

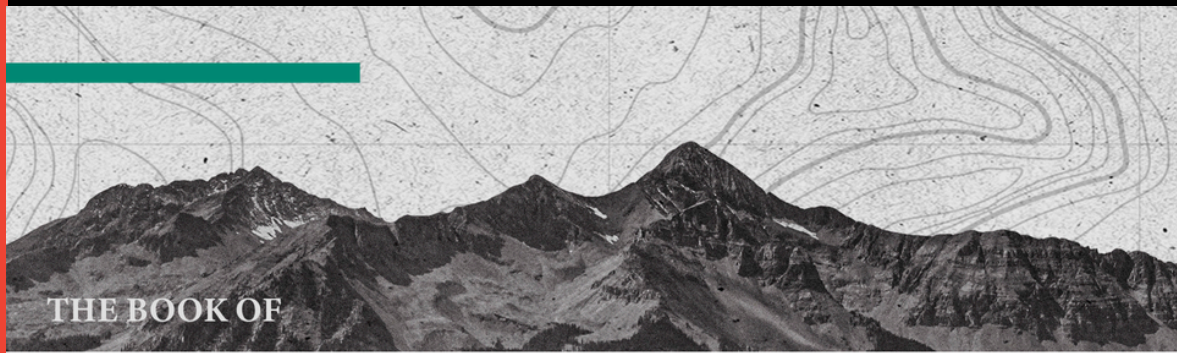


LEADER GUIDE

Sept 14
-
Dec 28



The Life of a Christian



JOSHUA

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

A STUDY

THROUGH THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

September 14 - December 28

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Written by TJ Johnson

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Sermon Series Overview

This Sunday, we begin a new series in the Book of Joshua. I encourage you to take time to read through this book, as we will be spending the next several months working our way through the text. It will take you around two hours to read the entire book, which covers approximately thirty years of Israel's history.

The book is divided into four main scenes:

1. Crossing into the Land (1:1–5:15)
2. Taking the Land (6:1–12:24)
3. Dividing the Land (13:1–21:45)
4. Serving the Lord in the Land (22:1–24:33)

You will notice that a rather large section is devoted to which tribe settled in which part of the land. While these details may seem superfluous or—dare I say—boring, they serve a purpose. They remind us that God keeps His promises. Some 600 years earlier, God had promised Abraham a people and a land, and that promise finally came to pass.

Of course, the story of the land is about much more than a patch of dirt in the Middle East. It is about God's people in God's place under God's rule. It is a foreshadowing of a coming Kingdom that will endure forever. The people of God were to conquer the land so that they might enter God's rest. Joshua is a reminder that struggle comes before rest, suffering before glory, and war before peace.

It has been said that for every New Testament doctrine there is an Old Testament picture. Therefore, the Book of Joshua should, in some sense, be seen as a blueprint for the Christian life—our journey of sanctification. We must, as Hebrews 4 tells us, strive to enter into Christ's eternal rest. The Christian life is not a playground but a battleground. Until Christ returns or calls us home, may we fight the good fight of faith and be found worthy of our calling.

This Sunday, we will focus on Joshua 1, which functions as an introduction and overview of the entire book.

Striving with you,

Pastor TJ

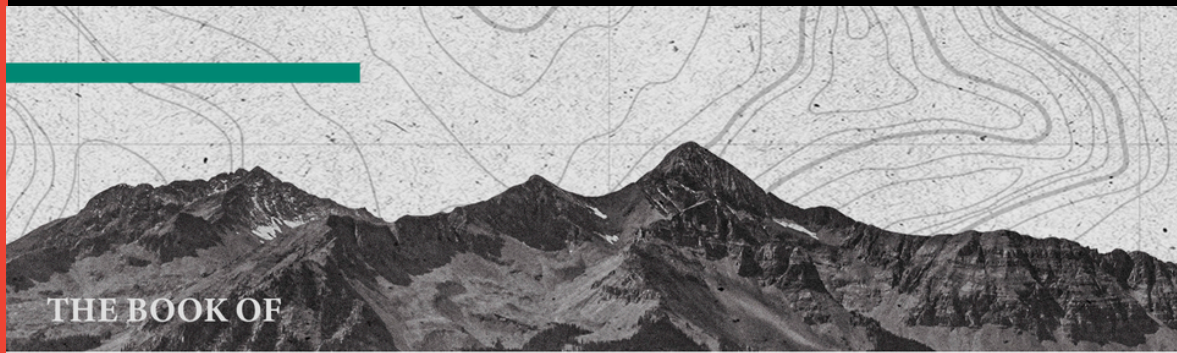


LEADER GUIDE

Sept 14



Courageous Obedience



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA



Sermon Outline

Title: Courageous Obedience.

Text: Joshua 1

Prop: God has called us to live a life of obedience to Him, living with courageous faith knowing that when this life is done we will rest eternally in His Kingdom.

OUTLINE

1. God Keeps His Promises. Joshua 1:2-3
2. God Sends His Presence. Joshua 1:5-6, 9
3. God Confers His Precepts. Joshua 1:7-8
4. God Charges His People. Joshua 1:12-15
5. God Commissions His Person. Joshua 1:16-18

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. **List** some promises God made and fulfilled in the Bible. Then, discuss: what are some promises God has yet to fulfill, and how can we wait for them with hope?

- **Fulfilled:**

- God's covenant with Abraham: God promised a specific land, numerous descendants, blessings to Abraham and his descendants, and that a blessing would come through him to all nations.
- The end of a global flood: God promised never to destroy the earth again with a flood
- Covenant: The coming of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice brought a new covenant, fulfilling promises for a new way of living.
- Salvation through Jesus: God promised to provide salvation for all who believe His Son.

Yet to Fulfill:

- The coming kingdom: The establishment of God's eternal Kingdom on a new earth, has yet to be fully realized.
- Complete defeat of evil: While the power of evil and death has been broken with Christ, the final eradication of all evil will occur at the end of time.
- Final reunion with God: While believers have fellowship with God now, the promise of complete and uninterrupted intimacy with Him awaits the future.

Waiting in hope

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude for the blessings and provisions God has already given and remind yourself of promises fulfilled knowing God is faithful and will fulfill His promises in His timing. Use the waiting period to serve others and bring glory to God, which will allow us to grow in our faith.



Discussion Questions

2. **How** was God “with” Israel in the book of Joshua? In what ways is He “with” us as believers today?

God's presence was not an abstract concept; firstly, He spoke through the Book of the Law (living and active). There was a personal presence through Joshua's encounter with a mysterious man with a drawn sword who identifies himself as the "commander of the army of the LORD." (Theophany). He acted through His miracles (parting Jordan, walls of Jericho, etc). His glory rested on them through the Ark of the Covenant and tabernacle where the priests would enter to minister before the Lord, etc.

Today, believers receive the Holy Spirit, who guides, comforts, and empowers them (Joh 14:26). God still speaks through the Word of God and acts through His miracles and sovereign ordering of the affairs of the world. He is present through the Lord's Supper and every time the body of Christ gathers together.

3. **What** practical steps do you take to meditate on, speak about, and obey the Bible? Why does God place such a strong emphasis on His Word?

Choose a specific time each day for reading. Focus on a few verses that reveal something about God, self, or humanity. Write down thoughts, insights, and prayers related to passages to deepen understanding.

God's Word, being without error, serves as the primary means of revealing His nature, will, and purpose for humanity. It provides insight into His character and the relationship He desires with His people. Without it we are merely guessing at who He is and what He demands from the world. Without it we make God into our own image rather than being conformed into His image.



Discussion Questions

4. How can we, like the Transjordan tribes (Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh), help our brothers and sisters in Christ find spiritual rest? Alternatively, share a time when someone helped you in your sanctification.

Offer emotional and spiritual support through prayer and fellowship. Share uplifting scriptures and personal testimonies of faith. Engage in acts of service. Create a loving community where individuals can confess sin and struggles. Provide opportunities for growing in our knowledge and love of God.

5. In what ways does Joshua foreshadow Jesus (particularly in Joshua's role to lead Israel into the land)?

Jesus is the true and better Joshua. They share the same name, meaning "Yahweh saves." Joshua saves the people from Canaanite enemies; Jesus saves His people from a spiritual enemy, sin and Satan (Colossians 2:15). Joshua gave Israel a temporary land, Jesus gives us an eternal Kingdom. Joshua brought temporary rest (peace), Jesus bring eternal rest (see Heb. 4:9). Joshua intercedes for Israel on behalf of their sin (Joshua 7:6-9), Jesus intercedes for us on behalf of our sin (Romans 8:34). Joshua secures a physical inheritance, Jesus secures a spiritual inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

SUMMARY:

Israel needed a person to lead them into the land and God gave them Joshua. We need a person to lead us into eternity and God has given us the greater Joshua, Jesus!

As the people were to do all that Joshua commanded, we are to do all that Jesus commands. As the people were to go wherever Joshua sent them, we are to go wherever Jesus sends. Whoever rebelled against Joshua faced death. Whoever rebels against Jesus faces eternal death.



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports