

# JOSHUA 11-21

---

## REVIEW...

- **JOSHUA 1-4 - A NEW LEADER FOR ISRAEL...**
  - God met with Joshua - told him to lead Israel into the Promised Land...
  - Just as Moses had parted the Red Sea - God parted the Jordan River...
- **JOSHUA 5-6 - GOING TO WAR...**
  - The Commander of the Army of God met with Joshua - 'take off your shoes'...
  - God told Joshua to march around the city for 7 days - then shout to the Lord...
- **JOSHUA 7-8 - HIDDEN SIN...**
  - The defeat at Ai - Joshua sent 3000 men to attack the small city - but they were defeated...
  - The reason for the defeat - there was sin in the camp - Achan...
- **JOSHUA 9-10 - DECEPTION...**
  - The people of Gibeon pretended to be from a far away place - made peace with Israel...
    - Israel failed to ask the Lord - so they were deceived by the Gibeonites...
    - Israel found out they still had to keep their word - peace treaty with the Gibeonites...
  - The Southern War - the 5 kings of the south came together to attack Gibeon...
    - Israel came to their defense - God even sent hail to wipe them out...
    - Joshua asked the sun to stand still to give Israel more time to defeat them all!

## DIVISION OF THE LAND... (3 THINGS)

- **1<sup>ST</sup> - THE NORTHERN WAR... VS. 1-23 (4 THINGS)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - One massive army... vs. 1-5 **READ: JOSHUA 11:1-6**
    - Joshua and Israel had defeated the Southern Kingdoms in the Promised Land...
      - When King Jabin of Hazor heard - he called together all of the Northern Kingdoms...
      - And while the five kings of the south had mustered a large army to attack Israel...
      - The Northern army was so numerous - people were like the sand on the seashore!
      - And they had lots of chariots - the military equivalent of tanks in Bible times...
    - Joshua and Israel had won one victory - only to face an even greater challenge...
      - God will often take us out of one difficulty - only to make us face something harder...
        - Because tribulations = perseverance = character = hope...
        - **Romans 5:4-5 - "We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces..."**
        - **When we face trials/tribulations in life - we get to see God's faithfulness...**
        - **If there were never any challenges - we would never get to see God do a work!**
      - As we experience God giving us the victory - looking out for us...
        - **We gain confidence that He will take care of us the next time as well...**
        - **It is not that we have great faith - we have just seen God's great faithfulness!**
        - **We are confident the Lord will take care of us - cause He has never failed us...**
      - Our confidence in the Lord's faithfulness - gives us a godly character...
        - **We become known as those who trust in - rely on the Lord...**
        - **People who do not panic in the trials - who patiently wait on the Lord...**
        - **So we can rejoice in trials because we know they make us a Godly people!**
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Hamstring the horses / burn the chariots... vs. 6-9
      - God told Joshua do not be afraid - He would destroy the armies of the North!
        - But Joshua was to hamstring the horses - and burn all their chariots...

- By cutting the hamstring on a horse - it could no longer ride out into battle...
- In essence God was telling Israel to destroy the 'tanks' of the Northern army...
- You would think it would have been wiser to simply capture and use them...
- The more horses / chariots - the greater your military strength and prowess!
- But God wanted Israel to trust in Him - not in their own might...
  - **Psalm 20:7** - "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
  - We tend to look to man for help - money / resources / answers to our problems...
  - So God will let those things fail in our life - so we learn to depend on Him!
  - When the money runs out / when we have no one who can help us...
  - That is when we run to Jesus - and learn He is the one who gives us the victory!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> - A long war... vs. 10-18 **READ: JOSHUA 11:16-18, 21-22**
  - The battle with the Southern Kings only lasted one day (*although it was a long day*)...
    - But the battle with the Northern Kingdoms took a 'long time' to be completed...
    - When we first get saved God often gives us immediate victories...
    - But as we grow in the Lord - the battles often seem to become harder...
    - In **I Kings 17** - Elijah the prophet prayed it would not rain - and the rain stopped...
    - But after 3 years - when it came time to pray for rain - it was not so easy...
    - Elijah had to pray 7 different times before a small cloud appeared on the horizon...
    - **James 5:17** - "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly..."
    - Like Elijah - it is the longer battles that keep us on our face in prayer!
  - Joshua killed all the Anakim in the Land (*with the exception of the Philistines - Goliath*)...
    - The Anakim were evil Giants who lived in the Promised Land...
    - One of the reasons Israel ended up wandering for 40 years - **Deuteronomy 1:28**
    - They seemed undefeatable - but with God on their side - Israel wiped them out!
    - We look at the challenges - and they seem like Giants that will crush us like bugs...
    - If we look at the Giants - we will quickly become discouraged and overwhelmed...
    - David was only a little shepherd boy when the giant Goliath came to taunt Israel...
    - Mighty warriors cowered in their tents - but David was unafraid - **I Samuel 17**
    - He knew that with God on his side - the Giant did not stand a chance!
    - When we look to the Lord - we can take down any Goliaths that come our way!
- o 4<sup>th</sup> - The defeated Kings... **READ: JOSHUA 13:1-2 / CONQUERED LAND MAP**
  - In total Joshua and Israel defeated 16 kings in the South / 15 kings in the North...
    - Joshua was old - but there was still a lot of land to be conquered...
    - The coastal regions along the Mediterranean - all the way from Egypt to Lebanon...
    - All the Land of the Philistines - not conquered until the time of King David...
  - Why did God not have Israel conquer all the land at once...
    - **Judges 3:4** - "They were left, that God might test Israel by them..."
    - Perhaps there is some sin in your life - one that you have been battling for years...
    - And you want to know why God does not just take it away - give you the victory...
    - The answer is He leaves it there to test us - remind us we need to trust in Him!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> - THE DIVISION OF THE LAND... CHAPTERS 13-19 / **TRIBES MAP**
  - o Joshua was to divide up the Land among the tribes... **READ: JOSHUA 13:7-8 / 14:1-5**
    - The ½ Tribe of Manasseh / Reuben / and Gad received inheritance on the East side...
    - The 9 ½ tribes were to receive land on the West side of the Jordan River...
    - Even though much of the Land remained unconquered - they were to divide it up...
    - The battle was far from over - but God knew for certain whom the victor would be!
    - Even though we still are at war - with sin / satan / and a world that does not know Jesus...

- There is no question on the outcome - we know because of Jesus we win in the end!
- o Divided up by lots...
  - The Land was divided up among the 9 ½ tribes - by the casting of lots (*rolling the dice*)
  - The idea was not to show favoritism - let 'chance' decide the location of each tribe...
  - That way there could be no bickering about who got 'the best' land...
  - God knew it did not matter - it was not about the dirt - it was about eternity...
  - It is easy to get jealous of what others have - wonder why we did not get 'the best'...
  - But if we get our eyes on 'the dirt' - we end up missing the whole point...
  - The stuff of this earth does not last - what is important is knowing God - eternity!
- o There were 12 tribes that received Land...
  - There are always 12 tribes listed for Israel – one for each of the 12 sons of Jacob...
  - But there are also the two sons of Joseph – counted as sons of Jacob - **Genesis 48**...
  - So in all there are actually 14 tribes – though only 12 are mentioned at any one time...
  - The 2 left out of the list are Joseph (*Ephraim & Manasseh*) & Levi (*priestly tribe*)...
  - The Levites were given no Land - because the Lord was their portion...
  - But they were given 48 cities from among the other 12 tribes of Israel...
- o Most of the remainder of chapters 13-19 gives the DETAILED boundaries of the Tribes...
  - Chapter 15 - the division of the Promised Land to the Tribe of Judah...
  - Chapter 16 - the division of the Promised Land to the Tribe of Ephraim...
  - Chapter 17 - the division of the Promised Land to the ½ Tribe of Manasseh...
  - Chapter 18 - the division of the Promised Land to the Tribe of Benjamin...
  - Chapter 19 - the division of the Promised Land to the remaining 7 Tribes...
- 3<sup>RD</sup> - DETAILS OF THE DIVISION... (5 THINGS)
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> - The inheritance of Caleb... READ: JOSHUA 14:6-12
    - Caleb was one of only two men over 20 years old who survived the wilderness...
      - He and Joshua had been the only two spies to bring back a good report...
      - **Numbers 14:9** - "Do not fear the people of the land, for they are our bread..."
    - All - those who had looked at the circumstances - ended up losing their lives...
      - Like the rich man who would not walk away from his riches (*centavos really*)...
      - So that he might receive the overwhelming blessings of eternal life – **Matthew 19:22**
      - If we only look with our eyes – not by faith in the Lord – looking to the world...
      - Then we will miss out on all the Lord has for us – the blessed life...
    - God had promised to give Caleb an inheritance in the Land - **Numbers 14:24**
      - It had taken 45 years - but at 85 Caleb was still as strong as when he was 40!
      - So he asked Joshua if he could have the city of Hebron on top of a mountain...
      - It was a very well fortified city - full of giants - no easy task...
      - 45 years later Caleb was still not looking at the circumstances - still looking to God!
    - He was a man who never looked at the problem - he kept his eyes on Jesus!
      - When we walk by faith and not by what we can see – **II Corinthians 5:17**
      - We will experience blessing from God beyond anything we could have imagined
      - **Ephesians 3:20** – "He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think..."
      - When we walk by faith – we will see things we never imagined possible!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> - The daughters of Zelophehad... READ: JOSHUA 17:3-4
    - Zelophehad - a man from the tribe of Manasseh - died having only 5 daughters...
      - They came to Eleazar - reminded him of the command from the Lord...
      - They were to receive an inheritance in their fathers place - **Numbers 27:7**
      - God made no distinction between the rights of men or women - equals!
    - We take for granted today the rights of women - but it was not always that way...

- Roman law - the wife was the purchased property of her husband...
  - In Saudi Arabia - women are not allowed to drive / own land / choose a husband...
  - Women cannot go out in public without a male escort - father / brother / husband...
  - Women's rights come from the Bible - it is God who established equality - **Galatians 3:28**
  - Ladies next time you go to vote - or even just choose what you want to wear...
  - Give a hearty 'thank you' to the Lord - He is the God who loves all equally!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> - The complaint of from Ephraim... **READ: JOSHUA 17:14-18**
- Ephraim argued they needed more than one lot - because they were too big...
    - The mountains they were given were all covered with trees - no farming land...
    - And the Canaanites in the valley had iron chariots - powerful armies...
    - It was not that they land was too small - it was just not easy to live in...
    - Joshua encouraged them to 'get to work' - cut down the trees for Land...
    - And since they were so 'big' - surely they could conquer the valley as well!
  - Often we do not grow in our walk - because it is not easy...
    - People make the mistake of thinking that following Jesus is no effort...
    - Following Jesus does not mean we sit around all day waiting for God to work in our lives...
    - If we need to eat - work / if we want people to know Jesus - share...
    - If you want to want to mature in your walk - spend time with Jesus!
    - **I Corinthians 15:10** - "I have worked harder than all... yet it was not I but God who was working through me by His grace."
- o 4<sup>th</sup> - Cities of Refuge... **READ: JOSHUA 20:1-6**
- God had Joshua set up 6 cities of refuge within the Promised Land...
    - On the west side of the Jordan River - Kedesh / Shechem / and Hebron...
    - On the east side of the Jordan River - Bezer / Ramoth / Golan...
    - If you killed someone accidentally - you could run to one of the cities for refuge...
    - But you were not allowed to leave the city - until the death of the High Priest...
  - We all have all received a death sentence...
    - We are all sinners - **Romans 3:23** - cause of our sin we deserve death - **Romans 6:2**
      - o If we stay in the world - at some point our sin will catch up to us - and kill us!
      - o We cannot run from our sin - at some point it will catches up to everyone!
    - The church - is a place where any sinner is welcome to come...
      - o The one place where we can be safe from sin - is in Jesus / in His church...
      - o It does not make any difference who you are - or what you have done...
      - o God does not discriminate - He welcomes everyone in!
    - The death of our High Priest - Jesus...
      - o Jesus is our High Priest - **Hebrews 9:11** - and He died to set us free!
      - o We should be living in fear of death - the avenger coming to make us pay for our sin
      - o At best we should be stuck within the 4 walls of the church - our refuge...
      - o But instead Jesus has set us completely free - given us new life!
      - o **John 8:36** - "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
- o 5<sup>th</sup> - Faithful to fulfill all the promises... **READ: JOSHUA 21:43-45**
- God gave everything He had promised to give to Israel - faithful to every word - **Numbers 23:19**
  - God cannot lie - and He never changes His mind - God says it / that settles it!
  - If God promises you salvation through faith in Jesus - heaven is your destination!