

Victory Through Faith

14– 20 NOV 2017

DT 27 – 34; PS 90; JOS 1-13:7

Week 9 - 41 Weeks to Go

We end Deuteronomy with a transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua. Moses predicts what will befall Israel (blessing and curses) in the near future and Moses dies. In Joshua, we read of the preparation for and conquest of Canaan. The people of Israel, through this and later campaigns, learn a crucial lesson: victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word. In the conquest of Canaan we see God as a warrior who rescues his people from enemies. God’s people still battle evil today and we can be confident that Christ has already assured the final outcome by his victory. If you are faithful to God you will be victorious.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: DT 27:1 –28:68
Day 2: DT 29:1 – 34:12
Day 3: PS 90
Day 4: JOS 1:1 – 5:15
Day 5: JOS 6:1 – 7:26
Day 6: JOS 8:1 – 9:27
Day 7: JOS 10:1 – 13:7

Outline

Ratification of the Covenant in Canaan [Day 1]
Transition of Leadership; Moses Final Words [Day 2]
Teach Us to Number Our Days [Day 3]
Israel is Prepared for the Conquest [Day 4]
The Conquest of Canaan by Israel [Days 5-7]

Key Characters

Moses
Joshua
Liam
Rahab
Ascah and Caleb
Achan

Key Locations

Shores of the Jordan river
Mount Ebal
Mount Nebo
Canaan
Gilgal
Jericho
Ai
Hazor

Key Terms

Covenant
Obedience
Disobedience
Judgement

Key Verses

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them [DT 30:19-20]

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom [PS 90:12]

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.” [JOS 1:6}

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt27: Write the law on large stones. The Levites will say, "Cursed is anyone who does not keep the law," and the people will reply, "Amen."

Dt28: If you obey the LORD he will bless you above all nations; if not, you will be cursed and the LORD will send a nation to destroy you.

Dt29: You have seen all that the LORD has done so keep this covenant. If you break it the land will be cursed and the LORD will uproot you.

Dt30: When you return to the LORD he will have compassion; he will circumcise your heart. I have set before you life and death. Choose life.

Dt31: Joshua will cross ahead of you. Read the law every seven years. The LORD said, "The people will turn away. Write a song as a witness."

Dt32: Ascribe greatness to our God! The LORD's portion is his people; They turned away so he spurned them; But he will provide atonement.

Dt33: Moses blessed Israel before his death: Let Reuben live; bless Levi's work; Joseph's land is blessed. The eternal God is your refuge.

Dt34: Moses climbed Mount Nebo. There the LORD showed him the Promised Land. Then Moses died. No prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses.

Ps90: Lord, you have been our dwelling place. All our days pass away under your wrath. Return, O Lord! Have compassion on your servants!

Jos1: The LORD said to Joshua, "Arise, cross into the land. Be strong and courageous." So Joshua told the officers to prepare provisions.

Jos2: Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. A prostitute called Rahab hid them, so they promised to spare her family. They reported to Joshua.

Jos3: The Israelites camped by the Jordan. When the priests carrying the ark reached the river it stopped, so Israel crossed on dry ground.

Jos4: The LORD told Joshua to set up memorial stones from the Jordan. When the priests brought the ark up to the bank the waters returned.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jos5: The LORD told Joshua to circumcise the men. They called the place Gilgal. Joshua met the commander of the LORD's army and bowed down.

Jos6: The LORD said that the army should march around Jericho. On the seventh day they shouted and the walls fell. They destroyed the city.

Jos7: Achan took some banned items. When the army went against Ai they were defeated. The LORD identified Achan and the people stoned him.

Jos8: The LORD told Joshua to take the army against Ai. They set up an ambush and destroyed the city. Joshua read out the book of the law.

Jos9: The Gibeonites sent envoys. They pretended that they were from far away and made a treaty. The Israelites found out but spared them.

Jos10: Five Amorite kings attacked the Gibeonites. The sun stood still while the Israelites took revenge. Joshua defeated the whole region.

Jos11: The kings of the north joined forces to fight against Israel but the LORD gave Joshua victory. So Joshua took the whole land.

Jos12: Israel defeated the kings east of the Jordan under Moses and the kings west of the Jordan under Joshua. Thirty-one kings in total.

Jos13: Now Joshua was old. The LORD said, "Divide the remaining land among the tribes." Moses had given land to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh.

Big Ideas in JOSHUA



God appoints a new leader, Joshua, to replace Moses

God demonstrates his power to his people

God is the ultimate warrior; he rescues his people from their enemies

God keeps his promises

God wants his people to faithfully obey him

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JOSHUA

THE STORY OF FAITH...

ABRAHAM

MOSES

WILDERNESS

PROMISED LAND

OBEDIENCE

DISOBEDIENCE

THE STORY OF FAITH...

Looking back:

ENCOURAGEMENT

RESOURCES

Looking forward:

GOALS

DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS

1-5 JOSHUA LEADS ISRAEL

1 OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE TORAH

2 THE SENDING OF THE SPIES

3 ISRAELITES LEADS ISRAEL INTO PROMISED LAND

4 JOSHUA = NEA THOMAS

5 WE TRY TO US FOR OUR ENEMIES? WEATHER

6 ANGEL OF THE LORD

6-12 BATTLES WITH THE CANAANITES

7-8 DEFEAT THE CANAANITES

9-12 BATTLES WITH THE CANAANITES

13-22 JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

23-24 JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

GOD'S JUSTICE ON HUMAN EVIL

1 WHY THE CANAANITES?

2 DID GOD INITIATE A GENOCIDE?

3 UNIQUE MOMENT IN HISTORY

ISRAEL'S VICTORIES

10-11 DESTROY ISRAEL!

12 ISRAEL'S VICTORIES

13-24 JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO??

created by the Bible Project

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Entering and Taking the Promised Land

[The Book of Joshua]

Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land (the Jordan River stopped flowing to let them cross) and led them to win one miraculous military victory after another as the Israelites took possession of the land from the idol-worshipping Canaanites who had settled there.

Joshua divided the Promised Land up among the 12 tribes of Israel.

The tribe of Levi was not given their own territory (they were the caretakers of the Tabernacle) but each of Joseph's 2 sons (Ephraim and Manasseh) was given a territory. Therefore, there were 12 tribes of Israel given territories in the Promised Land.

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



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Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 9 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- What is the foundation for the blessings in DT 28:1-14? God’s work or our obedience? How will God be glorified by blessing his people? How is holiness inseparable from the promise?
- How do the curses (DT 28:15-68) fit with your understanding of God. What if God were just a God of blessing?
- What does it mean that “God is your rock” (DT 32)?
- Why do you think God inaugurated Joshua’s career with a miracle similar to the one he gave Moses (JOS 3:7-17)? Why did God have the people cross the Jordan at the flood stage?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Is it harder for people to follow God in times of prosperity or times of adversity? Why?
- What about Moses’ relationship with God and his people made him unique? What does it mean to know God “face-to-face”?
- How do you think Rahab related to God? Why did she risk her own safety to protect the spies?
- What was the first thing Joshua did after the victory at Ai? [JOS 8: 30]? What does this tell you about the kind of man he was? Why do you think the children and aliens were included in the ceremony?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you feel blessed? How would you put DT 28:3-6 in modern language?
- What memories help keep you faithful to God? How are they like Israel’s memories?
- What modern idols are popular right now in our culture? How do they subtly become like what we worship – good or bad? How can idols drive a wedge between us and God and make us drift away from the covenant community?
- How do you “number your days” (PS 90)? One day at a time? Make each one count? With a clock and calendar? Other?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- How did faith factor into the conquest of Jericho and how did the Israelites fight in a way different from other peoples of the time?
- Some Israelite conquest appear to have been peaceful assimilation of the native peoples into the Israelites’ own group, such as with the Gibeonites (JOS 9). What is the danger of such assimilation? Why was so much emphasis in Israelite law focused on rejecting idols and multiple gods?