



The Grand Story of Scripture

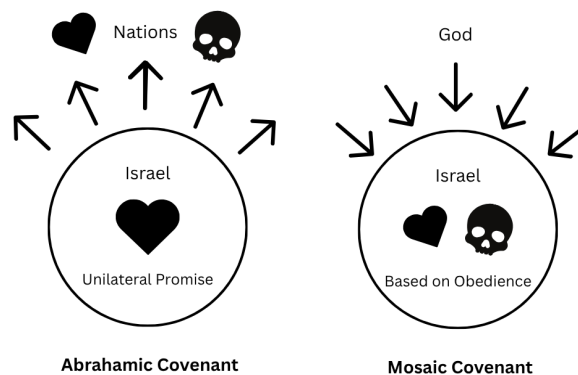
Session 5: Rising Action: The Kingdom's Perilous Beginnings (Joshua-Judges)

OPENING DISCUSSION

How has learning the Grand Story of Scripture impacted your understanding of the Bible? What questions do you still have?

TEACHING NOTES

Review



THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

“After the death of Moses., the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun...Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you...Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you... Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go...” (Joshua 1:1–9, ESV)

Rahab the Prostitute: Mercy offered to the Gentiles - **through faith in the God of Israel.**

The Fall of Jericho: Victory is not based on Israel's genius or power but **obeying the Lord**.

Defeat at Ai: Defeat is not based on lack of genius or power but **disobeying the Lord**.

Result: "Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, "You are old and advanced in years, and **there remains yet very much land to possess.**" (Joshua 13:1, ESV)

Joshua's Exhortation: **Drive out the inhabitants** of the land, **fear the Lord** and serve Him. **Do what is good** and right in the eyes of the Lord. (Joshua 24:14–15, ESV)

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

How did they do?: **Failed to Drive out the Canaanites**. (1:27-34)

Judges Summarized: "And the people of Israel **did what was evil in the sight of the LORD** and **served the Baals**. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt." (Judges 2:11-15)

7 Cycles of Judges:

Israel does evil in the sight of the Lord → God sells them **into the hands of their enemies** → The **Lord is moved to pity** by their groaning → **The Lord raises up Judges** who save them.

State of Garden Kingdom at the end of Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25, ESV)

Conflict Intensifies: What will God do about the **heart of the Israelites**? Where is the **Seed of the Woman**?

DISCUSSION

Joshua resolves that "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What are some ways you/your family can choose to serve the Lord even against the temptations of our culture and world?

Homework: Read Chapters 6 and 7 in *Living God's Word* by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays