

Joshua

Well, last week we completed the last of the five books written by Moses, the Pentateuch

I. Geneses - God's creation

- A. heavens and earth
- B. mankind
- C. creation of sin
- D. God's redemptive plan to save the world through one family - "Abrams Family" who by the sovereign hand of God was guided to and provided for in egypt

II. Exodus - God's redemption

- A. That family became a nation with millions
- B. New Pharaoh - oppression
- C. Raised up Moses to lead
- D. Delivered through the blood of the lamb out of Egypt
- E. Out to mount Sinai for a year
- F. The law is given

III. Leviticus - God's holiness

- A. Leviticus was a book all about worship; how to approach God through a sacrificial system, and through a priesthood - all of which pointed to and pictured, and would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus

IV. Numbers - Preparation

- A. In Numbers we saw Israel organized and prepared by God to enter the Promised Land. And it was during that time of organization and

preparation to enter the land that Israel failed to believe that God would honor His promise to Abraham, and actually get them into the land. They had failed so completely to trust Him, that at one point they're saying, "Let's vote on a new leader, and let him take us back to Egypt. And because of that massive failure the 11- day journey from Mt. Sinai to the entrance of the Promised Land turned into a 40-year death march

V. Deuteronomy

- A. Deuteronomy is essentially three farewell speeches by Moses. And in those three farewell speeches Moses proclaimed old truth to a new generation

VI. **And that brings us to the 6th book along Route 66, the book of Joshua.**

- A. Now as we come to the book of Joshua, the nation of Israel is formed, Moses has died, and Israel is now on the border of the Promised Land, just on the east side of the Jordan. And in the book of Joshua they are going to cross the Jordan River and they are going to possess the land of the Canaanites.

B. 3 things note:

1. 1. The First - the unique place that this book occupies in the Bible (and in particular in the Old Testament),
2. 2. Second – the form of this book, how it rolls out,
3. 3. And then lastly – just a real quick look at some of the notables of this book.

C. **1. The unique place that this book occupies in the Bible**

- a) The book of Joshua marks a transition in 39 books of the Old Testament. Joshua marks the beginning of what is called the "Historical" books of the Old Testament. That's a real important fact. That's the place that this book occupies – the

transition from the Pentateuch, from the Law into the historical books of the Old Testament - twelve books that span from Joshua through Esther. These historical books are primarily narrative. And these twelve books contain the inspired record of approximately 800 years in Israel's history

b) This section of the bible 2 parts to It:

- (1) **The First division** (Joshua - 2 Chronicles) and that division you would subtitle - Israel in the Land
- (2) **The Second Division** - Ezra through Esther – this would be - Israel After the Exile

D. 2. Now for the Form of this book – how is it going to roll out?

1. Joshua divides into 3 sections

- a) 1. Crossing Jordan (Joshua 1–5)
- b) 2. Conquering the Enemy (Joshua 6–12)
- c) 3. Claiming and Possessing their Inheritance (Joshua 13–24)

E. 3. Some things to note

1. Here's the first: The book of Joshua speaks of Israel's occupation of the land of Canaan. That's one of the reasons we have this book. Now, there are a lot of people today who have a big problem with Israel going in and taking the Land

a) Understand this about the people who lived in Canaan

(1) War was a practical reality in the ancient Near East. Like all other nations back then, Israel had to fight to survive. Israel's world was one in which "peoples [took] away land from each other by force."⁶ To keep their national identity, Israel would need to be prepared to do battle. Otherwise, they would not last

(2) **But more importantly - Because God is holy, there comes a time – whether in this life or in the life to come or in both—when God must deal with unrepentant, wicked persons for the sake of his righteous character**

b) A little bit about the Canaanites - Archaeology confirms the polytheism and the utter immorality of pagan Canaanite culture amongst the Canaanites. A simple list of the Canaanite pantheon included El, Asherah, and Baal.

c) The head of their pantheon was called El, which means – ‘the mighty one’

(a) Asherah was one of his sisters, who was also one of his wives.

(b) The son of El and Asherah was Baal, which means – ‘lord’.

(c) And as we move through the historical books we read about the worship of Baal continuing. One of the ones that probably first comes to mind, for anybody who has read through the Old Testament, is that great showdown on Mount Carmel between the prophets of Baal, and Elijah, the prophet of Yahweh.

(d) Now the worship of these pagan idols involved gross sexual immorality, sexual perversion, and child sacrifice. Children were conceived in meaningless sex that was performed in these pagan rituals. And children conceived in meaningless sex were meaningless and worthless to those who conceived them - and they were given back to the gods, burned alive as sacrifices.

(e) **Here’s the point:** God wasn’t wrong to bring judgment on corrupt Canaanite culture, and he was willing to

receive any who would turn to him (as Rahab did) and **Geneses** tells us that they had 430 years to turn repent

- (f) **God, who is the author and giver of life, is cheating no one by taking his life up again.** The suffering Job summarizes this nicely: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21). It is God’s prerogative to take the life he has given. He doesn’t owe anyone seventy or eighty years of life. If God is punishing those who are corrupt and too far gone morally

2. The book of Joshua is huge for every Christian because it shouts to us that when God makes a promise, you can be sure that He'll keep it

- a) **Remember God promised Abraham this land - Genesis 12:6–7 (ESV)** ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, **“To your offspring I will give this land.”** So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.
- b) This is a reminder that the God that we serve is a promise keeping God.
- c) The New Testament tells us that **“Jesus is the Author and the Finisher (some of your translations read “Author and Perfector) of our faith”** - in Hebrews 12:2.
- d) The New Testament tells us that when God begins a work He always completes it. - **Paul says in Philipians 1: “6 I’m confident that He who has begun a good work in you will also complete it.**

3. The book of Joshua is a book depicts a clear picture of the christian life - They were slaves to pharaoh, and God rescued

and redeemed them...and brought into the place of blessing that He promised long ago.

- (1) Now, theirs blessings and victories to be enjoyed ...but theres...still battles to fight, theres still failures ahead, theres still lots of struggle...and thats a realistic picture of the Christian life
- (2) This book of Joshua informs us that Satan is not going to freely give up real estate in your life that once used to belong to him. When you come to faith in Jesus, the enemy of your soul doesn't just raise the white flag and surrender. Now he can never rob you of your salvation. But when you decide that you want to be that man, that woman, that's going to say, "“For me to live is Jesus”; Jesus is my life; I want all of Jesus that I could possibly know and experience”, I can guarantee you that the enemy of your soul is going to dig in and resist any progress towards such a life. There is going to be a fight!
- (3) This book of Joshua informs us that – the only way to possess our inheritance in Christ, the only way to victory over the world, the flesh and the devil is –
- (4) by faith,
- (5) by following our Joshua,
- (6) by obeying His marching orders,
- (7) by being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- (8) And the book of Joshua is packed with illustrations and insights into what that looks like, what it means to live victoriously in Jesus. So let's drive through the book

The First Section - Crossing Jordan

Joshua 1 - Is all about the person Joshua

Now, in Numbers 27 Moses has essentially found out that he's not going into the promised land because he misrepresented God...now Moses could have just forsaken the whole thing...but he doesn't, He intercedes for the people...

Numbers 27:15–19 (ESV) ¹⁵ Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶ “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation ¹⁷ who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.” ¹⁸ So the Lord said to Moses, “**Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. ¹⁹ Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight**”

Insight: Serving the Lord works like this: There's a **divine side**, there's a **human side**

- A. Divine side - God chose Joshua - He could have chosen Caleb... But He chose Joshua - The sovereign will and choice of God is always the cause and the starting point when it comes to serving God
 - 1. Paul launched five of his letters with that very truth.
 - 2. In five of his epistles we'll read - “Paul, an apostle by the will of God.” In another epistle he said that his apostleship “was not from man, nor through man”
 - 3. That is the Divine side of serving the Lord....We always have to resign ourselves to the Divine origin of all service in the kingdom
- B. Human side - Joshua 1:1 (ESV) ¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' **assistant...**“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over

this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel

1. **Joshua had a heart to serve - He was Moses' assistant** - He wasn't of at some cafe blogging about how how doesn't like the direction of the children of is Israel...just waiting for the opportunities to roll up...He's been called...but He's also in motion
 - a) He learned about leadership by serving the man God had appointed to lead. And that was by God's appointment. God placed Joshua alongside of Moses long before Joshua was chosen to lead the people into the Promised Land. And by God's positioning of Joshua, Joshua saw the things that Moses valued.
2. **Joshua had a heart for fellowship with God** - Another trait of Joshua is that he was a man who cherished fellowship with God. In Exodus 33 we were told that before the tabernacle was constructed that Moses would go outside of the camp and pitch a tent; and there the Lord would meet with Moses. But then we're told in – **Exodus 33:11 When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent”**
3. Understand these are the big qualifications for ministry - A heart for to Serve and a heart for God...those are the foundation for all the other things

Joshua 1:1–5 (ESV) ¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ² “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be

able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Insight: Notice the faithfulness of God here

It's so awesome to see these words of God – I am giving to them;
I have given;
just as I promised;
just as I was, so I will be.

Guys – Leaders change; Times change; But God does not change

So how is God going to lead Joshua?

Joshua 1:8 ⁸ **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,** but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success

Insight: take note of this, this is the first time the word of god is mentioned...

1. Before this, God would lead though a pillar and a cloud...But now as the've entered into the promise land God give them the "book of the Law" The word of God to guid this generation
2. Now, understand It's partial at this point: but it's God word as it stands...given so that Joshua can be wise
 - (1) Let it guild the things you say - "the law shall not depart from your mouth"
 - (2) Let it guild the way you live "be careful to do it"
3. Do you approach God's word like this? - we should

Joshua 2 - tells the story of two men who spy out the city of Jericho, and a woman named Rahab

Joshua 2:1 (ESV) ¹ And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

Insight: Rahab was a prostitute. Her life's a really big deal, because her life tells us that our past failures don't mean that God could never save us or that God could never powerfully use us:

- C. In chapter 2 she comes to terms with the fact that she's in sin, and that she's gonna judged
- D. By Faith she aids these 2 spys sent from Joshua...to spy out the land
- E. And in that encounter – it's radical – Rahab comes to grips with the folly of her idolatry; and she realizes that there is hope in the God of Israel. And she makes a decision to turn from her sin and from her Idols, and to place her hope on the God of Israel
- F. **This is so important.** This woman and her family were going to be saved when the rest of Jericho was judged. She was saved because she was willing to accept the terms of her salvation
- G. The men told her that they were going to come back. And they told her that in order for her to be saved she had to throw a red rope outside of her window. And they promised that when they saw that red rope she would be spared. Now that had to make zero sense to her. "What, a red rope? What are you talking about?" But she didn't try to get her head around it. She just said, "Okay, you're telling me that if you see red, I get saved."
 - a) **Here's the point:** Wether it's a red rope, a wooden ark, or a bronze serpent, there will be times when God's terms of salvation just don't make sense...but heres the real question"

WHEN DID EVER SAY THEY HAD TO MAKE SENSE TO US IN ORDER TO SAVE US?

- b) Isaiah 55:9 (ESV) ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- c) 1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God
- d) **Here's the point:** If you don't know Jesus, and you're waiting for everything to come together and makes sense before you do it...you will never come
 - (a) You must come by faith.
 - (b) Did she understand it? no...did it save her? yes

Joshua 3-4 - tell the story of the crossing of Jordan River

Joshua 3:1–3 (ESV) ¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord (the dwelling place of the lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it.

The crossing of Jordan was not like crossing of the Red Sea. When they crossed the Red Sea – Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Red Sea parted; wall of water on one side, wall of water on the other side; and the people walked across. But the crossing of Jordan was way different. In the crossing of the Jordan the priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, were to go a couple hundred yards ahead of the

people down to the water. And the idea was that the people were to be able to see the Ark of the Covenant, and follow it across the river.

Insight: And it's a great illustration for us. And the illustration is that we need to have a clear vision of Jesus who goes before us as we live in the world today - lots of people trying to tell you who you are and who you need to be...But if you always have a clear view of Jesus...You will never drown in the water

- A. Proverbs 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction - many people will say “before you know anything else, you have to first know yourself...and then their entire life becomes about self realization, but Solomon “The key to wisdom is to know who God says you are, and move from there”
- B. Then you'll have the right balance - **Humble confidence**
- C. I love what Paul prayed for these ephesian christians - Ephesians 1:18–20 (ESV)¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places
- D. **Here's the point:** That's why it's so important to read your bible... Because it's all about Jesus, the more you discipline yourself to read it, the more of Jesus you will see...

Joshua 3:8 (ESV) ⁸ And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘**When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.**’ ”

Insight: Here, the priests were told to put their feet in the water.

- A. There will come those moments as we live between the 'already' and the 'not yet' – when we have to put our feet into the Jordan, so-to-speak, when we have to step and move in faith in the direction that God is calling us to before we see God provide the victory. There are just going to be those times where God has put something on your heart. He's confirmed it in His Word. And you're just going to have to take a step of faith in that direction. And once you put your feet in the water, so to speak, that's when you see God make the provision. And to amplify the necessity of faith...

Check out the way it all rolled out

Joshua 3:13 The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall... **Verse 15**..... as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, 16 the water above that point began backing up” – **this is big** – “a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan.”

Insight: That meant that there was still a lot of water flowing towards them before it dried up, **because the water was stopped a great distance away**. And it would have been so easy for them to think, 'We just did exactly what the Lord said; and He didn't come through. Our feet touched the water. But there's still water. It's still moving.

- A. But listen - God did do exactly what He said would do. But it had its beginnings in a place they couldn't see
- B. God makes to us great and precious promises in His Word. And He answers them. But sometimes the beginning to that answer is in a place that we can't see
- C. It doesn't mean He's not answering. And it doesn't mean we won't see it.

- D. God is always faithful. But He works – in His perfect way, and in His perfect time. **And when they arrived on the west side of the Jordan they set up two memorials to the faithfulness of the God.**

Joshua 5 – is one of the most interesting chapters in the Bible

Joshua 5:1 (ESV) ¹ As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

Now if you and I were writing the story, I'm pretty sure, I'll speak for myself, I would have said, "Attack now!" Their hearts have melted. There was no longer any spirit in them. They have seen our God work. But that's not the way it rolled out, because God had some business that needed to be taken care of before they conquered the inhabitants and possessed the land.

- A. You see, during those 40 years in the wilderness the Israelites had neglected something, something that God had told Abraham was a pretty important thing
- a) It was a symbolic seal of their covenant with God. They neglected circumcising their male children
 - b) God is essentially going to tell them here in this chapter, "Before you go to battle, before I lead you to victory, you have to be circumcised." Circumcision was a sign of consecration to the Lord. Now without getting into graphic detail, circumcision involves taking a sharp instrument and cutting in a sensitive, private area
 - c) **There's the picture.** But it was there way of saying "**I belong to the Lord**" and sometimes to make that declaration your going to have to cut away at private, sensitive areas of your life

- d) Those areas that no one sees but you... Your flesh... they have to be subjected to the Lord as well.

But it's painful...

Joshua 5:2 (ESV) ² At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time."

Flint knives - no anesthesia, no surgical blades that cauterized as they cut, no I.V. drip for pain management! It would have left them in pain, and vulnerable until they recovered. It was a costly, painful act of consecration.

Joshua 5:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho Joshua ¹¹ And the day after the Passover, on that very day, **they ate of the produce of the land**, unleavened cakes and parched grain

After all this time...the fruit of the land

12 And the **manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land**. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year."

Explanation: No doubt they were tired of manna. But think about it. As tired as they might have been of it in the wilderness, all you had to do was walk outside the entrance to your tent; and there was breakfast, lunch and dinner – every day.

- A. But at this moment in Joshua 5, just as they're ready to go to war, they need to trust God for their next meal. There is no manna on the ground. And these were people who not only had zero experience in farming, they were going to have to trust the Lord to provide for them in the land. Flesh cut away, no more manna – at that moment
- B. At that moment they discover the way of life in the land of promise - **their going to need to live by faith**

- C. **And here's the picture** - If we're going to experience more and more of what the Lord has for us we not only have to let the Lord do some cutting in sensitive private areas of our lives, we also have to do something that is foreign to our lives outside of Christ, before coming to Christ, and something that's really quite repulsive to our flesh, even as Christians, and that is this – we have to live by faith. Have you ever discovered how your flesh hates faith? It hates it!
- D. Your flesh loves everything it can – see, touch, and feel
- E. And God says that's not how the Christian lives - “The just shall live by faith.”

This chapter closes with something really interesting...

Joshua 5: “13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him...”

Explanation - First - This passage tells us something really important about Joshua. If you and I are confronted by a person with a sword, which way are we going to go?

- A. Joshua went – towards him, not away from him. That says a lot about Joshua.

But then we learn something about Jesus...

But what follows is crucial to our understanding of Jesus! You see, this is what theologians call a ‘Theophany’. A ‘Theophany’ is a pre-Incarnate appearance of Jesus.

Joshua 5:13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴ **And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.”** And Joshua fell on his face to the

earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” ¹⁵ And the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Here’s the picture: Joshua goes and questions this commander...and He says “are you for us or against us?” and Jesus simply says “no”...I’m not fitting into your thing...the bigger question is are you for me or against me and if you want to possess this land get behind me....and Joshua falls to the ground. and begins to worship...and is ready to obey

- A. Insight: If you and I want to live the abundant, victorious life in Christ, we need to get this thing out of our head and out of our heart Jesus is here for you
- B. Jesus did not die on the cross to give us a better us. Jesus didn’t die on the cross to make our lives prettier and neater. Jesus didn’t die on the cross to be an additive to our lives
- C. Jesus is the Lord! Jesus is the commander!
- D. We’re told that Joshua did three things in response to his encounter with the Lord – 1. worship 2. humility 3. submission.
 - 1. 1. He fell on his face in worship.
 - 2. 2. He took off his shoes in humility.
 - 3. 3. He turned all of his plans over to his Commander.

Joshua gets behind the Lord. And the next 7 chapters are the narrative of seven years of battles, fighting against thirty one kings.

Now you might be wondering how are we going to get through the rest of the book in five minutes. Trust me...

The Second Division - Conquering the Land – Joshua 6-12

The conflict begins! These seven chapters are historical events that picture spiritual reality - Just as the nations in Canaan were united against Joshua and the descendants of Abraham to stop them from possessing the promises of God; The world, the flesh, and the devil are united in opposing Jesus, and

His people from possessing their inheritance (Ephesians 2:1–3).

John Chrysostom (347–407), a man martyred for his faith in Jesus, he said this, “The Christian life involves challenge and conflict whether we like it or not.” 2 This is a guy who would die for his faith in Jesus. And he said, “The Christian life involves challenge and conflict whether we like it or not.” And here’s why - In Genesis 3:15 God declared war on Satan – the first promise of the Gospel - God declared war on Satan. If we ignore the reality of this conflict we have to

And here’s why - In Genesis 3:15 God declared war on Satan – the first promise of the Gospel - God declared war on Satan. If we ignore the reality of this conflict we have to abandon the cross; because it was on the cross that Jesus won the war...

These 7 chapters divide into 3 segments that follow three battle campaigns.

- E. Joshua 6-8 - contain the narrative of their central campaign. The idea was to cut Canaan in half. From their camp at Gilgal, near the Jordan River, the Israelites could see steep hills to the west. Jericho controlled the way of ascent into these mountains, and Ai. And Ai was another fortress that stood at the head of the ascent. Jericho and Ai were key to taking the high ground, and key to driving a wedge between the northern and southern sections of Canaan. So the conquest begins there
- F. Joshua 9-10 - is the account of the southern campaign.

- G. Joshua 11-12 - is the account of the northern campaign....All in all – there are 31 cities.

There are a number of lessons to be gleaned in the entire final section of Joshua. For time's sake tonight we'll look at two of the most notable - **Jericho and Ai**

LESSON 1 - WE ARE VICTORIOUS IN GOG

Joshua 6 - gives to us the record of the famous battle of Jericho.

Joshua 6:1–2 (ESV) ¹ Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. ² And the Lord said to Joshua, “**See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.**”

1. **Explanation:** Jericho was on massive hill surrounded by a great earthen embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base.
 1. The retaining wall was 36 feet high and 6 feet thick
 2. At the top of the embankment was a similar wall whose base was roughly 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground level outside the retaining wall (see diagram). This is what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city each day for seven days. Humanly speaking, it was impossible for the Israelites to penetrate the impregnable walls of Jericho.
 3. Not to mention the men of war that were inside those walls...a tough battle
 4. But it's important to understand that inspire the appearance... Joshua had already won....Because God said so “**See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.**”

5. **Here's the insight:** here It's important for us to always understand, **that we fight from victory not for victory**

1. **During world war 2 on June 6, 1944—** the day of the Normandy landings—initiating the Western Allied effort to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi Germany
2. **D-Day** was the beginning of the end for not only the Germans but Hitler most of all. **D-Day** forced the Germans to fight a two front **war** again just as they had in WWI. Yet again the Germans could not handle **war** on both sides of them. “By the end of June 1944, about a million Allied troops had reached France.
3. **But the fighting hadn't ceased....till may 8th 1945... VDAY**

1. **Thats a picture of the christian life...Jesus has won...but we're still fighting...till V.day**

2. Number two – The lesson from Ai is - Follow God's instructions.

Joshua 7 - is the account of the battle against Ai. Ai is huge because it is Israel's sole defeat in seven years. That defeat came on the heels of the epic conquest of Jericho.

And that defeat at Ai teaches us that We are most vulnerable following great victories.

The Gatorade bath, the champagne shower, the ticker tape parade - they have no place in our warfare.

Ai also teaches the devastating effects of individual sin.

In the battle of Jericho a man named Achan took something that God had strictly commanded to not take. And in Joshua 7:20-21 Achan said that – he saw it, he wanted it, he took it, and he hid it. And immediately following Achan’s sin the Israelites suffered their one and only defeat. And the reason they lost was because one man in the army had sin tucked away in his tent.

Now when some of you walked in the door you might have been given a number. If you’ve been given a number, raise your hand. I want you to stand up, those of you that have a number. You’re dead. You can sit down now. You see, there were thirty six people who died because of one man’s sin.

Guys, the sin that you and I might have tucked away in our tent is deadly - not just personally, but corporately. Sin is a disaster; and it is never isolated.

1 Corinthians 5: “6 Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”

The Third Section - Claiming and Possessing the Inheritance – Joshua 13–24

Joshua 13 on through to the end of the book is kind of the more tedious part of the book, because it talks about each tribe and their lot in the land. But it starts with this crucial statement that makes the remaining content to the end of the book so important

Joshua 13: “1 Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.”” You’re an old man; but there’s still a lot of land that still has to be possessed.

In other words – you’re old; but you’re not done. That speaks to me! you’re old; but you’re not done. No matter how far you’ve come in your relationship to the Lord, you’re not done.

There is more of His abundant life to experience.

And from Joshua 13 to the end the land is divided up. There’s lots of stuff there for us. But Caleb is a highlight. And I just love this. This is Caleb speaking.

Joshua 14: “9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.’ 10 And now, behold,” - this is Caleb speaking- **“the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old.** 11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. 12 So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim (giants) were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.”

Isn’t that awesome, this eighty-five year old dude who is just saying, “I want the giants”! Wow - I want the giants!

There are no prophecies concerning Jesus in the book of Joshua. But we do find Jesus two times in this book.

- I. We’ve already seen the first one in Joshua 5
- II. **The last one is a picture of Jesus found in Joshua 20** - In Joshua 20 we have a list of cities that were called the cities of refuge. If you killed someone by accident you could flee to one of these cities. As long as you stayed within those cities you were safe from being killed by any friend or family member of the person you accidentally killed. There is

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one very amazing detail concerning his stay in the city of refuge. He had to stay there until the high priest died (Joshua 20:6). When the high priest died he was free.

- III. The New Testament tells us that Jesus is our Great High Priest. Because of the death of our Great High Priest on the cross we are free! There is no charges, no penalty that can be held against us.

- IV. Romans 8: “1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”