

Mid-Morning
December 20, 2016
Dr. Mitch Kruse

Themes and Threads of the Bible: The Historical Books (Joshua – Esther)
****December 20th's show focuses exclusively on Joshua***

JOSHUA

Author: Joshua

Theme: Seize the Promise

Background:

First of 12 Historical books
First half (Chapters 1-12) describes the 7-year conquest of the Promised Land
Second half (Chapters 13-24) records how the land was settled among the 12 tribes
Military campaigns involved more than 30 enemy armies

Part 1: Becoming a Person of Promise: Joshua, God's Man

Progression of Joshua's Leadership

Moses' Military Commander:

Joshua defeated Amalekite army as Moses' hands were held up (Exodus 17:9-16)

Moses' Aide:

Joshua aided Moses as he ascended Mt. Sinai to meet with God for 40 days (Exodus 24:13-18)

Joshua aided Moses in the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 33:11)

Joshua aided Moses with extreme loyalty when others prophesied (Numbers 11:28-29)

Moses' Spy:

Joshua explored Canaan (Numbers 13:16)

Joshua and Caleb believed that God would deliver the land when the others did not (Numbers 14:6)

Joshua and Caleb were blessed for their belief in God with permission to enter the land (Numbers 14:30, 38; 26:65)

Moses' Successor:

Joshua was filled with a *spirit* that was attractive to God, and he was commissioned as Moses' successor (Numbers 27:18-22)

Definition of a Promise

A promise means "to send forth," a message of commitment comes *vertically* from God that requires us to trust Him and subsequently obey that commitment *horizontally* in our relationships. In the life of Joshua recorded in the Torah, we see the crossroads of *vertical trust* intersecting with *horizontal obedience* in three characteristics of Joshua becoming a person of promise who: *follows God wholeheartedly, leads courageously, and leads wisely.*

A Person of Promise:

(1) Follows God Wholeheartedly (Fully): Joshua followed God wholeheartedly (fully surrendered) (Numbers 32:12)

Example:

Moses' Spy

Vertical Trust: God commanded Moses to explore the Promised Land

Horizontal Obedience:

Joshua explored Canaan (Numbers 13:16)

Joshua and Caleb believed that God would deliver the land when the others did not (Numbers 14:6)

Joshua and Caleb were blessed for their belief in God with permission to enter the land (Numbers 14:30, 38; 26:65)

(2) Leads Courageously: Joshua was encouraged by God through Moses to *lead* the people into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 1:38)

Examples:

Moses' Successor

Vertical Trust: God commands, "Be strong and courageous, not afraid or discouraged"

"God goes before us, leads with us, and never leaves or forsakes us" (Deut. 31:7-8, 23)

Moses' Military Commander (Exod. 17:9-16)

God gave instructions to hold up Moses' arms

Horizontal Obedience: Joshua fought as ordered and overcame the Amalekite army

(3) Leads Wisely: Joshua was filled with the spirit of *wisdom* from God, and the people listened (Deuteronomy 34:9)

Examples:

Moses' Successor

Joshua was filled with a *spirit* that was attractive to God, and he was commissioned as Moses' successor (Numbers 27:18-23)

Moses' Aide

Vertical Trust: God called Moses and Joshua to meet with Him

Horizontal Obedience:

Joshua aided Moses as he ascends Mt. Sinai to meet with God for 40 days (Exodus 24:13-18)

Joshua aided Moses in the Tent of Meeting where he stayed (Exodus 33:11)

Joshua aided Moses with extreme loyalty when others prophesied (Numbers 11:28-29)

Joshua was looking forward to the Promise (Hebrews 11:39-40)

Christ is the promise (Romans 15:8)

(1) Those who *follow God wholeheartedly* (fully surrender) receive the promise of Christ (Galatians 3:22, 29; 2 Corinthians 1:20)

All our promises in Christ are "Yes and Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Eternal Life (1 John 2:25; 2 Peter 3:9)

(2) In Christ, God *encourages us to lead courageously* with the seal of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Acts 1:4; 2:33)

(3) In Christ, God gives us *wisdom to lead* (James 1:5; Proverbs 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:24)

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Would those closest to you describe you as a person of promise? Take Joshua's promise test. Are you following God wholeheartedly in a fully surrendered relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you lead courageously? Do you lead wisely? Make a commitment to read through the book of Joshua, a chapter a day over the next month. Ask God to make you a person of promise as you yield to the Holy Spirit breathing life into the hearts of others around you.

Part 2: The Promise: God's Vision is followed by His Provision (Joshua 1)

God Speaks Leadership Requirements (Joshua 1:1-9)

Be strong and courageous

Obey and Meditate on the Word

Joshua Leads (Joshua 1:10-15)
The People Follow (Joshua 1:16-18)

Part 3: Risking with God's Promise (Joshua 2)

Part 4: 12 Stones: Remembering God's Provision of the Crossing (Joshua 3-4)

What kinds of challenges cause you to forget God? We can't remember if we haven't first experienced God. Unfortunately, we often forget.

About two months after Moses had died, Joshua led the Israelites to the Jordan River during its spring flood stage needing a miracle to cross it. God had parted the Red Sea for Moses, but would He do the same for Joshua with the Jordan? Rather than part the Jordan before the people entered the water as He had done with the Red Sea, God required the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant to first step into it.

God commanded the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant into the water at which time He cut off the flow of downstream waters from the melting snow of Mt. Lebanon to stand them up in a heap so that the Israelites could cross on dry land. After the entire nation had crossed the Jordan River, God commanded Joshua to choose twelve people—one from each tribe—to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan where the priests had stood. Joshua used the stones to build a memorial to remember God's provision for the people to cross the Jordan.

Experience God (Joshua 3:1-17; 4:10-18)

God's vision (Joshua 3:1-13)

God's provision (Joshua 3:14-17; 4:10-18)

Remember that God's vision is followed by His provision (Joshua 4:1-9; 19-24)

The hand of the Lord is powerful (Joshua 4:24a)

"Know," *yada*, means "experience;" "Hand" is *yad* in Hebrew, thus a play on words—the Ark of the Covenant housing God's commands is a type of Christ's hand

The hand that held the life flow of the waters from Mt. Lebanon on one side and the Dead Sea on the other provided the provision of the crossing from the death of the desert to the life of the Promised Land

God keeps his promises (Ps. 145:13; Josh. 21:45)

God has placed everything into Christ's hands (John 3:35)

Christ is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)

Always fear the Lord your God (Joshua 4:24b)

Humility remembers (Deuteronomy 8:18)

Pride forgets (Deuteronomy 8:19-20)

They forgot (Judges 2:10, 21:25; 1 Samuel 12:9)

Christ is humble in heart (Matthew 11:29)

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Will you remember or forget God's provision of the crossing? Will you humble or harden your heart? Build a memorial with your stone remembering God's provision. If you don't know Him, will you take that step of faith today?

Develop memorials with your children, which demonstrate God's provision for the crossing: a prayer journal, a marked-up Bible, a changed life, or a letter. They will cherish them and pass their markers to future generations.

Part 5: God Delivers on His Promise (Joshua 5:13-6:27)

God Delivers Jericho

Part 6: Sin: The Promise Barrier—Devoted to Destruction (Joshua 7)

The Results of sin: Ai routes the Israelite Spies (Joshua 7:1-5)

Joshua Seeks God (Joshua 7:6-9)

God Speaks (Joshua 7:10-15)
Disobedience Defined (Joshua 7:11-12a)
Destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction (Joshua 7:12b)
Consecrate Yourself (Joshua 7:13-15)
The People Purge and God Relents, Delivering Ai (Joshua 7:16-26; 8:1-29)

Part 7: The Promise of God's Word (Joshua 8:30-35)

Joshua Builds and Altar of Sacrifice (Joshua 8:30-31)
Joshua Copies the Law on Stone Tablets (Joshua 8:32-33)
Joshua Reads the Law to the People (Joshua 8:34-35)

Part 8: The Promise of Prayer: God Listens to a Man

Joshua Prays and the Sun Stands Still over Gibeon (Joshua 10:1-15)

Part 9: The Conquest and Division of the Promised Land (Joshua 11:1-23:16)

Part 10: Living the Promise: Everybody is going to serve somebody (Joshua 24)

History of God's Provision (Joshua 24:1-13)
Choose whom you will serve (24:14-15, 16-22)
Throw away foreign gods (Joshua 24:14, 23)
Yield your Heart (24:23)

Key Verses:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

"But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Joshua 22:5).

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Joshua was a leader who believed in God's promises, which resulted in him being strong, courageous, loving, obedient, and a humble servant of God. Are you afraid of the challenges you are facing? Are you discouraged by foolish choices you have made? Do you find yourself apathetic to those around you? Have you been led away from God's design for your life? Perhaps, it is time to humble your heart to God, repeatedly saying, "I am a servant of Christ." Write or type this phrase in a place where you will constantly see it over the next month. Watch how God will change your perspective of the challenges in your life and use you to bring His restoration others, filling your heart with strength, courage, love, obedience, and humility.