

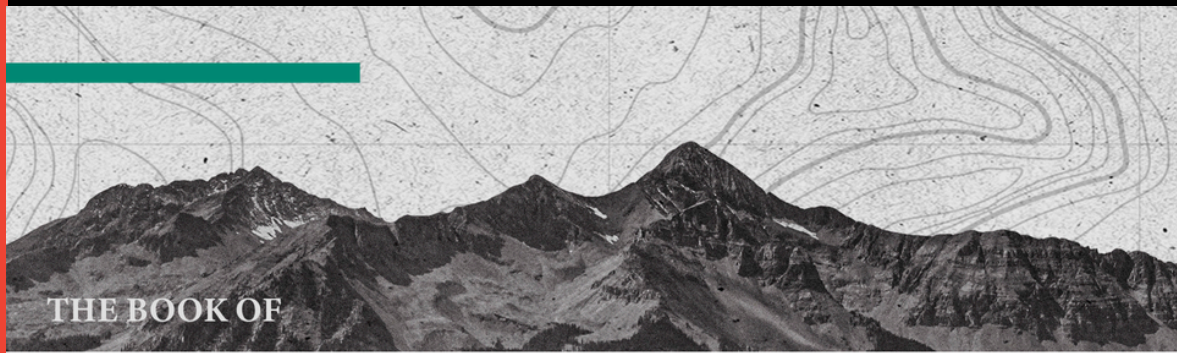


STUDY GUIDE

Sept 14
-
Dec 28



The Life of a Christian



JOSHUA

The Bible teaches that keeping promises is a serious matter of integrity, emphasizing that one must fulfill their commitments, and it is better not to make a promise than to break one (Numbers 30:2, Ecclesiastes 5:4–5). Jesus advises that one's "yes" should be "yes" and "no" should be "no" to avoid the need for oaths and extra-biblical swearing (Matthew 5:33–37). When it is mos

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

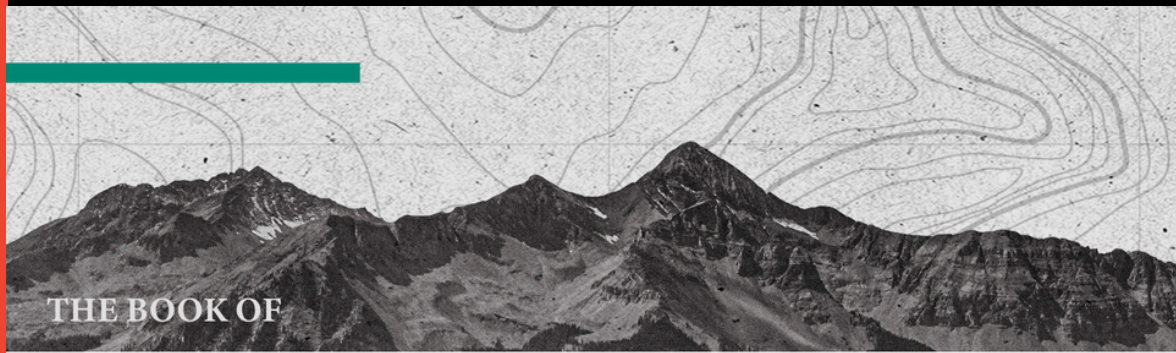


STUDY GUIDE

Sept 14



Courageous Obedience



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?
2. How was God “with” Israel in the book of Joshua? In what ways is He “with” us as believers today?
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?
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.
5. In what ways does Joshua foreshadow Jesus (particularly in Joshua’s role to lead Israel into the land)?



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

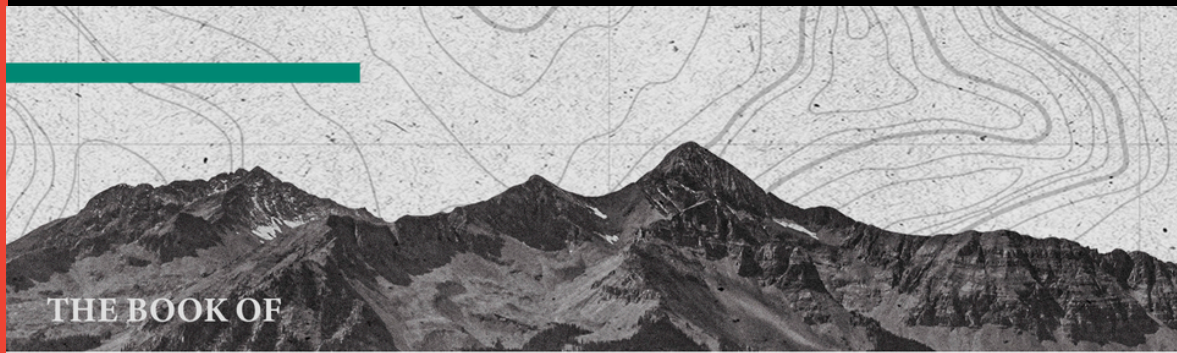


STUDY GUIDE

Sept 21



Remember His Deeds



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

In preparation for Sunday take some time to read Joshua 3-4. As you do, you will notice that chapter three focuses on God's miracle of parting the Jordan River. While reading this chapter, ask yourself why God performed this miracle, what it teaches us about miracles as a whole, and most importantly, how it connects to the bigger storyline of Scripture.

When you move to chapter four, while it might seem like a superfluous rereading of the story, note how the miracle is meant to be memorialized. Israel is to take twelve stones from the river and place them at Gilgal as a way for future generations to remember that God has acted on behalf of His people.

Just as Israel was called to remember God's mighty acts, we too must be intentional about remembering how God has worked in our lives of His people. Just as future generations were to trust reliable testimony rather than experience their own personal miracle, so too we are to trust the reliable testimony of faithful witnesses to God's greatest miracle (that of the Resurrection).

Joshua is a reminder that sometimes our faith moves forward by looking backwards. Future sanctification is enacted by remembering a former event (Christ has risen). In our darkest times, in the seemingly silence of God, when it feels as if God is not present or God does not care, faith is sustained through the act of remembering.

Remembering with You,

Pastor TJ

Note: Don't worry, we will come back to chapter 2 in a few weeks.



Sermon Outline

Title: Christianity is a Lifetime of Remembering

Text: Joshua 3-4

Prop: God, through Jesus Christ, has worked powerfully in our lives, therefore we must be sure to regularly remember His mighty acts, lest we forget and our faith falter.

OUTLINE

1. The Miracle

- A. It's Nature
- B. It's Purpose

2. The Memorial

- A. Public
- B. Private

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. **Give** a biblical definition of the word miracle, and provide examples of what is and is not considered a miracle.
2. **What** are some of the most meaningful miracles in the Bible to you, and why?
3. **What** were God's purposes in dividing the Jordan River, and what are the New Testament truths this Old Testament story illustrates?
4. **Have** you ever witnessed a modern-day miracle, if so share with the group?
5. **While** technically not a miracle, share a sacred experience you've had with God and explain why it was meaningful to you.
6. **What** are some modern "memorials" you have built that help you remember and share God's faithfulness with friends, family, or children?

Going deeper:

7. How does one discern true miracles from false miracles (aka Moses vs Egyptians magicians)?
8. What are some dangers to avoid concerning miracles?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

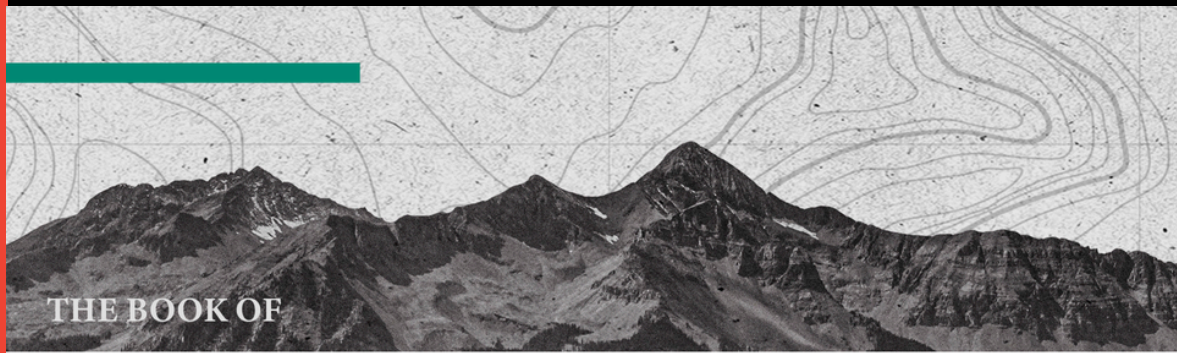


STUDY GUIDE

Sept 28



Confession Through Sacrament



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

Before their first battle in the Promised Land, God commanded Israel to perform two surprising rites: circumcision and Passover. It was a reminder that the taking and keeping of the Land was not through human effort, but total dependance upon the Lord. In the same way, God has given His church two ordinances—baptism and the Lord's Supper. This Sunday, we'll discover how these gifts powerfully remind us that our victory over sin is found not in our own strength, but through faith in Christ's finished work.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



Sermon Outline

Title: Confession Through Sacrament

Text: Joshua 5

Prop: Through the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, God graciously provides the means for our sanctification, reminding us that victory in the Christian life comes not by our own strength but through faith in the finished work of Christ.

OUTLINE

1. In Circumcision something is removed.

Circumcision points to Baptism

2. In Passover something is received.

Passover points to The Lord's Supper

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. **What** was the Abrahamic covenant and how was it fulfilled through Jesus Christ?
2. **What** was the purpose of circumcision and in what ways does that relate to baptism today?
3. **What** role does baptism play in the life of a believer today?
4. **How** did the Passover festival point to Jesus Christ, and what connections can we draw between the Passover and the Lord's Supper?
5. **What** is the significance and purpose of participating in the Lord's Supper for a Christian today?
6. **What** personal practices or reflections can help us prepare for the Lord's Supper?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

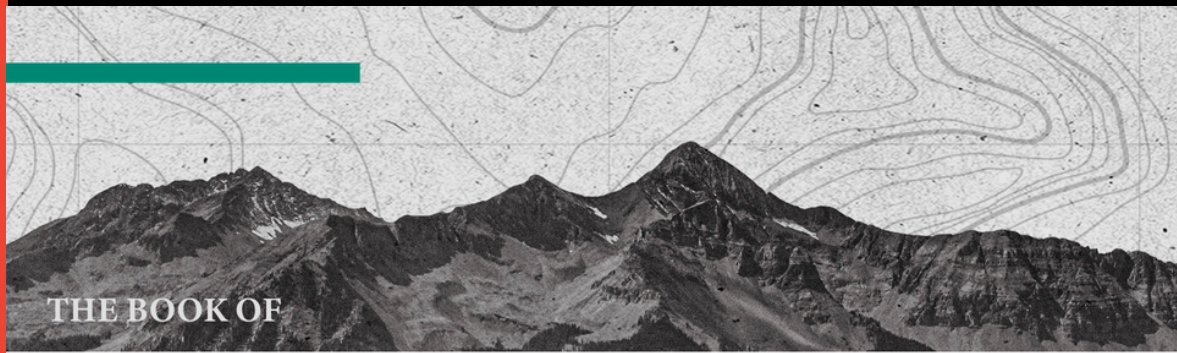
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STUDY GUIDE

Oct 5

Walk By Faith



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

The Christian life begins by faith, and it must continue the very same way. The stories of Rahab and the fall of Jericho show us that faith often looks foolish by human logic, trusting God's promise over our own strategy. This Sunday we will look at what it means to daily walk by faith and not by sight in every area of life.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



Sermon Outline

Title: Walk By Faith

Text: Joshua 2, 6

Prop: As the Christian has begun their life in Christ by grace through faith, we are to continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. Rahab acted on her faith by hiding the spies, a risky decision. What is one practical, "risky" step of obedience God might be calling you to take in your family or workplace this week?
2. What does the story of Rahab (consider her profession and ethnicity) teach us about God's power to save sinners? How does her story encourage you?
3. The Israelite army marched and shouted, acting in faith that God would deliver the victory. What is a situation in your life where you need to stop relying on your own "strategy" and simply obey what God has already said?
4. Faith is not passive. Israel still had to march and shout. In sanctification, what is the difference between passive waiting and active striving in faith?
5. Read Hebrews 11:30-31. Rahab's faith saved her entire household. Who in your circle of influence needs to see the hope of the gospel through your faithful actions and words?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

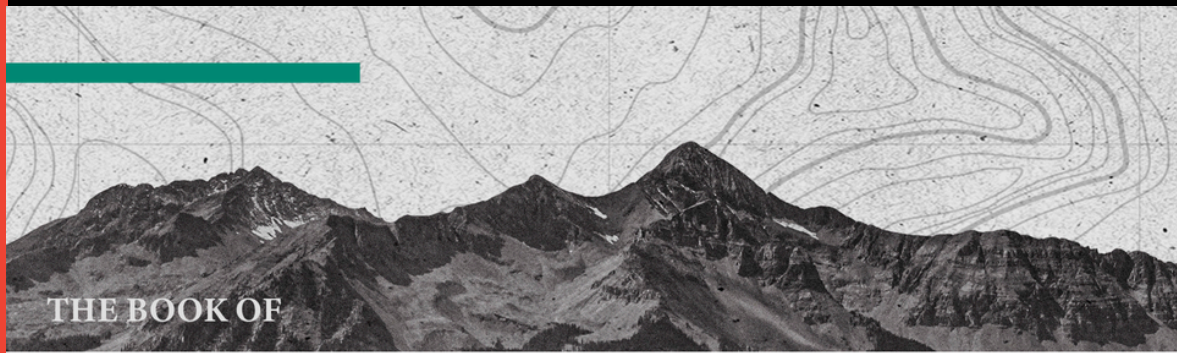
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STUDY GUIDE

Oct 12

Fight Sin



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

The story of Achan's sin in Joshua 7 is a powerful warning: sin is a serious rebellion that affects not only us but everyone around us. This Sunday, we will be reminded that the journey of sanctification is a lifetime of fighting sin together as a church, removing it from our midst. But we will also see how this story points to our ultimate hope—the forgiveness and victory found only in Jesus Christ.

Fighting with you,

TJ



Sermon Outline

Title: Christianity is a lifetime of fighting sin

Text: Joshua 6:18-8:29

Prop: As Christians, we must take seriously the call to remove sin from among our midst, be it public or private, individual or corporate.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

Read Joshua 7-8, summarize the main idea of the text, and share a few key truths from the sermon.

1. As a group, create a Biblical definition of sin.
2. Joshua 7:1-5. What effect did Achan's sin have on Israel and why (Notice God's language of Israel and not just Achan)? In what ways do we see the "sin of one" affecting the "whole body" today?
3. Joshua 7:6-15. What is both right and wrong about Joshua's response to the defeat at Ai and his prayer to God? What can we learn about how we should and should not respond to tragedy today?
4. Joshua 7:16-21. What was the progression (pattern) of Achan's sin, do you see this pattern in other places in scripture or your own life? How can we go about breaking this pattern? What are the Biblical steps one should take when they sin?
5. Joshua 7:22-26 What does the severe outcome for Achan and his family teach us about God's perspective on sin? In what ways might we think of sin too lightly today?
6. In what ways does this passage prepare us for and teach us about Jesus?



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

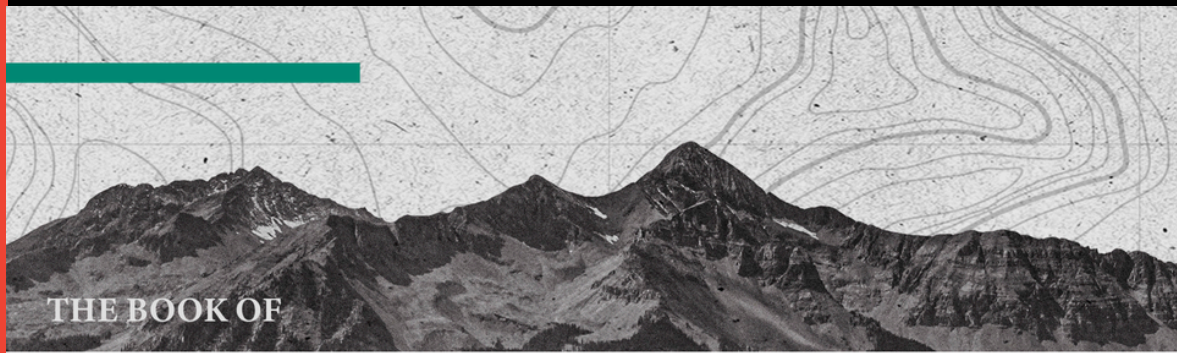
Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

Oct 26

The Assembly



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

TChurch Family,

Many of us have likely heard that Christians can and should consider themselves sons and daughters of God who have been adopted through Christ. I couldn't agree more, but have you ever considered yourself a Son or Daughter of Abraham? As a kid in a rural Mississippi church community, it was fairly common to be taught a kid's church song called "Father Abraham". I will not list the lyrics here, but they can be searched online. As an adult, I've not really sung that song much; however, I have come to a better understanding of how modern day Christians have a strong connection to the saints of the Old Testament and in particular to a claim of being a Son or Daughter of Abraham.

I encourage you to read Galatians 3:5-14 and the fuller context of that chapter and at least ponder how the faith of a modern day Christian connects to the faith the believers in the Old Testament had in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I promise I'm not setting you up for a trick question! The answer is we serve the same God and are called to have the same faith in Jesus.

Yes....we are still in the Joshua sermon series and this week's sermon will focus on the text of Joshua 8:30-35. I hope you can begin to ask how your faith and our weekly gathering is related to the Assembly we read about at the end of Joshua 8, which involves a ceremony marking the fulfillment of God's promised land to Father Abraham.

We are called this Lord's Day to hear from God's Word together. I hope you will join.

Sincerely,
Elder Grant Jones



Sermon Outline

Title: The Assembly

Text: Joshua 8:30-35

OUTLINE

- 1. Verses 30 - 32: The Centrality of the Altar.**
- 2. Verses 33 - 34: The Centrality of the Word.**
- 3. Verse 35: Surrounded by the Assembly.**

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. Read v. 30 - 35: Consider some examples such as Galatians 3:5-14 & John 5:46. Have you ever considered your faith as one connected to the same beliefs and teachings of Old Testament figures such as Abraham and Moses? What implications does this have for understanding who is truly Israel (Romans 9:6) and the value of the Old Testament for New Testament era believers?

2. Read v. 30 - 31: Israel and their leaders organized and carried out the events of this ceremony in accordance with God's commandment to Moses in Deuteronomy 27. In other words, the ceremony at the end of Joshua 8 was not the result of a man-made ceremony that was thought to be a good idea after a great victory, but rather this was a ceremony carried out in accordance with God's instructions. Do you think this has any bearing on how we ought to approach the Lord for the weekly assembly of public worship in modern times (the regulative principle)?

3. Read v.32 - 34: Consider reading the curses that were read in this ceremony from Deuteronomy 27:14-26. How could God's people rightly say "Amen" even to the curses? Saying "Amen" to curses seems a bit counter-cultural in our modern times, right? Can this show us anything about our understanding of God's holiness? Have you become less comfortable with the curses our Lord proclaims over unrighteousness? If so, why? From a worldly perspective it seems easier to only say "Amen" to the blessings. What is the benefit of remembering the curses our Lord proclaims?

4 Read v. 35: Maybe you have heard there is no "I" in Team. Regardless, let's play on that thinking and be reminded that there is no "I in Assembly! Why do you (or also why should you) attend public worship? Is it merely a convenience for our conscience, a checklist, a WeChat



Discussion Questions

moment, a break from a hard work week, a social time with friends? Gathering each week is not chiefly about you. It's about being obedient to the Lord and being with the gathered Assembly. Notice who is assembled in Joshua 8:35 and consider: When preparing and arriving to public worship do you ever just focus on yourself and how you can be benefited? When you consider missing public worship on any given Lord's Day, do you ever consider how this could impact others? Do you see any danger's in a me-centered mindset for the weekly assembly of believers?



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

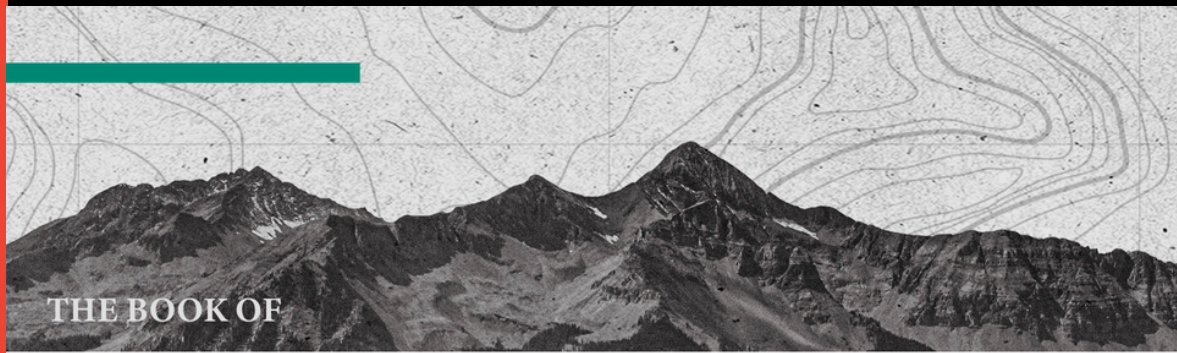


STUDY GUIDE

Nov 2



Keep your word



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

Have you ever made a decision that looked right in the moment but later realized you hadn't stopped to consult God first? In Joshua 9 and 10, we find Israel deceived by the Gibeonites, an encounter that reminds us how vital it is to seek God's wisdom before acting. Yet, even in the aftermath of their mistake, Joshua's faithfulness to keep his word became a living testimony of God's own covenant-keeping nature.

This Sunday, we will unpack what happens when discernment gives way to assumption and how God still turns our missteps into moments of mercy and mission. Come ready for a word that will challenge our decision-making process, deepen our integrity, and draw us closer to the heart of a promise-keeping God.

Elder Raphael Moffett



Sermon Outline

Title: Christianity is a lifetime of integrity - keeping our word.

Text: Joshua 9:1 - 10:15

Prop: The Christian is called to be people who keep their word even when it is difficult.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

Since this is a rather complicated narrative, taking time to individually walk through the COMA method before the small group will help you understand the text well and be ready to make proper application during the Small Group meeting.

C — Context

1. What has just happened in Israel's story prior to chapter 9, and how does that shape the events that follow?
2. How does this story connect to God's command about the nations in the land (Deut. 7:1–6; Num. 27:21)?
3. How is God's mission to bless the nations (Gen. 12:1–3) and the theme of covenant visible in this passage?
4. How does the Gibeonite covenant continue to shape Israel's history in later Scriptures (see Joshua 21:17, 25; 1 Chronicles 9:2; 2 Chronicles 1:3–6; Ezra 2:43–58; Nehemiah 7:46–56; and 2 Samuel 21:1–9), and what does this teach us about the long-term impact of promises made — even those made unwisely?

O — Observation

1. Who are the main characters, and what motivates each group (Israelites, Gibeonites, kings of the land)?
2. Identify verbs that show the Israelites' process (or lack thereof) in discerning God's will — what did they *not* do in v. 14?
3. What repeated ideas or phrases point to the narrator's perspective on the events?

M — Meaning

1. What does this passage reveal about God's expectations for His people in decision making and leadership?
2. Why does God insist Israel keep their oath, even though the covenant was made through deception?
3. How does this episode show both the seriousness of sin and the surprising grace of God?



Discussion Questions

A— Application (*To be discussed during Small Group*)

1. What principles guide you when deciding whether you should or should not make a commitment? What key verses help shape those principles?
2. What principles help you discern whether a person or a report is trustworthy? Share some everyday examples where you've needed to use these principles of discernment.
3. Share a time when it was difficult for you to keep a promise. What made it difficult and how did staying true (or failing to stay true) shape your character and relationships?
4. Where might God be calling you to live with greater integrity — especially in commitments you have already made?
5. Share a time when you made a poor decision that God ultimately used for good. What did you learn about His grace and sovereignty through that experience?



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

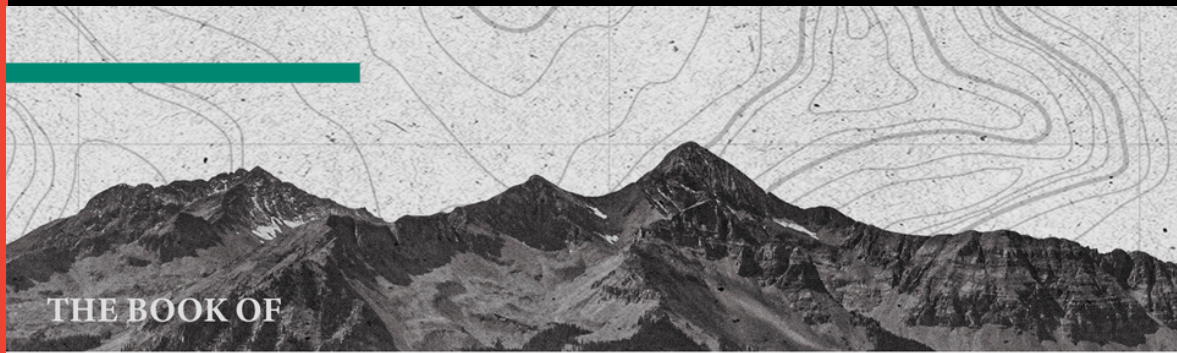
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Life is War

STUDY GUIDE

Nov 9



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

John Owen once wrote, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” That is exactly what Joshua 10–12 reminds us — the Christian life is a real fight. If we do not destroy sin in the land, it will eventually destroy us. This Sunday, we will consider both the intensity of our struggle against sin and the endurance needed to keep going. Take time this week to read our Scripture text and come ready to both be challenged to fight sin and encouraged to trust the God who has fought (and defeated) sin through Jesus’ death on the cross.

Fighting with you,

Ps TJ Johnson



Sermon Outline

Title: Life is War.

Text: Joshua 10:16 - 12:24

Prop: The Christian life is a daily battle for holiness; therefore, we must fight in the Lord's strength with all our might until Christ returns or calls us home.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

1. **How** would you respond to someone who reads these chapters and struggles with God's justice or feels troubled by the violence in the conquest story?
2. **Read Romans 15:4.** How does this section of Scripture instruct us today and what are some right and wrong ways believers might apply these conquest chapters to the church?
3. **What** is a spiritual battle you have faced that felt especially intense or overwhelming, and what made it such a fierce fight in that moment? How did God enable you to stand firm when everything felt difficult?
4. **Eugene Peterson** describes the Christian life as "a long obedience in the same direction." In what area of life have you been tempted to give up or grow weary over time, and what has helped you keep following Jesus with patience and perseverance?
5. **Read Joshua 11:23; Matthew 11:28–30; and Hebrews 4:8–11.** How does the rest God gives us now through Christ differ from the complete and eternal rest still to come, and how can the hope of that future rest strengthen your endurance to keep running the race of faith today?



Discussion Questions

6. **Read Joshua 10:28, 35, 37, 39, 40; Deut. 7:5, 12:2-3; Judges 2:1-5, 11-15.** What was the result of Israel not totally destroying the pagan nations in Canaan? In our own lives, what are pagan influences we tolerate that pull our hearts away from God?

7. **Read Joshua 10:14, 30, 32, 42; 11:8.** What are some ways we see God fighting for Israel as they take the land? What are some ways you have seen God fighting for you in your sanctification?

8. **Read Joshua 11:6-9 & Psalm 20:7.** What are the “horses and chariots” we are tempted to rely on instead of God and what would it look like for you to “burn and hamstring” those things?

9. **How** does this section of Joshua point us forward to Jesus as our ultimate warrior and source of victory, and how does His life, death, and resurrection encourage you to persevere in the fight of faith today?



Prayer & Praise

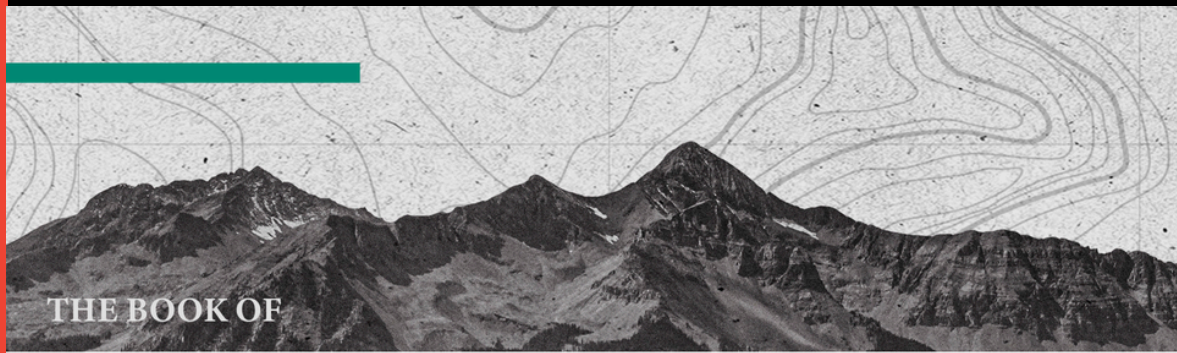
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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Promises Kept



STUDY 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?**
- 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?**
- 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?**
- 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?**
- 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?**
- 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?**
- 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?**



Prayer & Praise

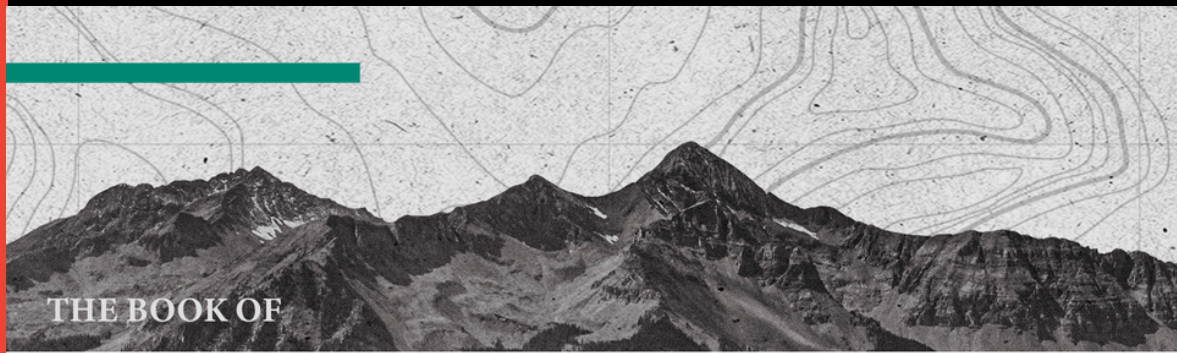
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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Christ Our Refuge



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

STUDY GUIDE

Nov 23

Sermon Overview

In a world shaken by wars and hurricanes, earthquakes and floods, in a world stained by wickedness, sin, and sorrow, every heart longs for a place to run, a shelter in the storm, a refuge in the chaos. But when trials rise against you...when troubles close in... when sin weighs heavily on your soul, where do you run? Where do you try to find comfort? How do you seek forgiveness?

This Sunday, we will look at Joshua 20 as he establishes the Cities of Refuge in the Promised Land. These cities were more than Old Testament stories; they were shadows pointing forward to a greater truth that the Christian life is a lifelong journey of running again and again to Christ, our eternal Refuge.

So, are you continually, intentionally, and wholeheartedly running to Jesus Christ, your only true shelter, in this sinful and troubled world?

Running to Christ with you,

Elder Bemnet



Sermon Outline

Title: Christ Our Refuge

Text: Joshua 20

Proposition: Because Jesus is our perfect refuge, we are called to flee to Him with confidence, trust His mercy, and rest securely in His saving work.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

To go deeper on this topic see: Joshua 20, Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 19, Exodus 21, 2 Samuel 14, Hebrews 6

Exegetical Questions:

1. As you read Numbers 35, what differences do you notice between how the text describes someone who kills “intentionally” and someone who kills “unintentionally,” and how do those differences seem to shape Israel’s understanding of justice, guilt, and innocence?
2. Looking closely at Deuteronomy 19, what specific instructions do you see about how Israel is to set apart the Cities of Refuge and make them reachable, and what might those details suggest about God’s concern for access to protection and fair judgment?
3. In Joshua 20, what do you observe about who may flee to a City of Refuge, how their case is heard, and who receives them, and how do those features help you understand the role of these cities within Israel’s covenant community and legal system?
4. Across these passages, what patterns do you notice about the person called the “avenger of blood” and the limits placed on that person’s actions, and how do those patterns seem to shape or correct Israel’s practice of justice compared to what you might expect in the ancient world?
5. When you trace the instructions about how long someone must remain in a City of Refuge—especially the connection to the high priest’s life and death—what details stand out to you, and how do those details help you understand how Israel viewed atonement, representation, and restoration to the community?
6. As you consider all the passages together, what parts of the instructions or structure surrounding the Cities of Refuge seem unusual, surprising, confusing, or even difficult to understand?



Discussion Questions

Application Questions:

1. The sermon stated that God's desire for sinners is always forgiveness but many wrongly think it is for judgement, have you—or someone close to you—ever struggled to believe that God responds to sin is mercy rather than condemnation (see James 2:13)? What shaped that belief, and what helped shift it (or what still makes it hard)?
2. The sermon described the roads, signs, and open gates of the cities of refuge as a picture of how close and accessible God is. If God is always near and accessible, what are the things that most often keep you from running to Him?
3. Joshua 20 shows the cities were open not only to Israelites but to the foreigner as well. What groups of people do you (or Christians in general) find it hardest to believe can receive God's mercy and why?
4. As the manslayer could only be safe inside the city of refuge, so the sinner is only safe when they are in Christ. What are the most common false refuges non-Christians around you seek refuge in and how can you lovingly show them how Christ is their only hope in life and death?
5. As freedom came only through the high priest's death; so salvation comes only through Jesus' death. After reading Hebrews 6:17–20, consider your week: In what specific areas of fear, temptation, pressure, or discouragement has remembering Christ's death anchored your hope—or where do you need His death and finished work to steady you now?



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

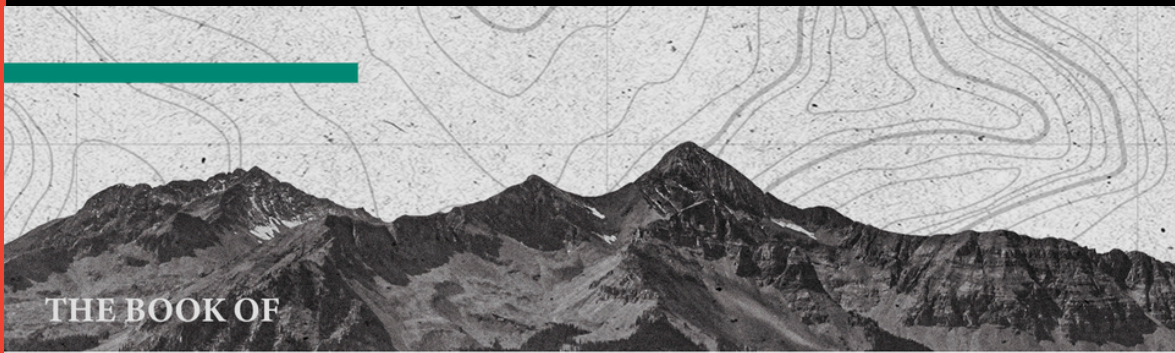
Praise Reports



Commitment to the Church

STUDY GUIDE

Nov 30



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

This Sunday, we'll look closely at the Levites in Joshua 21, a tribe uniquely called and intentionally scattered throughout Israel. They weren't given a single territory, but placed in 48 cities so they could live among the people, offer spiritual guidance, teach God's ways, and keep His presence central in everyday life. Their inheritance was not land, but the Lord Himself.

In the same way, Christians today are on a divine journey. We're strategically placed by God in different communities to be salt and light close to those who need encouragement, truth, and the hope of the gospel. Our identity and inheritance are rooted not in earthly possessions but in Christ, and our placement in the world is purposeful. We will engage five key strategies that keeps Christian's aligned with God's mission, strengthen our commitment to His Church, and remind us that like the Levites, we are set apart to live a life pleasing to God.

Elder Raphael Moffett



Sermon Outline

Title: Commitment to the Church

Text: Joshua 21

Proposition: God has designed it that God's ministers are to live among and disciple God's flock, and this is a symbiotic relationship where both are providing for one another.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions



Please see a map for reference:

<https://www.preceptaustin.org/sites/default/files/images/leviticalcities.jpg>

1. As the Levites were to live among the people, what practical steps can you take to better live among (build deeper relationships with) City Church members, elders, and deacons?
2. As the tribes contributed land to support the Levites, in what ways does the New Testament call church members to support those who labor in ministry, and how does your current approach to giving, serving, or encouraging leaders reflect (or fall short of) this biblical pattern?
3. In what ways was the Levites' presence meant to keep God's Word central among the people and in what ways is this principle reflected in the New Testament? What practical things can you do (or stop doing) to better engage with the weekly teaching of the Word?
4. Since 1 Peter 2:5 teaches that we have now all become priests to God, what are your priestly duties? In what ways are you living out (or can you improve) this priestly role in your home, workplace, school, or community?
5. What purpose do you think God has for sending you to Beijing in this particular season of life and how can we help you fulfill that purpose?
6. In what ways did the Levites have clarity about who they were to shepherd? In what ways does church membership bring clarity about whom we are responsible to when it comes to living out the biblical "one another" commands? (NOTE FOR THE ONE MAKING THE ANSWER...my reasoning behind this question is that God placed these priests in specific cities among specific people. While they were priests for all Israel, practically, they ministered to a particular group of people they lived near.⁶¹ For example, a priest in Kadesh was not responsible for the day-to-day care of someone from Simeon)



Discussion Questions

7. What are the main reasons an expat in Beijing might hesitate to pursue church membership in Beijing, and what are the reasons why one **SHOULD** pursue it?
8. What were the five key strategies mentioned in the sermon that were most challenging to you personally, and why?



Prayer & Praise

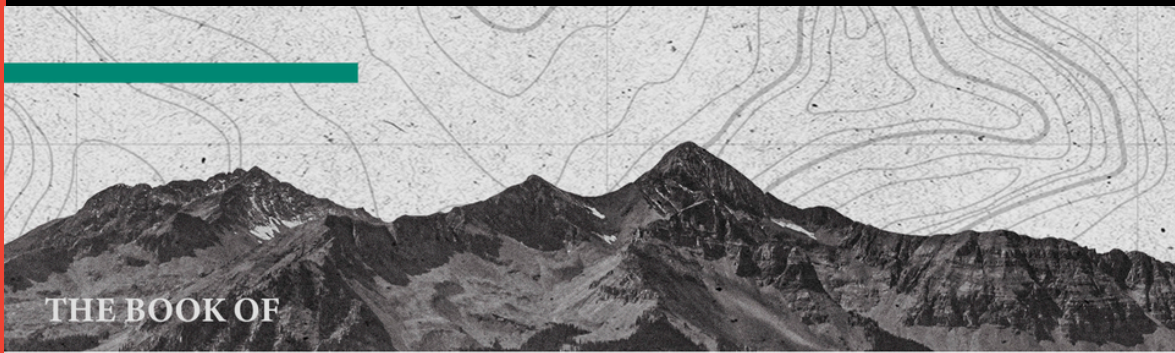
End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Reconciling Differences



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

STUDY GUIDE

Dec 7

Sermon Overview

As the conquest of the land has come to an end, God has given the people “rest on every side” (Jos. 21:44). We may be tempted to think this is the end of conflict as Israel enters a new era of obedience and prosperity. Yet, the Eastern tribes do not even make it back to their lands before internal divisions arise over an altar they built, leading the rest of the nation to assume they were rebelling against God. War and disaster were averted as the two sides eventually reconciled by communicating their assumptions and intentions.

This encounter serves as a reminder of how easy it is for unspoken assumptions to lead to potentially catastrophic actions, even among the closest friends and allies. While the responses we see in the chapter may seem extreme, they are understandable and even commendable in some instances. All this parallels our world today where individuals, churches, and denominations appear hopelessly divided over a multitude of factors. I do not know the exact path for how all these relationships might be restored, but I do believe Joshua 22 provides an ideal model and at least the first step toward reconciliation.

Join us on Sunday as we explore the various dynamics at play and work together as church toward the Christian mandate to reconcile with our brother and sister.

Pastor Zach Mazrim



Sermon Outline

Title: The Christian Life is One of Reconciling Differences

Text: Joshua 22

Proposition: Joshua 22 highlights how God has given his people both a model and a rationale for reconciliation centered on proper worship.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions



1. How have you seen loss of a shared specific vision, pre-existing tensions, and recent events contribute to growing disunity in either the local or global church?
2. How can disagreements among believers today escalate when we make assumptions before clarifying motives? Maybe you have a personal example to share.
3. Read Titus 2:7-10 and 1 Peter 2:11-12. Discuss the types of practices or actions today that more easily lead to misinterpretation by others that we could or should be more aware of.
4. How does Joshua 22 guide us in addressing sin (or potential sin) in a way that pursues peace and proper worship?
5. As noted above, the conflict centered on proper worship of God. When it comes to the conflicts you see in the church and world today, what do you think are the driving forces behind them, right worship or something more selfish or cynical?
6. How difficult do you find it to communicate or give the benefit of the doubt when tense situations arise, particularly among fellow Christians? How might putting these into practice improve your relationships?
7. Maybe you are not the type of person who is often engaged in disputes and disagreements. How can this story equip you to help others who experience more relational conflict than you?
8. The construction of the altar was predicated on a generalized fear over future generations' access and ability to worship. What concerns preoccupy our minds when we think about the spiritual commitment of those who come after us?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

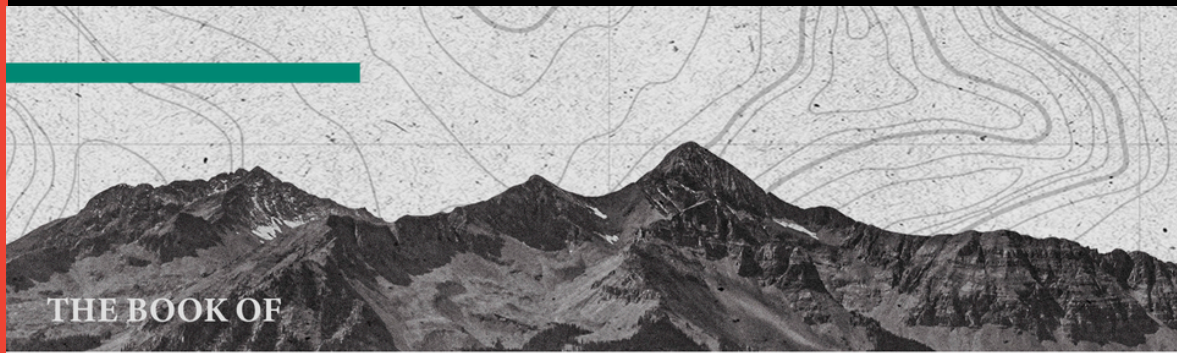
Praise Reports



Lifetime of Grace

STUDY GUIDE

Dec 14



JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

In the closing chapters of Joshua, God's faithfulness stands center stage. Every promise He spoke to Israel, every victory, every protection, every blessing, He fulfilled without fail. Joshua reminds the people that their story was never the product of their own strength or strategy, but of God's unwavering grace. And just as Israel was called to remember who carried them, we too are called to recognize that every good thing in our lives flows from the unmerited favor of God.

"Grace Alone" invites us to reflect on the God who keeps His word, who surrounds us with kindness we could never earn, and who walks with us through every chapter of our journey. When we understand how grace works we learn to release the illusion of self-orchestrated success and instead offer God the glory for every blessing in the production that is our life.

This message calls us not only to celebrate God's faithfulness, but also to renew our own commitment to Him, trusting that the same grace that carried Israel will carry us, shape us, and lead us forward.

Elder Raphael Moffett



Sermon Outline

Title: The Christian Life is One of Reconciling Differences

Text: Joshua 23:1-24:13

Proposition: The Christian fight for holiness fails when, in our pride, we think we are above temptation; therefore, let us daily be reminded that our Christian journey is all of grace.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes

Discussion Questions



1. Read Joshua 23:3, 24:1–13.

What are specific ways you've seen God's faithfulness in your life over the past year?

2. Read Joshua 23:6–8, 12–13

As expats navigating a different culture, workplace norms, and social expectations, where do you feel the strongest pull to “blend in” in ways that could compromise your walk with Christ? What temptations do Christians face today to marry non-Christians, why is this wrong, and how can we encourage them to not turn back?

3. Read Joshua 23:9–10

Where can we apply these verses to our lives today? And where would it be a misunderstanding to apply this verse, as if God guarantees success in whatever we attempt? Explain your reasoning.

4. Read Joshua 23:11

What are some ways we can stir up our love for God?

5. Read Joshua 23:15–16

What do these covenant curses reveal about the eternal nature of God and how should this shape how we live our lives today?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports