

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from Joshua

Good morning church and welcome to week 10 of our sermon series entitled...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Today we will be looking at the Book of Joshua to see what we can learn. But before we do let's do a **quick flyover** and see what's in the book.

Here is Chuck Swindoll's Chart of Joshua...I like his better than mine...

JOSHUA								
Commissioning the Leader Preparing the People Invasion of land		Conquering the Enemy Subjection of land			Dividing the Spoil Distribution of land		Warning the Victors The Conclusion	
OUTSIDE CANAAN / PROMISES GIVEN		CENTRAL CAMPAIGN			PHASE ONE	PHASE TWO	PHASE THREE	INSIDE CANAAN / PROMISES FULFILLED
The commission (1) The spying (2) The Jordan (3) The memorials (4) The consecration (5)		Jericho (6) Defeat at Ai (7) Victory at Ai (8) Gibeonites (9)	Southern campaign (10) Northern campaign and survey (11) Summary by kings (12)	Rueben, Gad, ½ Manasseh (13) Caleb's autobiography (14) Judah (15) Ephraim (16) ½ Manasseh (17)	Benjamin (18) Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan, Joshua (19)	Cities of refuge (20) Levites — 48 towns (21)	Civil war threat (22)	Separation (23) Service (24)
CHAPTERS 1-5		CHAPTERS 6-9	CHAPTERS 10-12	CHAPTERS 13-17	CHAPTERS 18-19	CHAPTERS 20-21	CHAPTER 22	CHAPTERS 23-24
Theme Obedient faith brings abundant blessing.								
Key Verses 1:8; 24:14-15								
Christ in Joshua Typified by Joshua, a victorious leader whose name means "Yahweh is salvation"; pictured in Rahab's scarlet cord, which symbolizes safety through Christ's blood								

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Joshua was an exciting read and I wish we could spend several weeks with the book, but we only have time to look at **four key lessons** this morning.

Let's unpack them.

1. We Need to Set Up Memorial Stones in our Journey

Joshua 4:1–7 (NKJV) — 1 And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: 2 “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, 3 and command them, saying, ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’ ” 4 Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; 5 and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ 7 Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”

⇒ **Memorials Stand as a Reminder Lest We Forget**

God had been preparing the nation to enter into the Promised Land. Now they stood at the **overflowed banks** of the Jordan River with no way to cross the treacherous water, **except God was with them**. And just as He parted the Red Sea, He parted the Jordan River and Israel crossed over on dry ground. What an awesome event! But like their ancestors, this new generation would be **prone to forget what God** had done for them. To help them remember God instructed that they **setup a memorial**.

The memorial was **12 large stones** taken out of the Jordan River and setup as a pillar, one stone for **each tribe**. As the years went by the people would see the pillar of stones and it would remind what the Lord Almighty had done for them.

I think we could learn a **valuable lesson** from this passage. We, like the nation of Israel, have a **tendency to forget** all that the Lord has done for us. I believe we need reminders in our lives to help us remember.

One tool that I use to help me remember is a journal. I write in my journal what the Lord is doing in my life. My entries serve as a reminder in times when I'm prone to forget.

What can you do to help you remember His goodness towards you?

⇒ **Memorials Serve as a Teachable Moment, 6-7; 21-24**

Joshua told the nation twice in this passage that the memorial stones would serve as a **teachable moment** for the next generation. When the children would see the stones and ask about them, the previous generation would be able to share with them what God had done at the Jordan River opening the way up for them to enter into the Promised Land.

We need to **create teachable moments** in the lives of our children. I wonder, have you ever shared your **salvation testimony** with your kids? Was there ever a time when you **shared with them a moment when God spoke to you through His Word?**

We need to **create spiritual hunger** in our kids!

⇒ **Memorials Spur Us On when We are Weak**

When the nation of Israel would return to Gilgal and see the memorial stones it should have given them a **renewed strength and courage** that God was indeed on their side.

We too need to be encouraged when we are weak and whatever our memorials are...a journal, marked bible passages, a song, a picture, etc. **Will help us find strength.**

2. We Need to Walk in Faith to See a Victory

Joshua 6:1–5 (NKJV) — 1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.”

Joshua 6:15–20 (NKJV) — 15 But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. 16 And the

seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! 17 Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.” 20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

What an **incredible event!** There was no doubt that God was with them. But it took **faith to see the victory!** Listen to...

***Hebrews 11:30 (NKJV) — 30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.*

- ⇒ Faith is believing in the promises of God¹
- ⇒ Faith is trusting in God’s power
- ⇒ Faith is relying on God’s methods
- ⇒ Faith must be coupled with obedience

Listen to Wiersbe sum up these truths...

Victorious Christians are people who know the promises of God, because they spend time meditating on God’s Word (1:8); they believe the promises of God, because the Word of God generates faith in their hearts (Rom. 10:17); and they reckon on these promises and obey what God tells them to do. To “reckon” means to count as true in your life what God says about you in His Word.

¹ Adapted from Discipleship Journal : Issue 41. electronic ed. Colorado Springs: The Navigators/NavPress, 1999.

3. We Must Remember that Sin in the Camp Impacts Everyone

Joshua 7:1–15 (NKJV) — 1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel. 2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.” 4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. 5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. 6 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?” 10 So the Lord said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? 11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. 13 Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: “There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.” 14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the Lord takes shall come according to families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come man by man. 15 Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.’ ”

Israel had faced their **first and only defeat** in their conquest of the Promised Land. They lost to a **small little insignificant people** called Ai. Their loss put Joshua on his knees, complaining to God and worried about the repercussions.

God responds with a rebuke...get up, **it's not time for prayer meeting** but for action.

⇒ **The nation had Sinned – vv. 10-11**

Note that God says that Israel, the whole nation, had sinned when only one of their great number had transgressed God's ban.

⇒ **The nation will not stand – v. 12**

As a result of this failure, the whole nation will fall unless they remove the things under the ban from their midst.

⇒ **The nation must be consecrated – vv. 13-15**

By lot Joshua was to **seek out the perpetrator**. Imagine how this would have played out. The lot was cast for tribe and **fell upon Judah**. Then it was cast for family and it fell upon the **sons of Zerah**. It was cast twice more and the culprit was found... it was **Achan**.

If we learn anything from this text, we learn that **sin is serious business!** As a result of one man's disobedience, **thirty-six warriors** and an **entire family** died – not to mention a **humiliating defeat** for God's chosen nation.

Does God still take sin that series? Let me share with you **two passages** of caution from the New Testament.

Acts 5:1–11 (NKJV) — 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. 7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

1 Corinthians 5:1–8 (NKJV) — **1** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife! **2** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. **3** For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, **5** deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. **6** Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? **7** Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

4. We Need to Be Committed

Joshua 24:1–15 (NKJV) — **1** Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. **2** And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods. **3** Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. **4** To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. **5** Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to what I did among them. Afterward I brought you out. **6** ‘Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. **7** So they cried out to the Lord; and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, brought the sea upon them, and covered them. And your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. Then you dwelt in the wilderness a long time. **8** And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you. **9** Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. **10** But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. So I delivered you out of his hand. **11** Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you—also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand. **12** I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow. **13** I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.’ **14** “Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! **15** And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord,

choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

⇒ **Remember God's Grace, 1-13**

Joshua reminds the people of God's gracious ways.

- Call & Family of Abraham
- Deliverance out of Egypt
- Miracle at the Red Sea
- Blessings from Balaam
- Victory in the Promised Land

God's grace has been given to us!

- Free Gift of Salvation
- His Constant Presence
- Holy Spirit's Empowerment

⇒ **Call to Commitment, 14-15**

Joshua calls on the people to make a decision!

- Fear Him
- Serve Him (sincerity & truth)
- Forsake Idols

Matthew 22:37

³⁷ Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

⇒ **Call to Join Him, 15**

Joshua told the people that his mind was already made up – he was going to serve the Lord! But nothing has really changed for Joshua. When you read Numbers 13 and 14 you find him taking a stand with Caleb against the

10 spies who were afraid to go into the Promised Land as God called them to do.

Often times when we see the dedication of others it helps us!

CONCLUSION:

- ⇒ What is God saying to you about today's message?
- ⇒ Is there anything for you to repent about today?