey."

- 1. A careful reading clearly shows that "the people" did not know God's plan.
- 2. God gave the instruction & promise of the city to Joshua.
- 3. Joshua gave it to the people "one day at a time."
 - a. Joshua said, "Take up the Ark - Pass on" (Joshua 5 & 6).
 - b. "...so they did six days" (Joshua 6:14).
- 4. God expects "**blind** obedience!"
 - a. From the leader!
 - b. From the people!

D. He required them to "walk by Faith."

- 1. The Israelites "proved" their faith - BY obeying God's Commands. God said,
 - a. You be still as you circle the walls ... don't say a word
 - b. You wait ... until I tell you to shout
 - c. You obey ... exactly what I have told you!

E. God said, "You be obedient to what I tell you to do - **I WILL DO THE REST!**"

- 1. **God honors those who honor Him.**
 - a. God honored their faith and included them in the "Hall of Faith" Hebrews 11:30.

F. God has given Christians "three basic commands to obey."

- 1. You Pray (I Thess. 5:17 - I Timothy 2:8)
- 2. You Study (II Timothy 2:15)
- 3. You Witness (Acts 1:8)
 - a. God said, "You obey - I will do the rest" (Isaiah 55:11).
 - b. God was saying, "**I don't need your help - I'm Omnipotent!**"

TWO IMPORTANT POINTS IN CLOSING

I. The Importance of "One Soul." Joshua mentioned Rahab 3 times (Joshua 6:17, 23 & 25).

II. The Importance of "Keeping" Yourself from the Accursed Things (Joshua 6:18).

A. The Hebrew word for "keep" is "shamar." - It was a word they used when someone was about to touch a thorn bush.

- 1. "...lest ye make yourselves **accursed.**" The Hebrew is "Charam." -

2. It means, "to have your nose flattened against your face." - "punch you in the nose."
- B. The New Testament counterpart is found in II Corinthians 6:17 (Separate).
1. The Greek for **touch** is "aphorizo" - It means "DRAW A BOUNDARY!"
 2. Bring EVERY thought into captivity (II Corinthians 10:5).
- C. There was a "two-fold" curse for "anyone" who did not keep this command (Joshua 6:18).
1. The person violating the command was "accursed."
 2. The entire "camp of Israel was cursed and troubled."
- D. The same is true with the church today.
1. One person's sin will cause a church to lose the Blessings of God.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #10

Sin in the Camp The Cause & The Cure Joshua 7:1-26

INTRO: Chapter Six closes telling of "God's Great Blessings & Great Victory."
Chapter Seven begins with that small little word ... "But...!"

- I. Unbroken Victory in Canaan was God's Plan for Israel.**
 - A. Ai was the ONLY defeat Israel suffered in Canaan.

- II. "But ... Sin was in the Camp" - Israel Lost God's Blessings!**
 - A. Achan did not keep himself from the "accursed thing."
 - 1. Therefore - Achan was accursed (Joshua 6:18).
 - 2. Because of Achan's sin - All Israel was accursed (Joshua 6:18).
 - B. New Testament application: One willful sinner in a church will "Quench the Holy Spirit!"

- III. Sin is Never a Part of God's Plan.**
 - A. God never makes it IMPOSSIBLE for his people to sin.
 - B. God does make it POSSIBLE not to sin!
 - 1. We are sinners **by choice!**

- IV. Defeat Should Not Happen to God's People.**
 - A. When it happens... **We should IMMEDIATELY "Repent - ask Forgiveness!"**

THREE CAUSES FOR ISRAEL'S FAILURE.

- I. Israel's First Cause of Defeat Was Due to "Self-Confidence"** (Joshua 7:2-3).
 - A. The city of Ai was a very small city. (Approximately 12,000 (8:25): 200-300 Men of war.)
 - B. Ai was nothing compared to Jericho. (Estimated 2000 men of war.)
 - 1. However, the only thing Israel did was "Walk around the city."
 - C. Compared to Jericho, Israel said, "We can handle this" (Joshua 7:2-3)!
 - D. The most dangerous time in a Christian's life - when you have "won a great victory."
 - 1. We become proud. **"I have arrived!"**
 - 2. We take pride: We think, "I have grown! I can handle this from now on."
 - E. We imagine that God, through the "victory" gave us some type of new power.
 - 1. The only thing victory should do is "Increase our Faith in Him!"
 - F. A lesson we need to learn:
 - 1. "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing" (Romans 7:18).
 - 2. "When I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:9-10) (John 15:5)
 - G. There is always "an unseen enemy." - We need an "unseen host" of the Lord's army!**

- II. Israel's Second Cause of Defeat Was Due to "The Neglect of Prayer"** (Joshua 7:3-6).
 - A. At this minute, Joshua failed to seek God's counsel and guidance.
 - 1. This seems to be due to "The self-confidence" that HE also had.

- a. He was "remembering back" - Not "reaching out" to God.
- B. Had he "reached out" to God, he would have known there was "sin in the camp."
 - 1. That is clear from the text (Joshua 7:7-11).
- C. Joshua "fell on his face before God" and asked questions (Verses 7 & 9).
 - 1. God sharply rebuked Joshua "answered his question with a question!"
 - a. "*Wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?*" (Joshua 7:10)
- D. A great danger goes with a Christian having a great victory!
 - 1. **God's people seldom resort to prayer - "When things are going good."**
- E Joshua, as great as he was, failed in the same manner shortly thereafter (Joshua 9:14).
 - 1. God is just as interested in the "little things" in our life as He is in the "big things."
- F. God said, "...in everything by PRAYER and thanksgiving...." (Philippians 4:6).

III. Israel's Third Cause of Defeat was Due to "Disobedience" (Joshua 7:11).

- A. **IMPORTANT:** Achan did not confess his sin - Immediately!
 - 1. He knew what was taking place in Joshua 7:16-18.
 - 2. Even after his tribe, his family, and his household were chosen.
 - a. Achan "admitted" to his sin **when confronted** (Joshua 7:19-20).
 - 1. **NO Mention of being sorry, repentance, or confession.**
- B. The pattern of Achan's sin (Joshua 7:21).
 - 1. "I saw..." The lust of the eyes.
 - 2. "I coveted..." The lust of the flesh. **THE WORLD** (I John 2:15)
 - 3. "I took..." The pride of life.
- C. Every Christian should make a covenant with their eyes.
 - 1. "I have made a covenant with mine eyes" (Job 31:1).
 - 2. Why? "Mine eye affecteth my heart" (Lam. 3:51).
 - 3. "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity" (Psalms 119:37).
- D. "*Be sure your sins will find you out!*" (Numbers 32:23)

IV. The Cure for Sin in the Camp (Joshua 7:15 & 25).

- A. The judgment of God on unconfessed sin is **extremely serious**.
 - 1. This sin was dealt with by "total removal" of the sin from the camp.
 - 2. Sin in the New Testament must be:
 - a. Dealt with - **not just prayed about (Joshua 7:10).**
 - b. Sin must be totally removed - or **THERE WILL BE NO VICTORY.**
 - c. The Holy Spirit **WILL NOT MOVE** in a church that has sin.
 - 3. **Sin MUST suffer death!**
 - a. Christ has **ALREADY** died - **paid for our sin.**
 - b. **BUT** - It must be **CONFESSED** - forgiven. (**Involves Repentance.**)

B. Results of sin being dealt with:

1. Then, "...the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger" (Joshua 7:26).
2. A memorial should be established to make us "remember" the result of sin (Verse 26).
3. Victory over sin was dealt with.
4. Then, victory over Ai followed immediately!

C. The same will be true in a New Testament, Bible-believing Church.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #11

The God of Another Chance

Joshua 8:1-35

Chapter 6: The story of a Great Victory and Great Success.

Chapter 7: The story of "Unexpected Defeat" - which left Israel "discouraged."

A. The reason for the defeat: There was "sin in the camp."

1. What is sin?

a. Sin in our life is "failure to obey" God's Word "little or big."

B. Then God begins to tell Joshua "how" Israel can have victory over Ai.

1. This time - it will not be "by a miracle" as with Jericho.

2. This time - it will be by "a military" move.

C. God does things "different ways" (II Samuel 5:18-25).

1. Sometimes He uses doctors to heal - other times He heals by a miracle.

D. It is not important "how" it is done, but "Who" does it.

1. It is NEVER us that wins the battle!

2. God was the One who gave the victory at Jericho. (Israel had already failed once!)

a. God is God and will ALWAYS do it His way.

I. **Failure is Frustrating but not Final** (Joshua 8:1).

A. Be SURE your sin will find you out. (YOUR DISOBEDIENCE will find you out.)

1. But God is ALWAYS willing to forgive, BUT...

a. We must confess, before God forgives (I John 1:9).

2. God never holds a grudge.

a. God never brings up a sin we have confessed.

3. In the lesson today, we will see that "You may lose a Battle - but win the War"!

4. **Example:** Israel failed MANY times.

a. The Christian life is not without failures and disobedience.

b. The Christian ALWAYS has victory by "bringing our sin to Christ."

5. God is "The God of a Second Chance." (**ALWAYS!**)

EXAMPLES:

A. After Jericho - Israel was stronger than they had ever been.

1. BUT they failed - they were frustrated - **but their failure was not final!**

a. Jacob failed - but "went back to Bethel" (Genesis 35:1-3).

b. Peter failed - cursed and denied Christ - but repented with tears (Luke 22:54-62).

1. Peter preached in Acts 2:41 - 3000 saved.

c. Jonah failed - God gave him a second chance (Jonah 1:1 & 3:1).

d. John Mark failed - but later wrote the book of Mark (Acts 15:37; II Tim 4:11).

2. I have failed - 1000's of times - But God keeps giving me "another chance!"

a. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

3. The God of Jacob, of Peter, of Jonah, of John Mark...

a. **The God that gave them "another chance" is also YOUR God!**

II. **Success is Sweet but not Secure** (Joshua 8:25).

A. Ai was celebrating - exalting themselves!

1. God does not chastise the lost - as He does his children!
2. God "judges" the lost and the wicked.

B. Ai's "day of judgment" was coming (Romans 2:5).

C. What will judgment be like for the lost (I Peter 4:17-18)?

1. **Ai thought they had it made, but God had a plan.**
 - a. **God's battles for his children - NEVER end in defeat!**

D. Joshua sent 5000 men to set an ambush (Joshua 8:12).

1. He sent them to the "the west side" of Ai.
2. Joshua took a host of men of war to "the north side" of Ai.
3. When the men of Ai "saw" the Israelites on the north side --
 - a. They **thought** it would be like the first battle (Joshua 8:14).
 - b. Israel fled and Ai pursued after them.
 - c. Joshua "raised his spear" which was a signal to those in ambush (Joshua 8:18).
 1. Like Moses lifted up his rod (Exodus 14:16).
 2. Red Sea & Battle with Amalek (Exodus 17:8-12).
 - d. Ai realized what had happened - but too late!
 1. One minute the enemy was shouting the victory.
 2. The next minute the enemy was slain in defeat (Joshua 8:25).
 3. Ai's "day" had come.
4. Israel was victorious - through Jehovah God!!!
 - a. You are victorious through God.
 1. God is present with you.
 2. God is your protector.
 3. God is your provider.

E. Learn this about your relationship with God:

1. If God be for you - who can be against you (Romans 8:31)?
2. We are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).
3. No weapon against you shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

F. God - and God ALONE - planned the victory for Joshua and Israel.

1. God, and God ALONE - will do the same for you.

III. **Decision Determines Destiny** (Joshua 8:30-34).

A. There were two mountains a **short way** from Ai – Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal (Joshua 8:30-34).

1. They are opposites:
 - a. Gerizim is a beautiful scene, lush and fertile, where people love to walk.
 - b. Ebal is a barren scene with stones and rock which people stumble over.

B. Joshua is using this as "**a visual**" to share with the Israelites (Deuteronomy 11:29).

1. Gerizim pictures the "path of blessings" and leads to life of peace and joy.
2. Ebal pictures the "path of cursings" and is void of peace and joy.
 - a. Gerizim is "A Mount of Mercy."

b. Ebal is "A Mount of Misery."

C. Joshua built an "altar" and made sacrifices on Mount Ebal.

1. This pictures Christ's victory over "the curse of the law" (Galatians 3:13).

a. Christians have made the decision to be "saved from the curse of the Law."

D. Joshua is offering the people "a choice" (Joshua 24:14-15).

1. **Your decision determines your destiny** - how your life will turn out.

a. Choose Mt. Ebal (walk with the world) and live a life of continued misery.

b. Choose Mt. Gerizim (walk with God) and live a life of continued mercy.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

Lesson #12

The Wiles of the Devil.

Joshua 9:1-27

INTRO: We are "warned" about being able to stand against the "wiles of the Devil" in Ephesians 6:11.

A. II Corinthians 2:11 states,

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

B. Joshua and the Israelites had just won a great victory over Ai.

C. After the great victory, they are confronted by an "Unrelenting Devil."

1. Joshua Chapter 9 gives us a "Biblical Picture and Understanding of "his devices."

Satan's Three-Fold Personality.

I. Satan as a "Roaring Lion" (I Peter 5:8).

A. We generally see and hear the lion.

1. He roars loudly to put fear in our hearts.

2. He ALWAYS makes us think that - "the very worst" is going to happen to us.

B. Satan seldom follows up on his attack.

1. He is generally preparing us for a different type of attack.

II. Satan as a "Subtle Serpent" (Genesis 3:10).

A. The devil is far more dangerous as a "subtle serpent" than as a "roaring lion."

1. He "pretends" to "be one of us" but is not (I John 2:19).

2. He "pretends" to agree with us but does not.

3. He "pretends" to be our friend but is not.

4. He "pretends" to want to help us but does not.

III. Satan as an "Angel of Light" (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

A. Satan is more dangerous as "an angel of light" than as a Lion or Serpent.

1. He pretends to like our God, is does not.

2. He pretends to have great respect for the power of our God but does not (Joshua 9:9).

Satan's Three-Fold Personality on Display.

I. Satan Plays the Part of a "Roaring Lion" (I Peter 5:8).

A. What the Kings did (Joshua 9:1-2).

1. Six kings (nations) who hated Israel - CAME TOGETHER!

a. Their hatred toward God's people was so great - they put aside their differences.

b. They "made Israel think" they were going to attack and destroy them.

2. This is a "picture" of the spiritual warfare we face in Ephesians 6:12.

a. Ephesians 6:13 tells us to "put on 'THE WHOLE' Armor of God!"

b. Satan "always" makes you THINK the worst is going to happen to you!

c. The powers of darkness want to "put fear in your heart."

d. If he can cause you to fear the worst - it will destroy your relationship with God.

3. Satan, our enemy, has NO respect for God or His Word (Exodus 5:2).

a. Satan has no respect for you and your relationship with your Father.

B. What the Kings did not do!

1. They did not "surrender" to Israel in spite of them KNOWING the miracles God did.
 - a. "Spiritual wickedness in high place" never surrender.
2. The Kings of six nations were more in number than Israel.
 - a. In spite of that, they KNEW they could not defeat Israel's God.

C. The six nations "DID NOT" attack Israel.

1. They just wanted to "put fear in their hearts" and make Israel "turn back."
2. The enemy's plan is to defeat you, by fear, "without firing a shot."

D. They knew - they "could not win an all-out war with us" because they had seen God work.

E. Satan - the powers of darkness - know the same about you.

1. He knows that you are protected by Angels.
 - a. Psalms 91:9-13 - Psalms 34:7.
 - b. Illustration: II Kings 6:15-18.

II. Satan Plays the Part of a "Subtle Serpent" (Genesis 3:1).

A. The City of Gibeon came "subtly" to deceive Joshua & Israel (Joshua 9:3-13).

1. Satan "changed his strategy!"

B. They **DID NOT** mention "Jericho or Ai."

- a. Israel would have known they were not from a far country. (Subtle!)
- b. They "lied" about their clothing.

C. They "mentioned the mighty works of God" (Joshua 9:9 & 10).

- a. Therefore, they are without excuse.
- b. They are **more** inexcusable and guilty before God.

D. Joshua and Israel were deceived....

- a. Why? See Joshua 9:14! *"They sought not counsel of the Lord."*

III. Satan Plays the Part of an "Angel of Light" (Joshua 9:9-11).

A. Satan is even MORE dangerous as an "angel of light" than as a lion or a serpent!

1. The Gibeonites came as a "subtle serpent" deceiving Joshua and Israel.
 - a. They appealed to "their goodness" - a part of every Christian!
2. The Gibeonites came ALSO as "an angel of light" flattering the God of Israel.
 - a. "... we have heard of the fame of him" (Verse 9).
 - b. "... we have heard of all he did" (Verse 9).
 - c. "Go to and meet them...and say,
 1. Make us your servants..." (Verse 11)
 2. Make a league with us.
 - d. They implied that "they liked Israel's God and wanted to join them."

THE DANGER OF SELF CONFIDENCE.

- I. **Great Victories result in Self Confidence!** (Jericho and Ai.)
 - A. They failed to see "the serpent and the angel of light" in the Gibeonites.
 - B. Self Confidence results in a carnal decision (Verse 14).
 - 1. They failed to seek God's counsel!
 - C. Feeling sorry for the Gibeonites, they "disobeyed God's Word" (**Exodus 23:32**).
 - 1. They made the wrong decision - **based on "emotion."**
 - a. We are to make EVERY decision "based on truth."
 - b. The Serpent deceived Joshua just as he did Eve (**Genesis 3:1**)!
- II. **Joshua's Word Was His Bond (Joshua 9:27)!**
 - A. The people murmured against the princes and Joshua (Verse 18)!
 - B. In spite of murmuring, Joshua stood by "his word" (Joshua 9:27).
 - 1. Joshua made the decision based on Verse 20.
 - C. Was Joshua correct to stand by his word?
 - 1. The people were "displeased" but Joshua chose to "please the Lord!"
 - a. Was God pleased? Look at II Samuel 21:1-3.
 - 2. Saul broke the covenant and God was angry with him.
 - D. There are "some promises" we should not keep.
 - 1. If they are in direct conflict with the Word of God - we should not keep them.
 - 2. Christians should be SURE not to forget to "ask God for wisdom" (James 1:5).

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
Lesson #13

RETURN TO GILGAL
Joshua 10:1-4

INTRO: Remember that chapters 6, 8, & 9 are tied together with chapter 10

- A. Chapter 6 - A Great Victory for Israel over Jericho
- B. Chapter 8 - A Great Victory for Israel over Ai
- C. Chapter 9 - A Great - but Different - Victory over Gibeon
 - 1. The Gibeonites were afraid for their lives. (Joshua 9:24)
 - 2. The Gibeonites were accepting of their role as servants. (Joshua 9:8)
 - 3. The Gibeonites realized that Israel had a **Super-Natural God** supporting them.

I. Remember "The Wiles of the Devil" (Eph. 6:11 & Joshua 9)

- A. Chapter 9 revealed "Satan as a Subtle Serpent."
 - B. Chapter 10 reveals "Satan as a Roaring Lion." (Joshua 10:1-5)
 - 1. The King of Jerusalem had heard about Jericho & Ai. (Verse 1)
 - 2. The King of Jerusalem had seen that Israel had "God" on their side.
 - C. The roaring lion multiplied his force by "adding 5 other kings" against Israel! (Joshua 10:3-4)
 - 1. Why? - Because of the fear of Israel's God (Joshua 10:2)
 - 2. They attempted to combat "fear with fear."

II. Apply this Picture to the New Testament Church

- A. This is a picture of "the Wiles of Satan."
 - 1. If one thing does not work - he changes his method - tries something totally different.
 - a. He was a "Subtle Serpent" in chapter #9.
 - b. He changed to a "Roaring Lion" in chapter #10.
- B. Christians need to learn and to "**be Vigilant**" (I Peter 5:8) (**Watch - Keep awake!**)
 - 1. Satan NEVER quits - but He changes daily (I Chron. 14:9-13)
 - a. As a "roaring lion" he tries to make you afraid.
 - b. As a "subtle serpent" he tries to deceive you.
 - c. As an "angel of light" he makes you think he is "on your side"(Gibeonites).

III. Chapter Ten is a Picture of What God "Intended" for His Church to be Like

- A. The world saw what God did at Jericho and they feared. (Joshua 6:1)
 - 1. The work that Joshua did was noised throughout all the country. (Joshua 6:27)
 - a. The world should see that the church has "**super-natural power.**"
 - b. The church should "be feared by the lost world." (Joshua 10:2)
 - 2. The church HAS NO BUSINESS trying to "be friendly with the world."

IV. How Can We Have the Type of Church God Intended for the Church to be?

- A. **Question:** "How many of us would claim to be "like the Apostle Paul?"
If someone said, "**You are the Apostle Paul of today!**" What would you and I say?

- B. Let's consider this to "provoke our thinking."
1. Believers were given the name "Christian" in Acts 11:26.
 2. In this verse, the word "Christians" means **"Imitators of Christ."**
 - a. **Also, it means "Imitator of Christ" or "A little Christ."**
- C. At NO PLACE in the Bible do we find where anyone **referred to himself** as "a Christian."
1. At NO PLACE do you find "Believers calling other believers "Christian."
 - a. You cannot be a Christian without being saved!
 - b. You can be saved and not be a Christian!
 2. Ask yourself this question, "Am I worthy of being called "a Christian?"
 - a. When people see us, do they say, **"There goes "a little Christ!"**
 - b. If we can't compare ourselves to Paul -
 1. We should be very careful about calling ourselves, "a Christian!"

- D. What were the characteristics of Christ?
1. He was Holy in ALL things.
 2. He was loving.
 3. He was humble and meek.
 4. He was faithful in ALL things.
 5. He was a servant at heart (washed the disciple's feet).
 6. He was obedient in ALL things.
 7. He was uncompromising for the truth.
 8. He was prayerful.
 9. He was zealous about every person hearing the Gospel.
 10. He was bold in witnessing.
 11. He was pleasing to God in ALL things.
 12. He was "the Beloved of his Father."
 13. He was 100% devoted to his Father.
 14. He put everything in His Life - AHEAD of the world.

E. We call ourselves "Christians." - We call each other "Christian" but...

V. We Will Have the Type of Church That God Intended us to Have,

A. When we are worthy of the Name, **when the people of the world call us "Christians."**

1. When the "people of the world" see the power of God - IN US!

B. Joshua & Israel "attacked" the enemy. (Joshua 10:6-9)

1. The Lord never implied that the church should be **"on the defensive."**
 - a. Our Lord said of the church, "The Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."
2. God's plan is that the church should **"always be on the attack!"**

C. The five kings **were fearful of Joshua** because, "He went to Gilgal."

1. Gilgal is mentioned 5 times in chapter #10.
 - a. They camped there - came up "from" there to war-
 - b. And returned back there, after the war.
2. Gilgal was a Place where....
 - a. They Remembered that they "died to themselves." (4:19-20)
 - b. They were Resurrected to live the victorious life. (5:20)

- c. The Reproach of Egypt was "wiped away." (5:19)
- d. They were Restored to fellowship with God. (5:20)
- e. They saw the Revelation of "their Captain." (5:13-15)
- 3. The five kings "feared" Joshua because he "spent time at Gilgal."
 - a. **They had "heard and seen" the power of Joshua's God.**
- 4. When Christians spend time with God - they will get the power of God -
 - a. When that happens, **the world will see it."**
 - b. When they see that they will have a "reverential fear" of the church, because ...
 - 1. **They will have seen "the power of our God."**
- 5. There was a time in America when the government "feared the church."
 - a. In Acts 2:37-43 we read how "all people" feared the apostles!

D. The kings were made to lie on the ground and have a foot on their neck.

- 1. They were humiliated. (Joshua 10:24)
- 2. The Church will be what God intended it to be when Christians feel humiliated.
 - a. When Christian's are humiliated because we are...
 - "not being hot - not being cold - but being lukewarm!"**
 - We have pride - jealousy - division - critical tongue - laziness
 - We have a nonchalant attitude - their unexcited attitude -
 - We have a casual and unconcerned attitude
- 3. We need to "put our foot on the sin of lukewarmness" in our life.
 - a. We need to "catch on fire for God!"
- 4. When the above happens, the Church will be what God intended the church to be.
- 5. The church service today should be
 - a. A Place of the consciousness of God's Presence.
 - b. A Place of the consciousness of God's Power.
 - c. A Place of extreme Awe and Reverence!
 - d. A Place where the lost should enter with reverential "fear and trembling."
- 4. Today, too often, Christians ...
 - a. Come to God's Church as if "God was not present" (Talk about everything but)
 - b. Come to God's Church not expecting "to see God work in THEIR life"
 - c. Come to God's Church with no "Appearance of Holiness"
 - d. Come to God's Church and "have not given out one tract all week!"
 - e. Come to God's Church and go home "Unchanged"

Return to Gilgal!

Put our foot on the sin of lukewarmness

Attack - attack -attack

Fight the enemies of God!

Northern Campaign

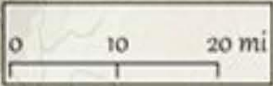
Joshua 11:1-15



3. Israel chased their enemies (C) as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, then returned and burned Hazor to the ground (D).

1. When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard about Israel's victory in the south, he gathered (A) a great alliance of northern armies to fight against Israel.

2. God told Joshua he would have victory against this army, so Israel marched on them (B) from Gilgal in a surprise attack and defeated them.



THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
Lesson # 14

The Battle's Been Won!
Joshua 11:1-23

INTRO: Israel has conquered Jericho and Ai.

They made a covenant not to destroy Gibeon.

Chapter #11 They are faced with the remaining cities of Canaan. Let's look first at...

- I. The Mighty Armies of The Canaanites, which Israel will face** (Joshua 11:1-4)
- A. Those armies were the (Verse 3)
 - 1. Canaanites
 - 2. Amorites
 - 3. Hittites
 - 4. Perizzites
 - 5. Jebusites
 - 6. Hivites
 - B. The number of those armies were "as the sand that is upon the sea shore." (Verse 4)
 - C. Each of these nations was more powerful than Israel. (Deut. 7:1-7)
 - D. Josephus, the Jewish historian, estimated the following count of the enemy combined:
 - 1. 300,000 Footmen
 - 2. 100,000 Horseman
 - 3. 20,000 Chariots - 3 - 5 men in each chariot
 - E. Israel had an estimated 40,000 men of war (Joshua 4:13)
 - 1. Israel was "out numbered" about 12 to 1!
- II. The Magnitude of the Victory which God Gave Israel over the Enemy.** (Joshua 11:6-23)
- A. The kings of the nations gathered at "The Waters of Merom" (Verse 5) (Refer to the Map)
 - 1. Joshua apparently "heard" of their plan to attack Israel.
 - 2. Israel traveled from Gilgal to Merom for 5 days (About 100 miles).
 - B. **Note:** Joshua and Israel went "**on the attack.**" (The church should be attacking)
 - 1. "The gates of hell shall not prevail ..."
 - 2. They attacked the 6 nations "by faith" - very suddenly! (Verse 6)
 - C. The nations were fearful and fled (Verse 8) and Israel pursued them.
 - D. Joshua "smote king Jabin" the head of the kingdoms. (Vs. 10 - 11)
 - 1. Joshua then "burnt" the city of Hazor, the headquarters of the kingdoms.
 - E. Joshua "did all that the LORD had commanded Moses." (Vs. 15-23)
 - G. No doubt this was done by the "**Captain and The Host of the Lord.**" (Joshua 5:14)
 - 1. The Church still serves **the same "Captain** of the Host of the Lord" today!

1. On the cross, Christ said, "*Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*"
 - a. Elijah: II Kings 6:13 - Jacob: Genesis 32:1
 - b. A legion is about 6000 = 72000 angels...!
 1. Jesus said, "...**more than** twelve legions..."

III. The Military "Follow-Up" after the Victory."

- A. After the victory, Joshua immediately began to "divide the land" to the tribes. (Vs. 23)
 1. The "united action" of war was over.
 2. The land rested from war. (Joshua 11:23)
 3. The land was divided by tribes. (Chapters 12-17)
- B. No doubt there were various Canaanites who fled and hid in caves. (Joshua 11:18)
 1. This was "foretold" by Moses (Deut. 7:22 & Exodus 23:30) - Later: A Picture!
 2. Each tribe was responsible to "clean out" the remaining enemies of Israel.

JOSHUA'S VICTORY IS A PICTURE OF WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID FOR US.

I. As with Joshua, Jesus Christ Won the Victory (I Corinthians 15:54-57)

- A. The battle has been won - "It is Finished!" (John 19:30)
 1. Satan's sentence has been decided. (Revelation 20:10)
 2. The "victory is has been GIVEN us." (I Cor. 15:57 - I John 5:4)
 3. Jesus Christ now "rests" at the right hand of His Father. (Hebrews 1:3)
 - a. Jesus "ascended" to Heaven in the form of a man.
 - b. Jesus "so shall he come in like manner..." (Acts 1:10-11)

NOTE: He is there "in the form of a MAN." (Hebrews 4:15)
 - c. He has to be "in the form of a man," to feel what we feel!
- B. Joshua giving Canaan corresponds to "our inheritance in Christ." (Ephesians 1:11-12)
 1. Our inheritance is
 - a. The victory has been won.
 - a. We are seated in Heavenly places with ALL spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3)
 - b. We are enjoying the "rest of God." (Hebrews 4:8-10)
 2. Christians should daily "get alone with God" and...
 - a. Think on what God has done for them (Past tense).
 - b. Thank God for what he has done for them.
 - c. Take possession of their inheritance -
 1. DAILY "cleaning out" the enemies out of our lives.
- C. How do we "take possession of our inheritance in Christ?"
 1. Rest in the assurance that "our sins are all forgiven."
 - a. This includes "past, present, and future."
 - b. You will NEVER have to give an account for your sin.
 2. Rest in the assurance that we "already have victory."
 - a. Do not try to fight the enemy **in your strength**
 - b. You are "hid with Christ"(Colossians 3:3)-one with Christ" (I Corinthians 12:27)
 3. **EVERYTHING that Satan throws at you...**

"has to come through God, then through Christ, and then to you!"

4. If you go through a storm, it is because God and Christ allowed it. (Job 1)
 - a. If they allowed it - it is for a purpose and that purpose is to help you.
 1. I don't understand, but - I do not panic
5. Lift your eyes - Look to God and Christ
 - By faith - Know and believe that whatever it is, God will make it...
 - Work together for your good!

Psalms 37:4: *"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."*
Not "some" of the desires of your heart - but, "all" the desires of thy heart!

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.
Lesson #15

THE LAND RESTED.
Joshua 11:23

I. INTRO: The Book of Joshua is divided into two parts.

- A. Part 1: The Conquest of the Land (Chapters 1-11).
 - 1. God **gave** them the land... Joshua 1:11, 6:2, 8:1, 10:8, 11:6.
 - a. **It Was Finished!**
- B. Part 2: The Division of the Land (Chapters 12-24).
 - 1. These two sections meet at Joshua 11:23.
 - 2. The "**land rested from war.**" Victory and Peace.
- C. This is important enough that "**rest**" is mentioned in Joshua 14:15 and 21:44.

II. This is a "Spiritual Analogy" of the Pattern in Heaven and God's Design for Christians.

- A. There was an important event which happened **between number 1 and number 2.**
 - Part 1:** "The victory Christ won at Calvary - (John 19:30) "**It Is Finished!**"
"...he was received up to heaven and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19).
 - Part 2:** "The outpouring of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2).

THE REST OF CHRIST.

I. Christ's Rest Was not the Rest from "Over-Tiredness."

- A It does not imply that He had "over-worked" and sat down to rest.
 - 1. Does not sleep or slumber (Psalms 121:4)!

II. Christ's Rest Was not Him Entering into a "Period of Inaction."

- A. **Mark 16:19-20** tells us that immediately after sitting down on the right hand of God:
 - 1. He went with the disciples "**working with them.**"
 - 2. The coming of the Holy Spirit, who was "sent by Jesus Christ" (John 16:7).
 - a. Jesus Christ, **from behind the veil,**
 - b. Gives power through the Holy Spirit - FOR EVERYTHING WE NEED!

WHY ?

III. Christ's Rest Was Because "It was finished!" It WAS finished and:

- A. He had left NOTHING undone!
- B. As His Father "entered into His rest" after creation (Genesis 2:1-2).
 - 1. "*Thus the heaven and earth were FINISHED... He RESTED on the seventh day.*"
- C. God the Father, nor Jesus the Son, "**Left NOTHING undone!**"

D. When He sat down ...

1. It had been finished!
2. It had been completed!
3. It had been concluded!

NOTHING CAN BE ADDED!

TWO GREAT SIGNIFICANCES.

I. There is a Doctrinal Application.

A. Jesus Christ is the "Lamb of God" that taketh away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

1. He was "made" to be sin for us (II Corinthians 2:21).
2. He was "offered" for us, and **sat down** on the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:12).
3. He has taken away the sins of the world (I John 2:2).

B. Jesus Christ is our "high priest" - passed into heaven... (Hebrews 4:14).

1. Jesus, after his death, said He was ascending to His Father (John 20:11-17).
 - a. Jesus ascended to heaven.
 - b. Jesus "offered the blood" **Hebrews 9:7-26). IMPORTANT TO READ**
3. God has "**accepted**" the work of His Son - **It Was Finished!**
4. **Jesus had satisfied the demands of the law** (Genesis 2:17).
 - a. The debt **HAS BEEN PAID** (Romans 6:23)!

C. *"There is therefore NOW **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus."*

II. There is a Personal Application.

A. Jesus Christ ascended back to heaven and sat down on the right hand of His father.

1. It was not because of His "over tiredness." - Does not sleep or slumber!
2. It was not because He was going to stop "**working with us**" (Romans 8:37).

B. Christ continues to work "to the uttermost" (Hebrews 7:23-25).

1. "**To the uttermost**" comes from the Greek word: "panteles."
2. Meaning: "Fully ended - completed - concluded - **It is finished.**"

C. As we covered last week, in Acts 1:10-11

1. The Greek word tropos means: "**in the same mode or style.**"
 - a. **Christ "went up" in the form of a man.**
 - b. **Christ "will return" in "like manner" which is the form of a man.**

D. Hebrews 4:15 states, "...*he can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.*"

1. Christ, at the right hand of God with "The Divine Nature of God."
2. Christ, at the right hand of God with "our nature" (Hebrews 4:15).
3. Christ, sitting at the right hand of God as the God man, **mediating for us!**

E. Understand that "we are **IN CHRIST**" (Romans 8:1 & 12:5).

F. In Ephesians 2:6, Paul said, *"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."*

1. Share in His redemption.
2. Share in His rest.
3. When He sets up His Kingdom on earth - we will "**Share in His reign.**"

**IT IS FINISHED!
GOD HATH GIVEN US REST!**

- I. There is the Rest of the "Abolishment of our Sins" (Romans 8:1).**
 - A. "It is Finished!"
 - 1. God said, *"I have seen the blood... and have passed over you."*
 - 2. *"Who can lay ANYTHING to..."* (Romans 8:33).

- II. There is the Rest of "Assurance of our Victory" in Christ (I Corinthians 15:57).**
 - A. "It is Finished!"
 - 1. Our life is **"hid with Christ"** (Colossians 3:3). (Concealed - kept safe.)
 - 2. Satan is DEFEATED - The Victory is ours!

- III. There is the Rest of "Amazing Fellowship with the Trinity" (I John 1:3).**
 - A. Christ the Son - God the Father - the Holy Spirit are One.

 - B. When you "talk to the Father:"
 - 1. The Son is there making intercession (Hebrews 4:14-16).
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is there making intercession (Romans 8:26).

- IV. There is the Rest of "Abiding in the Love of God" (Romans 8:35-39).**
 - A. When our hearts are filled with God's love:
 - 1. There are no disappointments.
 - 2. There are no dissatisfactions with life (Psalms 37:4).

- V. There is the Rest of the "Anointing of the Holy Spirit for our daily life."**
 - A. He gives us power to pray (Romans 8:26-27).
 - B. He gives us power to study (John 14:26 & 16:13).
 - C. He gives us power to witness (Acts 1:8).

- VI. There is the Rest of the "Anchor of Peace for our soul" (Hebrews 6:19):**
 - A. John 14:27-28
 - B. John 20:19 & 21
 - C. II Thessalonians 3:16
 - D. Isaiah 26:3

What happens to our sins?

Psalms 103:12 - Cast as far as East is from the West.

Isaiah 38:17 - Cast them behind his back.

Isaiah 43:25 - Remembers them no more.

Micah 7:18-19 - Cast them in the depth of the sea!

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
Lesson #16

Joshua Chapters 12 & 13
THE LAND POSSESSED
Joshua 12:1-24

I. Chapter #12 - This Chapter is Divided into Two Parts

A. Part one: Moses and the Conquest of land (Joshua 12:1-6)

1. The conquest of Moses took place on "the East side of Jordan."
 - a. This was "in the wilderness." (Picture of the world)
2. Land divided to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and 1/2 tribe of Manasseh
 - a. It was divided to them "**according to their expressed request.**"
 - b. These tribes "wanted to be part of Israel, - but wanted to enjoy the wilderness."
3. These tribes were taken into captivity by Assyria and never returned. (I Chron. 5:25)

B. Part two: Joshua and the Conquest of the land (Joshua 12:7-24)

1. The conquest of Joshua took place on "the West side of Jordan."
 - a. This is "the Promised Land" given Israel by God.
2. This is a list of "thirty-one" kings which were smitten by Joshua. (Joshua 12:24)

PROMISED LAND BUT UNPOSSESSED!
Joshua 13:1-6

INTRO: Chapter 13 begins with God speaking to Joshua, saying,

- A. "...there remaineth much land to be possessed." (Verse 1)
1. Verses 2-5 gives a "list and location" of that land.
 2. Verse 6 gives an urgent command to "divide the land."

The original promise was given to Joshua in Joshua 1:4.

- A. Israel has never possessed "the entire land" given them by God. (verse 4)
1. This is a picture of "man's failure to totally claim" all the promises of God!
 - a. It eventually ended in disaster!
- B. This is a picture of "what God has intended for us" **that we have not yet claimed.**
1. Ephesians 1:3 states, "...hath blessed us with **ALL** spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus"
 - a. We should realize the "**slow progress we have made...**"
 2. We should be stirred to apprehend ALL for which we were apprehended (Phil. 3:12)
 - a. Be a "true Christian."

I. There is the "Unpossessed Land of Knowledge of the Word of God"

- A. Many Christians have been saved for many years.
1. We have "settled down" and are content to know we are going to heaven.
 2. We have "failed" to continue - daily - possessing the land God has given us!
- B. Many Christians need to grow, "in faith" concerning the 7 things we studied last week.
- a. The rest of " justification, victory, God's will being our will, unfailing fellowship,

abundant love of God, having perfect peace.

C. We do that by "spending time in the word of God (Romans 10:17)

D. Today, Christians seem to take "the path of least resistance!"

1. I'm too busy.
2. I can't understand the "deep things" of the Bible.
3. That is for people "in the ministry."
4. That's why I go to Sunday School!
5. Growing in knowledge, applies to ALL Christians. (I Peter 3:18)

E. II Timothy 2:15 Commands Christians to "STUDY"

1. "... to show **thysself** approved of God!"
2. "Be ready to give an answer to everyone that asketh..." (I Peter 3:15)

There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed!

II. There is the "Unpossessed Land of Knowing God Personally"

A. Jesus Christ, our LORD, said, "I know him..." (John 8:55)

1. If Jesus Christ said, "I know Him" Christians should do the same.
2. God's purpose for mankind is found in Romans 8:29.
It is NOT ENOUGH to know "about him."
3. The Apostle Paul said, "*That I might know Him...*" (Philippians 3:7-14)

B. "*I have heard of thee with the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee.*" (Job 42:5)

1. David spent days and night - search what part of the Bible he had - to know Him!

C. How does a Christian get "to know God?"

1. The ONLY way to get to "know a person" is by spending time with that person!
2. The only way to "know God" is through Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus made it clear, "*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.*"
 - a. John 14:6-11
4. The MORE time you spend with a person, the better you get to know them!

D. When we know "little about the Bible - We know even less about Him.

There remaineth yet very much land to be possess!

QUESTION: How much time do you "allot" each day getting to "know Him" personally?

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.
Lesson #17

Patterns of Faith to Follow!
Joshua Chapter 14 (Read 6-14)

I. Caleb's Faith Had a Solid Foundation.

A. Caleb's faith can be traced back to Egypt.

1. Caleb was 40 years old at Kadesh-barnea (Joshua 14:7). 11 days travel (Deut. 1:2).
 - a. He had known of Moses 40+ years while in bondage in Egypt.
 - b. He knew Joshua who was 7 years older than him (Joshua 24:29 - 110 yrs. old).
2. Caleb was one of twelve spies sent from Kadesh-barnea to "spy out the land."
 - a. He was with Moses for 40+ years in the wilderness.
 - b. Caleb saw **Moses "Wholly follow the Lord!" - for 85 years.**

Let's Look at...

B. (Numbers 13:26-31) Caleb & Joshua saw the same land and armies as the other spies.

Stay in Numbers...

1. Caleb reported and said,
"Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Verse 30).
2. Ten spies reported that the land was exactly as God had said, **but** they also said,
"We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we" (Verse 31).

C. Caleb Remembered...

1. **Remembered** Moses' leadership...
2. **Remembered** how God delivered them from Egypt - Destroyed Pharaoh - Army.
3. **Remembered** how God opened the Red Sea.

D. Caleb said: "**If God can do that for us, God can give us this Land!**"

1. The people said, *"let us return into Egypt"* (Numbers 14:4).
2. Caleb said, *"Let us go up at once, and possess the land..."* (Numbers 13:30).

E. What was the difference?

1. The 10 spies - "Look how much **bigger** they are than us!"
2. Caleb - "Look how much **littler** they are than our God!"

II. Caleb's Faith Was Patterned After Older, Faithful Christians

A. Moses did all that the Lord commanded (**Exodus 40:16**).

1. Traced back: Moses -- Joseph -- Jacob -- Isaac -- to Abraham

B. Let's look at **Abraham**.

1. *"He staggered not at the promise..."* (Romans 4:20-21).
2. *"...he went out not knowing ..."* (Hebrews 11:8-10)

C. Caleb waited forty-five years after he and Joshua went as spies!

1. Moses had sworn to give him a certain piece of land (Joshua 14:9).
 - a. Caleb was 40 years old when the promise was given (Joshua 14:7-9).
 - b. Caleb was now "85" years old (Verse 10-12). - (**Caleb waited** - Isaiah 40:31).

- D. Caleb followed the same pattern of Moses - **He wholly followed the Lord (Vs. 8, 9, and 14).**
 - 1. **Caleb could not "see" the fulfillment!**
 - 2. **"Trust God when you can't track Him!"**
- E. Caleb's heart's desire was set "on that mountain" for forty-five years.
 - 1. **God granted him** "his desire" (Joshua 14:13-14).
 - a. YOU have that promise! (Psalms 37:4)!
- F. **We** should follow the "pattern of Abraham - Isaac - Jacob - Joseph - Moses - Caleb - Joshua.

III. **Caleb's Faith Increased from Living by Faith. - (Use it or lose it!)**

- A. Caleb did not ask for "a beautiful valley" where he could just enjoy life.
 - 1. The land was filled with Anakims (Joshua 14:12).
 - 2. They had cities "great and fenced."
- B. Caleb was sure he could "drive them out" **because God was with him** (Joshua 14:12).
 - 1. Caleb was the **ONLY** one who drove out the Canaanites (Joshua 15:13-14)!
- C. **We Christians need to "Increase our Faith" in the promises of God and "REST!"**

IV. **Caleb's Faith Overflowed to His Family** (Joshua 15:16-20)

- A. Caleb earned **two degrees:** WD and GFS - "Well Done" - and - "Good and Faithful Servant."

V. **Christians Should "Follow the Pattern."**

- A. The Promise of God (the pattern) began with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - To Isaac - Jacob - Joseph - Moses - Joshua - Caleb - Major Prophets - Minor Prophets
 - To Peter, James, John, Paul - it comes to **"us" TODAY** - (Romans 4:24)
- B. **EVERY Christian** should stop and realize the privilege we have of being included in such a group of Godly men; started with Abraham and continues until today. Let us be sure to pass the baton on to those coming behind us!
- C. God has Commanded us to... **"The Just Shall Live by Faith"**
 - Stated 4 times:** (Hebrews 10:38 - Romans 1:17 - Gal. 3:11 - Hab. 2:4).
- D. Close with...
 - 1. Be Steadfast (**I Corinthians 15:58**).
 - 2. Be Unmovable.
 - 3. Always **abounding** in the work of the Lord. (the pattern)
 - 4. **Knowing** your labour is not in vain.
 - **Abounding:** Greek, "perisseuo" - Getting better - Always Increasing!
- E. Caleb fulfilled the purpose which God has for every Christian.
 - 1. **"... he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel"** (Joshua 14:14).
- F. **Question:**
 - Am I wholly following the LORD?"
 - Are you "wholly following the LORD?"

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

Lesson #18

Three Perils to Avoid.

Joshua 17:12-18

INTRO: Chapters 16-19 of Joshua cover the "division of the land" to the tribes of Israel. There is one small section, Joshua 17:12-18, which is important enough for us to devote a lesson and study. Israel had "possessed the land" **but** failed God in three ways. The victory had been won, **but** there were many small groups of Canaanites which still lived in the "Promised Land." God had commanded Israel to "drive them out" and utterly destroy them.

All of these Scriptures apply to us today. When studying the Old Testament, we must always ask ourselves three questions: (1) How does the Scripture apply to them? (2) How does the Scripture apply to today? and, (3) How does the Scripture apply to "me personally?" The lesson warns us of "three perils" which we should avoid.

I. **The Peril of Sinful Compromise** (Joshua 17:12-13). (Let them remain in the land!)

A. God's plan for Israel was for them to "drive the Canaanites out of the Land."

1. THEY DID NOT obey God's command!

a. **It does not say that Israel "could not" drive them out of the land.**

b. In Judges 1:21, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 it says, they "**did not**" drive them out.

ISRAEL'S THREE-FOLD COMPROMISE WITH THE CANAANITES!

A. Israel "**Favored**" the Canaanites (Verse 13).

1. Israel did not drive them out.

a. Israel made a "**tribute**" with them - they "allowed" them to stay in the land.

b. Tribute: "max" in Hebrew, meaning "Forced workers - slaves."

2. Some Christians "**favor**" certain small sins - they become slaves to... (Romans 6:16).

a. Social drinking - the lottery - thoughts - friendships.

b. Self-willed (Titus 1:7) - neglection of the Lord's day, etc...

B. Israel "**Feared**" the Canaanites (Verse 15-16).

1. Israel saw the "chariots of iron" and feared the enemy...!

a. Because of fear it appears they "set them free" from forced workers.

Two applications:

2. A picture of our government - It fears the "world system" (Congress & Senate).

a. They have "**feared**" the world and have "**bowed**" down, rather than fight!

1. **Legalized:** Liquor - gambling - drugs - abortion - sodomy. (**Seattle**)

3. A picture of Christians today - fear the "world system" - fear to pass out Gospel tracts.

a. God has given Christians "the power of the Holy Spirit."

b. God has **commanded** us "...ye shall be witnesses..."

c. *Him that "knoweth to do good" and doeth it not, **to him it is sin!*** (James 4:17)

4. There is no justification for not telling the world about God's love!

C. Israel "Fellowshipped" with the Canaanites (Judges 1:27, 29, 30, 31, 33).

1. Because Israel feared them - they freed them and began to "fellowship with them."
2. Israel was forbidden to "mix" with them (**Joshua 23:12-13**). (Marriage)
 - a. Israel disobeyed (**Judges 3:5-8**).
3. If you hang out with "bad company," you will "act like bad company."
 - a. You say, "I can handle it!" Peter could "walk on water" but failed!
 1. Peter failed (Luke 22:54-62)!
4. God has commanded us to separate 100% (II Corinthians 6:14 - Psalms 1:1-3).
5. A friend with the world is - **an enemy of God** (James 4:4).
 - a. We should be friendly TOWARD lost people, BUT not friendly WITH them.
6. God said: "*Chose you this day whom ye will serve*" (Joshua 24:15).

II. The Peril of Self-Confidence (Joshua 17:14-15).

A. "We are a great people!"

1. Israelites had been **blessed by God. Now - boasting!**
2. They were proud, self-confident and "refused to follow God's plan!"

B. This is a picture of the government today (Genesis 11:1-4).

1. Mankind has failed: "They think they know better than God how to govern the world!"

C. That is a picture of the church today...

1. "We are rich and increased with goods and HAVE NEED OF NOTHING (Rev. 3:17)!"
2. Churches today think "they know better than God's how God's church should be run."
 - a. Christ is "OUTSIDE" the door - knocking (Revelation 3:20).

III. The Peril of Senseless Clutter (Joshua 17:16-18).

A. They HAD NOT CLEARED the land of Canaanites. (The land was cluttered!)

B. **Joshua gave them the answer: "Here is what you do..."** (Verses 17-18).

1. You are a great people...The mountain shall be yours...
2. It is covered with wood (trees) (humanity) ...You shall go and **cut the trees down...**
 - a. The verse says, "drive the Canaanites out." (The clutter.)
 - b. Translation for today: "**GO CLEAN OUT THE CLUTTER!**"

C. Is your life "cluttered?" Do you have "time in you day" to:

1. Spend time studying your Bible (II Timothy 2:15)?
2. Spend time in prayer? (I Thessalonians 5:17)?
3. Spend time witnessing (Acts 1:8)?
4. Spread the Gospel by giving Gospel tracts?

D. There are the EXACT number hours in a day to "do what God has planned for you."

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Lesson #19 - Part #1

Joshua's Counsel.

Joshua 23:1-16 (Read Joshua 23:1-13)

INTRO: Eighteen or twenty years had passed since Israel had entered the Promised Land. Joshua had been with the people since crossing the Jordan River. Joshua had seen two things that troubled him. He had (1) seen the people "become content" with the Canaanites living in their land, and (2) he had seen the danger of contentment "leading them to compromise."

THESE APPLY TO ISRAEL OF THAT DAY AND TO THE CHURCH OF TODAY!

I. Joshua Calls Israel Together to Give Them a final Counsel (Joshua 23:1-2). (Verse 14)

- A. Their elders.
- B. Their heads.
- C. Their judges.
- D. Their officers. ALL of Israel!

II. Joshua Reminds them of how Faithful God has been since they entered the Promised Land. (Try to imagine sitting there, listening to Joshua.)

- A. He **reminded** them: "*ye have seen all that the Lord hath done unto all these nations..*" (V3-5)
 - 1. The "nations" were the Canaanites - **Enemies & STRONG** (Verse 9)!
- B. He **reminded** them that "*... ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls...*" (Verse 14).
 - 1. "*... not one thing hath failed of all the good things the Lord your God spake.*"
Has God ever failed you?
- C. He **reminded** them to be "**very courageous**" (Joshua 23:6).
 - 1. They were commanded not to "turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Joshua 23:6).

III. Joshua Warns Them of the Dangers They Face of Apostacy (Joshua 23:6 & 7).

- A. At least seven nations of Canaanites still shared the land with Israel.
 - 1. Joshua knew the danger of "God's people" **mixing** with "ungodly people" (Verse 12).
 - a. Paul **warned** the Ephesians of this same danger (Acts 20:28-31).
 - 2. Joshua warned "... not to even mention the names of their false gods" (Verse 7).
- B. **No Christian can grow to be strong enough**, that they cannot fall (I Corinthians 10:11 & 12)!
 - 1. We can see failure in our own day. Do we not see:
 - a. The coldness of our hearts?
 - b. The prayerlessness of our lives?
 - c. The glaring neglect of studying our Bible daily?
 - d. The glaring neglect of not witnessing for Christ?
 - 2. Today, the church has "become content" with worldliness!
 - 3. Contentment has led the church "to Compromise" with the world (Revelations 3:15-17).
- C. The great danger of apostacy faces **every** Christian - **every** day!
 - 1. We need to realize the terrible results of apostacy.

**THREE RESULTS OF APOSTACY.
(Turning from the truths of the Bible.)**

I. The First Result of Apostacy is the Loss of God's Power (Joshua 23:13).

A. Joshua reminded them that **every battle** had been won by the Power of God (Joshua 23:3).

B. Joshua warned them that Apostacy is progressive, step-by-step.

1. The first step is "mixing with the Canaanites" (Joshua 23:7).

2. The second step is, "they would start marrying them" (Verse 12a).

3. The third step is, "they would start going in unto them and they to you" (Verse 12b).

C. Joshua warned them "they would lose the power of God" (Verse 13a). (**And they did!**)

D. When we apply that to the New Testament, we see:

1. A truly, born again person, is warned against apostacy - but can be guilty!

a. We are not to be unequally yoked (I Corinthians 6:14-17).

1. In ANY manner!

2. The church CANNOT bring "worldly methods" without losing God's power!

a. A friend of the world becomes the enemy of God (James 4:4)!

a. God promised the church: "*MY WORD ... will accomplish ...*" (Isaiah 55:11).

b. God promised "*...not by might, not by power, but by my spirit...*" (Zechariah 4:6).

II. The Second Result of Apostacy is the Loss of God's Protection (Joshua 23:13a).

A. Joshua warned, "*they shall be snares and traps unto you...*" (See Joshua 23:13b).

1. "*...and scourges in your sides...*,"

2. "*...thorns in your eyes...*,"

3. "*...until ye perish from off the good land which the Lord your God hath given you.*"

B. A Christian has God's promise of "Protection" (Psalms 91:1-16).

1. We lose the protection of God if we go into apostacy! (Apathy-Alliances-Apostacy.)

2. "*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;*" (Isaiah 54:17).

3. When we have sin in our lives, we "**Grieve**" the Holy Spirit.

4. When we have sin in our lives, God will not hear our prayers (Psalms 66:18).

C. A Christian will not only lose the "protection" of God, but they will lose the "peace" of God."

1. Peace in our life is "one of the fruits" of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

2. When the Holy Spirit is "grieved" - there is no other way to have peace.

a. **We chose a life of "thorns and thistles."**

III. The Third Result of Apostacy will Cause you to Live with Pain and Regret (Joshua 23:16).

A. Joshua made no further comment, but how many times have we heard someone say,

1. "...I wish I could go back and do it again!"

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
Lesson #19- Part #2

Joshua's Counsel for Today's Church!
Joshua 23:1-16

THREE SAFE-GUARDS FROM THE RESULTS OF APOSTACY.

INTRO: I can hear people asking, "Surely there is something we can do to avoid the terrible results of apostacy." There are at least "three safe-guards" to protect us from those results. Joshua was careful to point out to the Israelites three "safe-guards" they should practice.

I. The First Safe-Guard from Apostacy is Obedience (Joshua 23:6).

- A. Joshua no doubt, remembered that he was given this same "safe-guard" by God (Joshua 1:8-9).
 - 1. This GREAT "safe-guard" needs to be passed down from generation to generation!
 - a. *"Behold, it is better to obey than to sacrifice"* (I Samuel 15:22).
- B. Every Christian claims they believe the Bible is the Inspired, inerrant Word of God.
 - 1. God commands Christians to "pray" (I Thessalonians 5:17 and I Timothy 2:8).
 - a. Let's spend time in prayer daily?
 - 2. God commands Christians to study God's Word, *"...to shew thyself..."* (II Timothy 2:15).
 - a. Let's spend time studying God's Word? Not just reading... **(Joshua 1:8-9)**.
 - 3. God commands Christians to "witness" (Acts 1:8).
 - a. Let's witness and pass out tracts?
 - 4. **If not** - What are you being?

II. The Second Safe-Guard from Apostacy is Separation (Joshua 23:7-8).

- A. Joshua made it clear that there are "two sides" in separation - a negative and a positive.
 - 1. Joshua said, the negative is:
 - a. *"...come not among these nations."*
 - b. *"...make no mention of the name of their gods."*
 - c. *"...neither serve them nor bow yourselves unto them"* (Joshua 23:7).
 - 2. Joshua said, the positive is:
 - a. *"But cleave unto the LORD your God"* (Joshua 23:8).
 - b. *"...as ye have done unto this day."*

FROM SOLOMON TO APOSTACY.

- A. Apostacy starts with Apathy: (Contentment)
 - II Chronicles 7:1-5 - Solomon had built a house for God.
 - Great sacrifices made (II Chronicles 5:4-5).
 - Ark brought in (II Chronicles 5:7).
 - Glory filled the house (II Chronicles 5:14).
 - Great Testimony (II Chronicles 6:31-33).
 - God warned them (II Chronicles 7:19-22).
 - Apathy set in, little by little.

- B. Apostasy continues with Alliances: (Failure in Separation).
 - II Chronicles 17:1-5 - King Ahab (I Kings 16:33) More wicked than other kings.
 - II Chronicles 18:1-5 - Joined in affinity with Ahab.
- C. Apathy to Alliances Apostasy (II Chronicles 24:18).
 - Started slowly - little by little.
 - Content - mixed.
 - Little boys asked "Why?"** (II Chronicles 7:21).

APPLICATION TO CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH.

- A. For the Christian, this applies in the following manner (II Corinthians 6:14-18).
 - 1. The negative side is:
 - a. Christians should stay "transparently" separated **from** the world (I John 2:15-17).
 - b. There should be NO compromise even in little ways.
 - 2. The positive side is:
 - a. *"...a servant of Jesus Christ...separated **UNTO** the gospel of God"* (Romans 1:1).
 - 3. Separate "from and to" is illustrated in Psalms 1:1-2.
 - a. The results will always be that you will "bear fruit" (Psalms 1:3).

III. The Third Safe-Guard from Apostasy is "That ye Love the Lord your God" (Joshua 23:11).

- A. EVERY failure in obedience or separation can be traced to "**not loving the Lord as we should.**"
 - 1. *"If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:21-23).*
 - 2. *"But whoso keepeth his word, **in him** verily is the love of God perfected"* (I John 2:5).
 - 3. To Love the Lord is the **GREATEST** commandment of all (Mark 12:12:28-10).
- B. If you truly love a person and you receive a "love letter" from that person,
 - a. *"...you will open it quickly and read it again and again!"*
 - b. You learn to love a person by "spending time with them."
 - c. When you were dating your wife or husband, you spent all the time possible with them!
- C. How much do you Love the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - a. If you love Him, you will spend time reading the love letter he wrote you. (The Bible.)
 - b. If you love Him, you will spend time in prayer, talking and falling in love more and more.
 - c. If you love Him, you will be bold in your witness, telling others about Him.
- D. Joshua said, *"TAKE GOOD HEED...THAT YE LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD."*
 - A. **Joshua 23:11**

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

Lesson #20

TWO OF A KIND!

Joshua 24:14-15

INTRO: Moses sent 12 spies into the promised land in Numbers 13-15. They were in the Promised Land for 40 days (Numbers 13:25). Ten of those spies returned and gave their report in Numbers 13:28. However, two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, gave a very different report in (Numbers 13:30 - 14:8-9).

If you trace the history of these two men, Joshua and Caleb, you will find that they were faithful servants under Moses for 40 years. They are the only two of the spies who "believed the promise of God" concerning Him "giving Israel the land!"

We are going to look at these two men together as they both walked with God, lived by faith, and believed God's promises. They both date back to the days in which Israel was in captivity!

FOUR GREAT CHARACTER TRAITS OF JOSHUA & CALEB.

I. Joshua and Caleb were both Men of Devotion (Numbers 32:12- Joshua 24:14-15).

A. Devotion means: To give up one's self for the cause of another.

1. Joshua said, "...we will serve **the LORD**" - He was devoted to "the Lord."

(PREEMINENCE!)

B. To "give up one's self" is to 1) Purpose to know that person and 2) Purpose to grow!

1. Paul said, "*That I may know him...*" (Philippians 4:8-12).

2. You "get to know Him" by spending time with Him, every day in His Word!

C. There are two different words used for "Word" in Scripture - Logos and Rhema.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

1. They say, "you get to know him by **READING** the Word & **Memorizing** the Word."

a. One man has memorized much of the Bible – Has not done him much good.

2. The word "**logos**" is used 316 times in the Bible.

a. This is the "written Word."

3. Another word, "**Rhema**," is found 67 times in the Bible (Romans 10:17).

a. Heard from God. **You GOT something from God.**

4. Not like studying the Word at church or Sunday school - **that is knowledge.**

a. **Ephesians 6:17 "Rhema"**

D. They "meditated" in the Word - day and night (Joshua 1:8). Both were men of devotion.

(See page three)

II. Joshua and Caleb were both Men of Decision (Joshua 24:14-15) "...we WILL..."

A. The word decision is used only twice in the Bible - both times in Joel 3:14.

However - Decisions are found many times in the Bible.

Decisions are the key to your success.

B. Joshua was a man of decision "*...we will serve the Lord!*"

1. **Where** did he learn the importance of decisions?
 - a. **Under Moses (Hebrews 11:23-27 – Verse 25).**
2. "...as for me **AND** my house... **we WILL** serve the Lord."

Not "Me without my house"

Not "My house without me." "...me **AND** my house... **WE WILL.**"
3. Joshua challenged the people, "Choose you this day!"
4. First decision you have to make is:
 - a. **Give up world (I John 2:15).**
 - b. **Love your wife! (Ephesians 5:25-26).**
 - c. **Teach and train your children (Ephesians 6:1-3).**
 - d. Then - wholly follow the Lord (**Joshua 24:14-15**).
5. I Kings 18:21- "*How long halt ye between two opinions?*"

C. Choose you **THIS DAY – Not Tomorrow...** You don't need to talk to anyone about it.
Can you say - - - - Me and My House - We will serve the Lord?

III. Joshua and Caleb were both Men of Dedication. "...me and my house, we will **SERVE...**"

A. Joshua states, "*we will **SERVE***" - - - - No room for doubt. (Not just on Sunday - 24/7.)

B. Picture of all three: Devotion - Decision - Dedication (Genesis 24:1).

Eliezer – Abraham's Servant - Dedicated to his master.

1. Abraham sent Eliezer to find a bride for his son (Verse 3).
2. Eliezer made **an oath** to his master (Verse 9).
3. Traveled to Mesopotamia to Nahor - 400-600 miles, 20 days-30 days - Longer!
Hot - Dry - Difficult trip - Hungry
4. Found Rebekah.
5. Went to Laban's home.
6. Prepared meal - **no doubt he was tired - and he was hungry.**
7. Genesis 24:33 - When they set food before him, he said,
"I will not eat ... till I have told my master's business!"
8. Jesus was a man of dedication (**John 4:29-36**).
 - a. **Matthew 6:33** - "*Seek ye first...*".

IV. Joshua and Caleb were Men of Determination! - "*we WILL SERVE the Lord!*"

A. God made Caleb a promise (Deuteronomy 1:35-36).

*"Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I swear to give unto your fathers, Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the **LORD.**"*

B. Joshua 14:6-14 gives us a great picture of determination.

1. Caleb was 40 years old - 45 years had gone by.
2. Caleb said, "*I am now 85 years old.*" (Verse 10) and -
"I still want that mountain!"

QUESTION: Are you a man of devotion - decision - dedication - determination?

Choose you this day. Start by "making an oath" (Genesis 24:9).

I will be a man of devotion - of decision - of dedication - of determination "Me and my house..."

"Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the word of the Lord!" (I Corinthians 15:58)

Devoted: "One who gives up himself for the cause of another

How can we not be devoted to Jesus Christ?

Look at the baby in the manger - Left Heaven and emptied Himself for us

Mocked by the crowd - He did that in **our** place

Spit on by the crowd - He did that in **our** place

Smote by a reed on the head - He did that in **our** place

Crown of thorns on His head - He did that in **our** place

Nails left scars in His hands - He did that in **our** place

Spear mark in His side - He did that in **our** place

Died hanging on a cross - he did that in **our** place