

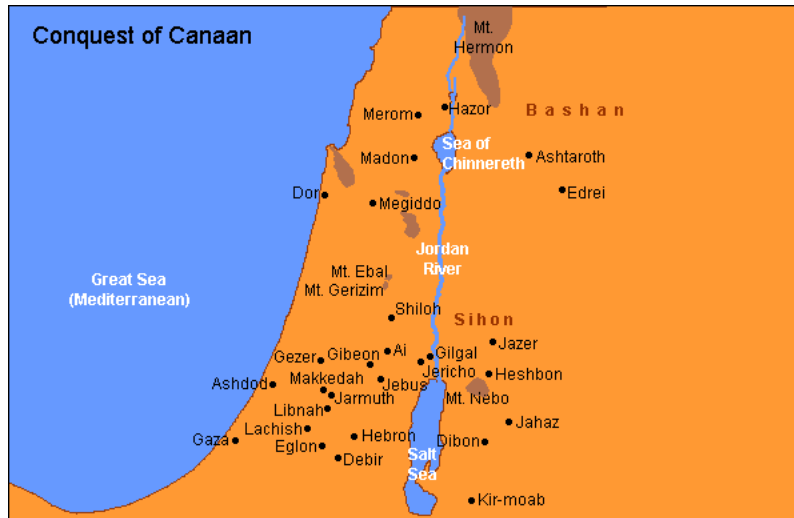
OT-OV

Lesson 72

1. Earlier we explored the Doctrine of Joshua. When we last met we were tracing the actions of Joshua in his campaign to defeat the key Philistine strongholds located in the south of Canaan.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will begin new material on page three.
3. The Book of Joshua is a tale of Moses' death, Joshua as his replacement and the victories (and an occasional defeat) of the enemies in the land. The book was written from somewhere in Canaan in about 1427 B.C.
4. It is a story of God demanding trust, Israel's need to learn war and their need to follow His rules and fight for their land.
5. The importance of doctrine is stressed as a source of success. Jos 1:8
6. Joshua was the leader of the Israelites in their conquest of the Promised Land.
7. It is possible that Joshua had been trained in Pharaoh's army.
8. During the year at Mount Sinai Joshua served as personal attendant to Moses. (Exo 24:13; 32:17; 33:11)
9. In addition to whatever contacts he may have had before the Exodus, Joshua gained experience of Canaan as one of the 12 spies.
10. The Lord ordered Moses to give Joshua a commission as the new shepherd of His people.
11. Moses invested Joshua solemnly with honor and authority before Eleazar the high priest and the entire congregation, and imparted to him a spirit of wisdom as he laid his hands upon him. (Num 27:18, 23; Deu 34:9)
12. As part of Moses' final arrangements he charged Joshua publicly to be strong and courageous in order to bring Israel to the land of its promised inheritance (Deu 31:3, 7-8).
13. When Moses and his successor went and stood at the door of the tent of meeting, God directly commissioned Joshua. (Deu 31:14-15, 23)

14. The Doctrine of Joshua's spies:

14.1 Having some firsthand knowledge of Canaan from his own spying experience, Joshua prudently sent spies to Jericho, the key fortress of the entire southern Jordan Valley.



14.2 The mission of Joshua's two spies was carefully concealed, even from the Israelites, lest the circulation of an unfavorable report should dishearten the people (recall Num 13:28-33, 14:1-4).

14.3 They came into an harlot's house, named Rahab. They were no doubt guided by the Lord, they did not just "happen upon" her home.

14.4 Her house was built against the western city wall; hence her house was some distance from the one city gate of Jericho.

14.5 Many have conjectured that Salmon the father of Boaz was one of the two spies sent by Joshua; this only because Mat 1:5 tells us his wife was Rahab.

14.6 Joshua sent two spies to reconnoiter the bastion of Jericho and commanded them to keep their mission secret lest their report discourage the people as the ten spies had done.

14.7 God by working many miracles for Israel had filled the inhabitants of the land with terror. Rahab made this known to the spies.

14.8 God, no doubt further impressed the inhabitants of Jericho, by stopping the flow of the Jordan (at flood stage) thus permitting safe passage across the Jordan just as he had done at the Red Sea. Jos 3:14-17

15. Joshua had the men born in the wilderness circumcised (Jos 5:2-9).

15.1 The nation was willing once again to walk by faith with Yahweh their God in the promises of the Abrahamic covenant and to submit to circumcision, the covenant sign.

16. Joshua exhibited great faith and discipline in obeying God's unusual tactics for reducing Jericho.

17. He commanded the priests and people to march round the city each day and to refrain from shouts and retorts to the undoubted mockery of the defending Canaanites. (Jos 6:6-10).

18. Except for Achan, the Israelite troops followed his orders in not looting the ruins for their own benefit.

19. With blitzkrieg speed he assaulted the key southern strongholds one after another, aiming at killing their troops rather than occupying and holding the cities. (Jos 10:28-43)

19.1 As we studied in our Doctrine of War, this is the way God expects nations to wage war.

20. He counted on divine direction and support, on surprise and ruse, on discipline and incentive among his own troops, and on collapse of enemy morale rather than on superior weapons and numbers. Such was the case when he attacked and defeated the southern cities of Judah. Jos 10:25-42; 11:6-15

21. He subdued the country as a whole and secured it sufficiently to enable each tribe to enter and claim its allotted inheritance. Israelite settlement and city building followed gradually during the time from the judges to David. The cities were rebuilt for Israel's use, not the Canaanites.

22. Joshua possessed the qualities of a true leader.

22.1 He displayed great courage from his first battle with the Amalekites at Rephidim in the south, grimly holding fast whenever they began to prevail, to his attack on the combined Canaanite kings at the waters of Merom in the north.

23. He was quick to receive and obey orders from his divine Commander-in-Chief (Jos 5:13-6:5), humble enough to recognize his constant need to depend on the Lord.

Jos 5:15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. Joshua did so.

24. Joshua was a man of honor.

24.1 He carried out the agreement made by the two spies with the household of Rahab and spared her family when Jericho fell (Jos 6:22-25).

Jos 6:22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her."

Jos 6:23 So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

Jos 6:24 Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD'S house.

Jos 6:25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho-- and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

24.2 Nor did he abrogate the treaty made by the Israelite princes with the Gibeonites. (Jos 9:18-26)

Jos 9:18 But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders,

Jos 9:19 but all the leaders answered, "We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now.

Jos 9:20 This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them."

Jos 9:21 They continued, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community." So the leaders' promise to them was kept.

Jos 9:22 Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, "Why did you deceive us by saying, 'We live a long way from you,' while actually you live near us?"

Jos 9:23 You are now under a curse: You will never cease to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

Jos 9:24 They answered Joshua, "Your servants were clearly told how the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this.

Jos 9:25 We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you."

Jos 9:26 So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them.

25. His finest quality was his utter devotion to the law of God.

26. He saturated his mind and heart with the Word of the Lord as Moses directed him.

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Jos 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

26.1 Thus the nation had confidence in his decisions.

Jos 1:13 "Remember the command that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land.'

Jos 1:14 Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, fully armed, must cross over ahead of your brothers. You are to help your brothers

Jos 1:15 until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

Jos 1:16 Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

Jos 1:17 Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses.

Jos 1:18 Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey your words, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"

Jos 11:12 Joshua took all these royal cities and their kings and put them to the sword. He totally destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.

Jos 11:13 Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built on their mounds--except Hazor, which Joshua burned.

Jos 11:14 The Israelites carried off for themselves all the plunder and livestock of these cities, but all the people they put to the sword until they completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone that breathed.

Jos 11:15 As the LORD commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.

Jos 14:1 Now these are the areas the Israelites received as an inheritance in the land¹ of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel allotted to them.

Jos 14:2 Their inheritances were assigned by lot to the nine-and-a-half tribes, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

Jos 14:3 Moses had granted the two-and-a-half tribes their inheritance east of the Jordan but had not granted the Levites an inheritance among the rest,

Jos 14:4 for the sons of Joseph had become two tribes--Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites received no share of the land but only towns to live in, with pasturelands for their flocks and herds.

Jos 14:5 So the Israelites divided the land, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.



27. In the midst of his early campaigns Joshua took time to establish Israel's covenant as the new law of the land at its very center, at Gerizim and Ebal (Jos 8:30-35).

Jos 8:30 Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal,

Jos 8:31 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

Jos 8:32 And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

Jos 8:33 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

Jos 8:34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

Jos 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

27.1 In his farewell addresses he appealed to the people to renew their covenant commitment with the Lord and exhorted them "to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses." (Jos 23:6)

Jos 23:6 Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

28. His godly example continued to influence the nation even after his death, during the lifetime of the elders who outlived Joshua.

Jos 24:31 And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that out lived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

End Lesson

