

JOSHUA

THE POWER OF GOD'S PROMISE

Joshua Bible Studies: Part Two

Joshua

PART ONE: CONQUERING A HOSTILE WORLD

12/6	Joshua 1:1-18	The Power of Promise
19/6	Joshua 2:1-24	The Promise and The Prostitute
26/6	Joshua 3:1-5:15 (3:1-17)	The Promise of a Priestly People
3/7	Joshua 5:13-6:27 (6:1-27)	The Promise Fulfilled

PART TWO: THE POWER OF GOD'S PROMISE

10/7	Joshua 7:1-8:35 (7:1-26)	The Promise in Jeopardy
17/7	Joshua 9:1-12:24 (9:1-10:15)	The Promise is Victorious
24/7	Joshua 13-21 (13:1-13)	The Promise of Rest is Fulfilled
31/7	Joshua 22-24 (24:1-33)	The Promise Renewed

In Genesis 12, 15 and 17, God had promised Abraham that he would have many offspring, have his own land, and be blessed. By the end of the Pentateuch, the promise of offspring had been fulfilled – the Israelites numbered 601,730 men (Numbers 26:51) so perhaps 1-2 million people. After a promise to them 400 years earlier and an exodus 40 years earlier, finally they are at the gateway to the land of milk and honey. Moses is dead and Joshua is now leader. His challenge: take the land of Canaan, the Promised Land. To conquer a hostile world.



5. What did they do right this time? Why is the conquest of Ai so bloodthirsty?

Application

6. How does Jesus operate by the principle that sin is violent? (Hebrews 9:22)

7. Given the cost of sin, what should our attitude to sin be? (John 5:14, John 8:11)

8. Why is it even important to keep the Christian fellowship free from certain sinners? (1 Corinthians 5:6-8, 11-13, 2 John 1:10, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

Study 6
Joshua 9:1-12:24
The Promise is Victorious

Treaty with Canaanites

1. Scan 9:1-10:15. What problems did the Gibeonites bring to Israel?
2. Why keep Gibeonites in a subjugate status? (9:23)
3. How did Israel repeat their mistake again with the Gibeonites (2 Sam. 21:1-4)?

Application

4. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14. What does the Bible say about who Christians should partner with?

The Conquest of the Land

5. Scan 10:16-12:24. What is the repeated refrain in this passage?

The condition of the Canaanites	God's responsibility

6. Why are the passages so violent?

Application

7. For the Christian, the victory of God no longer comes through man but through God and not on this world today but in the world to come. What is this victory? How does this give us hope in a hostile world? (Romans 8:31ff)

Study 7

Joshua 13-22

The Promise of Rest is Fulfilled

Observe

1. As an exercise, allocate a tribe (or two) to group members. Locate on the map and, from the passage, examine what has been allocated to them. Are there any interesting facts to share?



Think it through

2. The time has now come to divide the land. It is five years since the conquest began (14:10). Why might now be a good time to ‘settle down’?

3. The land is described as an ‘inheritance’. Why is this significant? (Genesis 21:10, Exodus 15:17, Exodus 32:13; Leviticus 20:24).

4. Why do Levites have no inheritance? (Numbers 18:21)

Application

5. What is the Christian’s inheritance? (1 Peter 1:4)

6. There’s a hint in 13:1-5 that, although the war is over, the land has not all been taken over. cf. initial promises (1:4)

7. Where and when is the rest for the Christian? (Hebrews 4:1-11)

Study 8
Joshua 23-24
The Promise Renewed

Observe

1. In detail, what are the two edifice meant to symbolise? (22:34, 24:27)

22:1-34	24:1-28

Think it through

2. What are the Israelites meant to do? What does it mean in 24:19 that they are not able to serve the Lord?

3. How are they to serve the Lord?

4. Why did the other tribes visit the east Jordan tribes? Why is that important?

Application

5. What is our task today? (Matthew 6:24, Matthew 28:18) How can we serve God better?

6. Why should we support each other in doing this? (Hebrews 10:19-30) How can we serve each other better?

Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors served ... and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:14-15