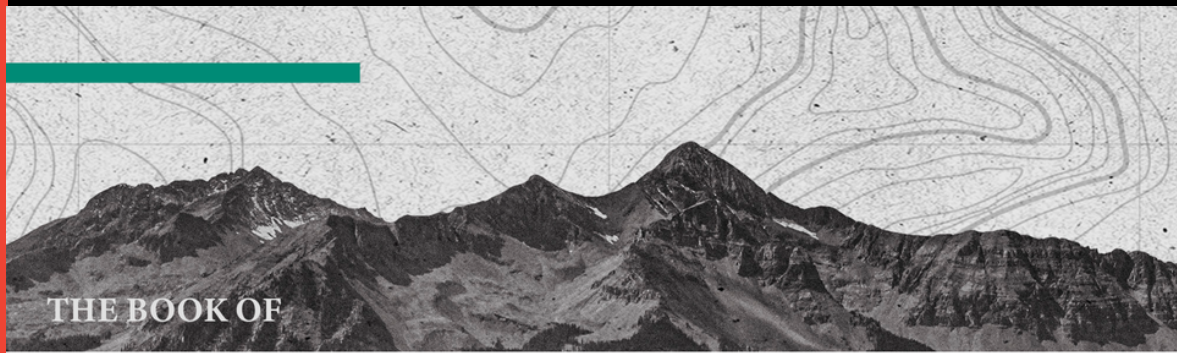




Promises Kept



LEADER GUIDE

Nov 16

JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

This week we look at the longest section in Joshua—the division of the land. I encourage you to read ALL of these verses, for in them we are reminded that every one of God’s good promises comes to pass. Caleb, Joshua, and the tribes of Israel show us what it looks like (and what it doesn’t look like) to trust God’s promises and seek to possess all that He has promised.

Trusting and Pursuing with you,

Pastor TJ Johnson



Sermon Outline

Title: Promises Kept.

Text: Joshua 13:1 - 19:51

Proposition: Since all of God's good promises will come to pass, let us seek to possess all that God has promised.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Israel ever cared more about the land than they did the God of the land? Explain. In what ways are you tempted to love the gift more than the giver of the gift, and how do you fight against this temptation?

The text of Joshua 13-19 suggests that Israel's relationship with the land became a point of tension, with their actions showing a greater concern for the land than for God, who gave it to them. While the initial conquest and division of the land were presented as an act of God's faithfulness, Israel's failure to fully drive out the enemies and their subsequent struggles in the land demonstrate a lack of complete obedience, suggesting that their focus shifted from faithfulness to God to earthly possession.

You can be tempted to love the gift more than the Giver (God), prioritizing worldly possessions, success, or comfort over your relationship with God, and viewing blessings as ends in themselves rather than as means to connect with Him. To overcome this, focus on the Giver (God) by praying with intimacy with Him, meditating on His love, and intentionally seeing Him in His Gifts rather than the gifts themselves.

2. How were people saved in the Old Testament? How would you explain salvation by grace through faith to a friend, family member, or coworker? Who can you share this good news with this week?

In the Old Testament, people were saved by faith in God's promises, which looked forward to a future Messiah, just as people are saved in the New Testament, but by looking back to Christ's completed work. Old Testament believers' faith was demonstrated through their belief in God's promises, obedience to His laws, and participation in sacrifices, circumcision, and the Passover lamb, which all pointed toward the eventual coming of the Savior.



Discussion Questions

How to explain salvation by Grace through faith:

Grace means it is a gift: Grace is often described as unmerited favor from God. It's like receiving a wonderful gift that you do not deserve and did not work for. God offers forgiveness and eternal life purely out of His love, not because of anything good you have done.

Faith is how you accept the gift: Faith is simply trusting and accepting His offer. It's like reaching out and taking the present when someone offers it to you. You can't work for the gift; you just have to trust the giver's generosity and accept it. It means believing in Jesus Christ, His life, and resurrection, as the payment for sins.

Make a list of who you can share the good news with. We are often surprised by how many are receptive to the good news found in Christ.

3. In what ways did Israel settle for less than God had promised? What are some areas where we might settle for less than God has promised?

Israel settled for less than God promised primarily by failing to completely drive out the remaining Canaanite inhabitants from the land, leading to ongoing conflicts rather than peace in the land, idolatry, and a smaller territory possession than what was promised.

What are some areas where we might settle for less than God has promised?

Spiritual unconquered areas: We may settle for a life with unresolved sin, unforgiveness, or fear, rather than experiencing the full rest and freedom God promises through faith and obedience.

Partial obedience: *We may obey God in major areas of our lives but compromise in smaller, remote, or obscure corners of conduct, relationships, or thought patterns.*

Apathy or lack of effort: *We can become comfortable with our current spiritual state, ceasing to possess all that God's Word offers for our spiritual experience and growth.*



Discussion Questions

4. In what ways did Israel show discontentment for God's good gifts (expand beyond the book of Joshua). What areas of your own life are you tempted to show discontentment for God's good gifts and why?

Israel showed discontentment with God through various acts in the Old Testament, including persistent complaining and grumbling in the wilderness, idolatry and worshiping other gods, and disobedience to God's laws. This pattern of sin, leading to divine punishment, continued through the periods of the Judges and the monarchy, often rooted in a lack of faith, fear, and a desire to conform to neighboring nations.

In a personal context, this discontent often manifests as coveting what others have, a lack of gratitude for present blessings, or a sense that life isn't fair, which can be tempting because of comparison and a focus on what is lacking.

5. How should you ethically think through God's sovereignty and human free will in terms of: things you cannot change, things you should not change, and things you have the freedom to change?

Ethically navigating God's sovereignty and human free will requires accepting that God is in control of what you cannot change, adhering to divine will for things you should not change, and exercising your freedom to change what is within your ability, all while trusting God's plan. Recognize that divine control and human responsibility can coexist, and your ethical response is to live faithfully by making wise choices in accordance with God's Word, without using God's sovereignty as an excuse for disobedience.



Discussion Questions

6. In what ways did God's covenant blessings pass from generation to generation? What are you doing (or should you be doing) to ensure God's covenant blessings are passed on to the next generation?

God's covenant blessings are passed down through generations by telling stories of God's praise-worthy deeds, integrating faith into our daily life, and encouraging individuals to live out their unique gifts within the covenant.

To pass these blessings, one should share family history, highlight each member's strength, emphasize the freedom to use their gifts for God's glory, and consistently integrate faith into daily life through actions and conversations.

Families shouldn't neglect spending time as a family around God's word daily. Family devotion is a great example of being centered around God's word and making family life dependent on God.

7. What examples does the Bible give of faithful living even in old age? How does Caleb's example reshape the way you view the later years of your own life?

There are many:

Anna the prophetess: Anna was an elderly widow who never left the temple, fasting and praying for the redemption of Jerusalem. She is an example of life dedicated to prayer and worship in old age, recognizing the infant Jesus as the Messiah.

Joshua: Caleb's lifelong friend, Joshua, was an older man when he led the Israelites into the Promised Land. Like Caleb, he demonstrated faithful leadership even in old age.



Discussion Questions

The psalmist: In Psalm 71, the psalmist writes about continuing to trust and praise God in old age, even when his physical strength faded. The psalmist's desire, despite his old age, to “declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come”(Psalm 71:18).

Caleb’s example reshapes the view of later life by highlighting that strength, faith, and purpose can be maintained or even grow, regardless of age. He shows that a person’s perspective is more influential than their chronological age, and that life is a continuous, unwavering faith that can lead to a strong, victorious ending. His example emphasized staying mentally and spiritually fit, continuing to serve, and believing God can empower you to achieve difficult things, no matter how old you are.



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports