

JOSHUA 1-2

INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**
 - Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible Genesis to Revelation
 - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - We have finished Deuteronomy - and will continue on to the Book of Joshua...
 - This is the 1st of the 12 books of the History of Israel in the Old Testament...
- **BACKGROUND ON THE BOOK OF JOSHUA...**
 - It is believed that Joshua wrote the book (*as well as Deuteronomy 34*)...
 - Ultimately inspired by the Holy Spirit – the written Word of God – **II Timothy 3:16**
 - Joshua was around 80 years old when he led Israel into the Promised Land...
 - The book picks up right at the end of the Book of Deuteronomy...
 - Israel is still camped across from Jericho - on the east side of the Jordan...
 - The 1st generation - all those over 20 years old - has perished in the wilderness...
 - Only Joshua and Caleb - brought back a good report - still alive - **Numbers 14:6...**
 - Moses in the book of Deuteronomy gave the people all the preparations to enter...
 - But with the death of Moses - Joshua was the one to lead Israel in...
 - The Book of Joshua covers a period 30 years period in the conquest of the Land...
- **THE OUTLINE OF JOSHUA...**
 - There are 24 chapters / 658 verses – in the book of **Joshua**...
 - We will cover between 1-2 chapters a week (*2 months*) - highlighting key sections...
 - The book can be broken down into 3 sections....
 - Chapters 1-12 - The conquest of the Land of Canaan...
 - Chapters 13-22 - The division of the Land of Canaan...
 - Chapters 23-24 - Joshua's final words to the nation of Israel...
- **THEME OF BOOK OF JOSHUA...**
 - The name Joshua means - Yashua is salvation - God saves!
 - The name Joshua is the Hebrew pronunciation of the Greek name - Jesus!
 - **Matthew 1:21** - “His name *is* JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”
 - So the Book of Joshua is all about how God saved His people Israel...
 - Jesus leads us into the Promised Land...
 - The Book of Joshua is very applicable to our Christian walk...
 - God desires for us to be saved from the world (*Egypt*) - through the Red Sea (*baptism*)
 - Led by Moses (*Law - to reveal our sin*) - so we see our need to follow Joshua (*Jesus*)...
 - So God can take us into the Promised Land (*salvation*)...
 - A Land flowing with milk and honey (*full of the fruit of the Holy Spirit*)...
 - Where we will be able to have victory of the Canaanites (*sin and our flesh*)!

PREPARING FOR THE PROMISED LAND... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - MARCHING ORDERS...VS. 1-9** **READ: JOSHUA 1:1-9**
 - After the death of Moses - God spoke to Joshua...
 - God had been preparing Joshua to lead Israel for many years...
 - Joshua had followed Moses - learning all through the 40 years in the wilderness...
 - After God was done speaking to Moses - he would go and share with Israel...
 - But Joshua would stay - spending time in the presence of the Lord - **Exodus 33:11**
 - **If we are to be used by God - we have to take the time to spent time with God...**
 - Only when Moses was gone - did Joshua step up...
 - There is a time for preparation - then there is a time to step out and serve...
 - With Moses no longer around - there was a need - it was time to serve...
 - **When we first come to know the Lord - we are not going to step out in faith much...**
 - **We are much more comfortable sitting and listening - being prepared...**
 - **But we should not stay that way - as we get into God's Word - we should grow...**
 - **So that when the time comes - the need arises - we are ready to step up and serve!**
 - Every place you set your foot...
 - God promised to give the Land to Joshua - every place he set his foot...
 - If Joshua had refused to move - his foot would not have stepped on many places...
 - But all Joshua had to do was step out - and he would be successful...
 - **God does not require much from us - in fact He does all the work for us...**
 - **All He requires of us is that we be willing to step out in faith...**
 - No man would be able to stand against Joshua...
 - God promised there would be no challenge Joshua could not overcome...
 - The reason - because God would be with Joshua - never leave his side!
 - **So often we baulk at stepping out in faith - because we think we will fail...**
 - **We look at our abilities - and just assume God cannot use someone like us...**
 - **If you are looking for a container to use - two important things to consider...**
 - **You really do not care if it is fancy or plain - expensive or cheap...**
 - **What matters - is the container empty (available) / is the container clean...**
 - **God is not looking for us to be fancy - He does not care about our abilities...**
 - **He is looking for someone who is clean - not full of the filth of the world...**
 - **God is looking for someone who is available - ready to be used by the Lord...**
 - **God can do ANYTHING with that kind of person - because they are full of Jesus!**
 - Be strong and courageous...
 - Joshua had been prepared - Moses was gone - it was his time...
 - He had the promise if he stepped out - God would give him victory - fight for him!
 - Yet he was still afraid - God had to tell him 3 times - be strong and courageous!
 - And God told him how to be strong and courageous - hold onto the Word!
 - The reality is - when we step out in faith we are going to be scared...
 - **If it were not scary - it would not be a step of faith - trusting in the Lord...**
 - **But as we hold to the Word of God - reading about Joshua - men just like us...**
 - **We become strong in the Lord - and find we have the courage to do anything!**
- **2ND - THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE...VS. 10-18** **READ: JOSHUA 1:10-18**

- o Joshua went through the camp and commanded the people to get ready to move out...
 - In 3 days they would go and possess the land God had given them...
 - Israel had already conquered the lands east of the Jordan River - **Numbers 21**...
 - The 3 tribes of Reuben / Gad / ½ of Manasseh - had asked Moses to inherit this land...
 - They would build fortified cities for their children and wives - for protection...
 - But then all the men of war would march with Israel into the Promised Land...
 - They would fight along side their brothers - till they also had victory!
 - Only then would they return to the east side of the Jordan and settle down...
- o They went in to fight with Israel - so they thought they were just like Israel...
 - But in the end they did not stay - they left the Promised Land...
 - **We can reassure ourselves that we attend Bible studies along with everyone else...**
 - **But where is our heart - are we excited / or just going through the motions...**
 - **II Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith...”**
 - **If we are not drawing closer to the Lord - then we are drifting away...**
- o They wanted to be close to God / but still in the world...
 - **Often we try to reason with God – how far away from the world do we need to be...**
 - **Can we at least look at the world – how about touch – just a light touch...**
 - **We do not want to be in the world – just really close – is that OK God...**
 - **It is not worth the danger to play around with the love of this world...**
 - **It is far too easy to fall in love with this world – and miss Jesus!**
- **3RD - RAHAB THE HARLOT... VS. 1-24 READ: JOSHUA 2:1-24**
 - o Spying out the Land... vs. 1
 - Joshua sent two men to spy out the Land - especially Jericho (*fortified city*)...
 - They had to go through Jericho - and he wanted to know what they were up against...
 - **There are times we think God is calling us to step out in faith - but we are unsure...**
 - **Perhaps it is to get involved in a ministry - or a new business - or a new relationship...**
 - **We wonder - is it our idea / our desire - or is it really the Lord/Spirit directing us...**
 - **Step out in faith to see what happens - see what kind of ‘fruit’ comes from it...**
 - **If we step out and try - and good things / ‘fruit’ happen - then it is likely from the Lord!**
 - o Hiding from the King... vs. 2-7
 - The men were staying in the house of Rahab the Harlot (*good place not to be noticed*)...
 - But the king of Jericho was told the spies had come into the city...
 - And came to Rahab’s house demanding she bring them men out to them...
 - Rahab hid the men under bundles of ‘humay’ on the roof...
 - She then lied - and told the officials the two men had left the city at sunset...
 - There are no levels of lies - no little lies / or white lies / or half truths...
 - **There is just the truth - and then there is a lie - no middle ground!**
 - **If we are not telling all of the truth - then we are telling a complete lie**
 - Which leaves the question – is there ever a good reason not to tell the truth...
 - **Such as if it keeps someone from having hurt feelings – ‘how do I look’ – ugly!**
 - **The end doesn’t justify the means – its as much about the journey as the destination**
 - **There is never a good reason to lie – it is depending on our efforts – our wit...**
 - **Better to be honest – tell the truth – and trust in/depend on the Lord!**
 - o The Scarlet Chord... vs. 8-21
 - Rahab went back to talk to the two spies...
 - I know the Lord has given you this Land - the terror of you has fallen on us all...

- The people had heard about the parting of the Red Sea (*40 years earlier*)...
- How Israel had completely destroyed the Kings on the east side of the Jordan...
- It caused the hearts of the people melted in fear - their courage evaporated!
- They realized the God of Israel - was the God of Heaven and Earth - **John 16:18**
- The world hears about Jesus - hears God's Word - and trembles in fear...
- The reason – they are convicted by Jesus of their sin...
- And they know that one day there will be a judgment for sin – their judgment!
- Rahab made them made swear to spare her and her family...
 - They agreed to spare her life - if she kept silent and spared their lives...
 - She let them down her widow (*her house was in the wall of the city*)...
 - The condition of letting her live - she had to tie a scarlet chord to her window...
 - And then only those who were in her house - would be spared by God...
 - The only place to be safe from the judgment of God - is with a Scarlet Chord...
 - Those who run and hide in Jesus - covered by sacrifice of Christ on the cross!
- o Rahab - one of the greatest women in the Bible...
 - Rahab is one of only two women mentioned in the 'Hall of Faith'...
 - **Hebrews 11:31** - "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."
 - Rahab was a har lot - she had a VERY sinful and sorted past...
 - But she believed - had faith in the God of Israel - to save her from judgment...
 - Her one act of faith - wiped out all the record of her past mistakes...
 - No matter what we have done in our past - how many mistakes we have made...
 - All it takes is one act of faith - believing in Jesus - and we are clean!
 - Rahab and Abraham...
 - Rahab is listed WITH Abraham as an example of what faith looks like...
 - **James 2:25** - "Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?"
 - All of Jericho was terrified of the God of Israel - but none were saved except...
 - Rahab - who did not just have faith in God - she showed her faith by her actions...
 - She was willing to stand up against the world / protect the men from God...
 - By doing so she put herself at great risk - but received a GREATER reward...
 - It is easy to say we have faith in God - no one wants to go to hell...
 - If we say we believe in Jesus - but still live like the world - do we really have faith...
 - If we are saved - have faith in God - it will show through our fruit - **James 2:18**...
 - Our faith in God is revealed through our changed life - obedience to His Word!
 - Rahab is in the Genealogy of Jesus Christ - **Matthew 1:5**!
 - She would go on to marry Salmon - and have a son named Boaz (*married Ruth*)...
 - She would become the great grandmother of King David - descendant of Jesus!
 - No matter what our past - as we have faith in Jesus to forgive us...
 - And as we stand up for Jesus - we will be known by Jesus work in our lives!
 - **Galatians 2:20** - "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."
- o Reporting to Joshua... vs. 22-24
 - The men waited for three days - for the search for them to be called off...
 - Then returned across the river and reported what had happened to Joshua...
 - Joshua realized the Lord had delivered the city into Israel's hands!