



JOSHUA

BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:
16+

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INTRODUCTION

The Book of Joshua is gripping as it chronicles the Israelites' journey into the Promised Land, with God performing numerous miracles along the way. Do you ever feel like your life is a constant struggle? As if your challenges will never cease? If so, you'll find this book to be a favorite read!

This study features mostly the stories in Joshua, although erroneously think of the book as a list of battle plans and maps.

WHY WE ARE SKIPPING SOME CHAPTERS

Many passages in this book provide valuable information for historians and theologians familiar with handling extensive lists like "the allotments" of land granted to the 12 Tribes of Israel. Some information is easier to understand visually. While we include two maps, the purpose is to be able to compress some of the reading that is list-like, as map makers during Joshua's time were few and far between.

We suggest utilizing the maps to explore points of interest, as locations can be quickly identified. With the exception of chapters 15 through 19, the included chapters contain material that offers insights into God's nature and His expectations for our relationship with Him.

HOW THIS STUDY WORKS

You will engage in five days of study per week for one month, with an additional four days designated as "Week in Review," one at the end of each week. Adjust your study time as necessary. The objective is to thoroughly cover and understand all that God communicated to the Israelites, relating it closely to our Christian beliefs.

Despite all its comprehensive materials, this study is neither difficult nor terribly time-consuming. A day's work can be done in 30 minutes, but it can take longer, depending on how much time you'd like to give to the Application Questions, and Recommended Bible Verses each day. The Week in Review will provide a chance to go over the big picture. As it is a sixth day (and likely a Saturday) for the students, you may choose to select two or three questions that interest you the most.

The study is designed to be highly individualized, good for small groups and cell groups, but also fine for an individual just looking to improve their knowledge of God's holy Word.

WHAT'S TO BE DONE EACH DAY?

Our Table of Contents preceding this intro shows the comprehensive list of chapters that will be covered in the course. Each day of the month-long study is clearly marked so that you'll always know where to pick up.

Each day you will complete the following mini-segments:

1. **DAILY READING:** You will read one chapter a session.
2. **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:** You'll be given four to six questions that require either filling in the blanks or answering true/false. Each verse is provided where the answer can be found.
3. **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** You'll receive two of these longer questions requiring thought and written answers. These are often an effort to get students to think of the passage in terms of how it applies to us in postmodern times. Some questions will not require any help while others will contain prompts, explanations or further information.
4. **DEEP DIVES:** Sometimes to help answer the Application Questions, you'll find partial answers or what we call DEEP DIVES in the APPLICATION HELP. DEEP DIVES contain slightly lengthier insights. They specifically help students respond to secular people who level accusations that diminish God's character in Old Testament contexts. Many of these arguments we hear all the time and simply don't know how to respond. Help is here!
5. **LAND MAPS 1 & 2:** As the Book of Joshua involves battling for land, maps are extremely helpful! Map 1 shows the Promised Land before Joshua's invasion, and Map 2 reveals the land having been divided and allotted to the tribes. Keep Map 1 handy up until chapter 14 is finished. Then Map 2 will be helpful. Try to find as many places mentioned as you can on the maps, as it will give the stories a greater sense of placement in your heart.
6. **RECOMMENDED BIBLE VERSES:** The remarkable events recorded in the Book of Joshua are vivid and enduring, but throughout the Bible, God substantiates His promises to the Hebrew people in numerous ways. We'll direct you to those instances.
7. **APPLICATION HELP:** The answers to the Short-Answer Questions are included here, along with bits of intrigue and insight that can help when answering the Application Questions. Your answers in the Application Help may differ from ours, but read our entries to guide you when needed.
8. **WEEK IN REVIEW:** At the end of each week, or after each five days of study, you'll find a Week in Review section that reinforces what you learned that week. As stated above, pick two that really interest you or three!

WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR VERSES, AND WHAT VERSION OF THE BIBLE DO YOU USE?

We try to create our studies in ways that any version of the Bible can be used. Nonetheless we gravitate in research to two most popular so as to keep with common language to examine difficult constructs. This study was created using the **KJV (King James Version)** and the **NIV (New International Version)**.

The most popular scriptures are featured each week. Their popularity today is derived by software that recognizes how many times a scripture is searched on popular websites. All of the 30,000+ scriptures have a ranking number. At present, the #1 position goes to John 3:16. The lowest is likely in the Minor Prophets, where rankings appear in the 31,000s! With just a little time each day over the next 30 days (with one day of rest each week), you will have a wonderful opportunity to know well how the Promised Land was acquired. By the end of the month, you will want to cheer with these people some of whom had been waiting 40 years to receive the land of their inheritance.



JOSHUA

STUDY TOOLS

MAP 1

The Promised Land Just Before Joshua's Invasion (1406 BC)

Israel enters the Promised Land-1406 BC

Most of Joshua's Fighting is Complete-1399 BC

The Great Sea / The Mediterranean

Wadi: Valley, ravine, or channel that is dry except
in the rainy season



MAP 2

The Promised Land Following the "Allotments" of Joshua 15-19 (1399 BC)





JOSHUA

WEEK 1

WEEK 1, DAY 1:

Who Was Joshua? (His Story before the Story)

Welcome to the Book of Joshua. When Old Testament books are titled after individuals, they typically feature significant stories about the person or indicate their importance as a prophet of God. Joshua is actually both! He was the prophetic successor to Moses, and served as the military leader of Israel during the initial sieges that led to the establishment of Israel in the Promised Land.

Here are some interesting facts about this Old Testament superhero:

1. **Joshua is first introduced in Exodus 17 as Moses' assistant.** He frequently accompanied Moses, even during some of Moses' journeys up Mount Sinai when God delivered the Ten Commandments.
2. **Joshua was approximately 40 years old when the Exodus began.** Therefore, when he took over from Moses after another 40 years, he was about 80 years old—the same age Moses was when he encountered the burning bush.
3. **Joshua was formally called “Joshua Son of Nun” and hailed from the tribe of Ephraim.** Ephraim was one of Joseph's two sons, who was a tribe leader. Before their grandfather Israel passed away, Ephraim and his brother Manasseh were assigned tribes due to Joseph's significant role in leading the Hebrew people to Egypt.
4. **The first thing Joshua did in the Book of Exodus was to lead an army to overtake the Amalekites.** This tribe was attacking the Hebrews before they even reached Mount Sinai (Exodus 19).
5. **Joshua and Caleb were among the 12 spies that Moses sent out near the beginning of the second year of the Exodus (see Numbers 13).** The spies were tasked with retrieving samples of the cultures and crops in the area. Some of the spies questioned God's capability and advised against Israel engaging with the formidable inhabitants of the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb advocated for taking action and trusting in God's power. As a result of the spies' disbelief, God declared the Exodus was to last 40 years instead of just weeks. However, Joshua and Caleb, along with those under 20 years old, were the only ones from their generation permitted to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 32:11).
6. **When Moses died on Mount Nebo (see Deuteronomy 34), God began to speak to Joshua as He had to Moses. One of Moses' final actions was to place his hands on Joshua and anoint him, ensuring that he remained filled with the Holy Spirit throughout the rest of his life.** The Bible is clear on the timelines of some notable figures, but Joshua is not among them. Certain scholars have constructed a timeline simplifying his life. According to their interpretation, Joshua was likely around 40 years old during the Exodus and approximately 80 years old when he assumed leadership after Moses' death. He lived until the age of 110 and had some time after his battles to enjoy the territory he was assigned (refer to fact 9). Some

scholars suggest that Joshua engaged in seven years of warfare and spent an additional seven years dividing the land among the 12 tribes. This proposal aligns with roughly half of his lifespan after the Exodus. Accordingly, he would have spent 15 years establishing the Promised Land and then enjoyed another 15 years before his death.

- 7. There is no record of Joshua having a wife or children.** Some may encounter a rumor suggesting that Joshua developed romantic feelings for Rahab, the woman who sheltered his spies prior to the Jericho invasion. Nevertheless, Matthew 1:5 states that she wedded a man named Salmon, and the majority of scholars dismiss the rumor as unsubstantiated.
- 8. Joshua received an entire town as a reward through the allotments.** This was his initial reward for showing courage and faith. Interestingly, the town he received was Timnath Serah, located in the hill country of Ephraim, which was the very town he had requested. It remains uncertain how Joshua utilized the town, especially considering he didn't have a family to occupy it. One possibility is that he provided for Levites, who were from the priestly tribe and didn't have land allotted to them.
- 9. Joshua's grave is still visited.** He was buried just north of Mount Gash in the hill country of Ephraim. His tomb is still visited in the Palestinian village of Kifl Haris.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

It's somewhat alarming to consider: Hollywood actors and rock stars receive tens of thousands of comments or fan mail. Yet our biblical figures, who have contributed immensely to mankind, are often overlooked. Joshua is one such figure. Throughout history, he has been overshadowed by Moses. As you conclude your study, commit to expressing gratitude to this biblical hero. Below, gather facts about him that impress you and for which you can extend your thanks.

A great place to start:

1. Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still in the sky, which God granted.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



WEEK 1, DAY 2:

Introduction to the Book of Joshua (FAQ)

Now that you have some background on Joshua, the prophet and warrior, let's examine the book named after him, consisting of 24 chapters. It narrates the events occurring between the Exodus journey and the settlement of the people in the Promised Land. This period was far from peaceful, yet it reveals the outcomes of the efforts of those who endured 40 years in the wilderness.

Here's is an FAQ about this powerful book:

1. Where is the Book of Joshua found in the Bible?

Joshua is the sixth book in the Old Testament, succeeding Deuteronomy. It is categorized as a historical account and marks the commencement of narratives following the Pentateuch (the first five books in the Bible).

2. Did Joshua actually write the book? Joshua is widely regarded as a significant contributor, although it's probable that his scribes compiled the information. His approach is meticulous and focused on mapping. Notably, Joshua possesses distinct characteristics from Moses. Moses is often seen as contemplative and scholarly, whereas Joshua is known for his warrior spirit.

3. What time period does the Book of Joshua cover? The Exodus journey concluded in 1406 BC. Following Moses' death, Joshua assumed leadership, continuing until around 1375 BC, approximately 30 years later. Tomorrow, you'll be requested to read the final chapter of Deuteronomy before starting Joshua 1, to observe the smooth transition in historical narrative.

4. What famous stories are included in the book? The best-known tale recounts the miraculous collapse of the walls of Jericho. Another popular story involves Rahab, who, despite her profession, believed in the God of Israel, assisted the spies, and was ultimately spared along with her family by the army.

5. Does the book contain any other miracles? This passage describes one of the remarkable events of the Old Testament. Joshua's army defended the Gibeonites, despite an uneasy alliance. To aid their efforts, Joshua requested that the sun remain still in the sky, and God granted this request for approximately 24 hours until their enemies were defeated.

6. Are there any tedious parts? If so, does this study try to abbreviate them? The Allotments refer to the parcels of land designated for each tribe of Israel, including special individuals like Joshua. Rather than detailing these locations in chapters 14 through 19, this study offers Map 2 for a comprehensive overview of all the allotments.

7. Does the Book of Joshua present challenges to comprehending God's actions? Many Canaanite individuals were instructed to vacate their residences or face consequences, which may seem unjust.



DEEP DIVE #1:

Why would God give away people's countries after they lived there for 900+ years?

It can be puzzling, particularly for young Christians, to understand why God commanded some of the strong actions depicted in the Old Testament. In these instances, God's role can be likened to that of a strict authority figure, such as a drill sergeant or sports coach. Similar to how a coach uses a loud whistle and gives clear instructions to the entire team during critical moments, God is addressing the Israelites collectively in the book of Joshua, which marks a pivotal point in history for them.

God is the authority figure: God was sending a young nation into a dangerous region filled with aggressive pagan nations, whose armies included formidable warriors like the sons of Anak (refer to Numbers 13:33). These soldiers were so imposing that they made the Hebrew people seem as small as grasshoppers in comparison. Yet God had also made a promise to safeguard this small nation, comprising 2.5 million individuals with free will, against the threat posed by 31 other nations and their formidable adversaries, who also possessed free will.

If you seek genuine worship, consider the difficulties faced, and express gratitude to God, remembering that "nothing is too hard for Him" (Jeremiah 32:27).

History of this area before the Exodus: It is necessary to understand the history between God and these nations to understanding His actions. Briefly stated:

The Great Flood occurred around 2500 BC because the sins of humanity had reached a point where it endangered our existence. Without God's decision to intervene, the survival of mankind would have been unlikely.

After Noah, his sons, and their wives left the ark, they began to populate the earth again. Within two generations, some individuals were already committing serious sins. This pattern isn't unexpected for those acquainted with the biblical lineage. The subsequent generation after notable figures like Eli, Samuel, King David, and King Solomon also brought disgrace and sin.

Ham's sons were Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. Cush's descendant Nimrod attempted to defy God by constructing the Tower of Babel. He had previously founded Nineveh (later controlled by the ruthless Assyrians) and Babylon (a prominent ancient hub known for its occult activities—activities involving conspiring with dark forces, aimed at tormenting God by attacking His creation). Noah's youngest son, Ham, was also considered sinful.

The descendants of Canaan encompassed the peoples whom Joshua would confront in battle a millennium later. By Joshua's time, these nations had not considered the God of their forebears for nearly 900 years.

The consequences of pushing God away: Without God, we lose access to goodness and risk self-destruction. At the start of the Book of Joshua, God had endured and safeguarded defiant, sadistic, ungodly, promiscuous, narcissistic, and violent people for almost 1,000 years. Those advocating for a "live and let live" approach fail to grasp God's anguish or the people's plight.

How Jesus becomes central: In the New Testament, the curtain in the Temple, which symbolized the estranged relationship between God and man, was torn. Since that time, we have been able to communicate with God directly. The authoritative figure, like a drill sergeant or coach, is now seen as our Father. We no longer perceive God's voice as distant commands on a battlefield but rather as if we are having a conversation. We have the privilege of hearing His voice in a relaxed manner. This places us in a much closer relationship, where we don't need to strive for a promised land externally; instead, the Promised Land resides within us.



WEEK 1, DAY 3:

Deuteronomy 34 & Joshua 1: The Death of Moses; the Installing of Joshua

Read Deuteronomy 34 & Joshua 1

MVP

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

NOTES

When examining a Bible history book, it's advisable to read the concluding chapter of the previous book first. It's remarkable how smoothly one historical book transitions into the next in the Bible. Today, we are reading the last chapter of Deuteronomy before beginning Joshua to grasp how Moses' passing sets the stage for the events in Joshua.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Moses died on or near this mountain in Moab: (Deut. 34:1) _____
- 02 True/False: Moses' eyes had grown weak in his 120 years, but his muscles were still firm. (Deut. 34:7)
- 03 God told Joshua that He would give him every place where he set his _____. (Joshua 1:3)
- 04 In Joshua 1:7, God tells Joshua that he will be successful if he obeys all of the _____.
- 05 Joshua tells the Israelites in Joshua 1:11 that they will cross the Jordan in _____ days.
- 06 Which tribes would not inherit land across from the Jordan River? (Joshua 1:12-15) _____, _____, and _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 1:7, God encourages Joshua to be strong and courageous as he prepares to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, where they will encounter various enemies. How can the call to be “strong and courageous” apply to the challenges and adversaries we face in our lives today? Reflect on a time when you had to confront a difficult situation or adversary. How did you muster strength and courage in the face of that challenge? How does Joshua’s example help to bolster our resolve when confronting our own “enemies” or obstacles?

Reflecting on Joshua 1:8, what significance does obedience to God’s commands hold in the pursuit of success and prosperity according to this verse? How does the instruction to “keep this Book of the Law always on your lips” emphasize the continuous nature of obedience rather than sporadic obedience? What challenges or obstacles might hinder our obedience to God’s commands, and how can we overcome them?

We have included Leviticus 19 in the Recommended Reading below, as it contains the most diverse array of laws. Consider how these laws shows God’s love and for whom.

Recommended Bible Verses showing THE GOODNESS OF THE LAW: Leviticus 19



WEEK 1, DAY 4:

Chapter 2: Rahab and the Spies

Read Joshua 2

MVP

So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

Joshua 2:3

NOTES

Today we will encounter Rahab, a significant female figure in the Bible. Initially working as a harlot in Jericho, she gained the trust of the spies. She was not fearful of the Israelite spies or their army, but of their God. This mindset proves wise, as we witness how God rewards His faithful followers. Rahab's faith leads her to become part of the lineage of both Christ and King David, a chosen woman of God.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How many spies did Joshua send to Jericho? (v. 1) _____
- 02 What was the name of the prostitute who housed the spies? (v. 1) _____
- 03 True/False: Rahab feared the Lord. (v. 9)
- 04 The spies told Rahab to tie a cord of this color to her window as a sign: _____ (v. 18)
- 05 True/False: The spies agreed to save only Rahab. (v. 17-20)
- 06 How many days did the spies hide from their pursuers? (v. 22) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 2, Rahab's fear is a central theme as she hides the Israelite spies. How does her fear of the God of Israel contrast with the fear she might have had of her own people or the potential consequences of her actions? Reflect on instances in your own life where fear has influenced your decisions. How can Rahab's example inspire us to prioritize our fear of God above all other fears? How might this perspective reshape our choices and priorities?

Rahab was a prostitute, yet she plays a significant role in aiding the Israelite spies. Reflecting on her actions, what lessons can we draw regarding the nature of God's grace and redemption? How does Rahab's story challenge our preconceptions about who God chooses to use for His purposes? How might this narrative encourage us to extend grace and compassion to those society might deem unworthy or unlikely recipients?

Recommended Bible Verses on BUILDING FAITH: Hebrews 11



WEEK 1, DAY 5:

Chapter 3: Another Red-Sea Story (Only It's the River Jordan!)

Read Joshua 3

MVP

Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark: do not go near it.

Joshua 3:4

NOTES

Today, we'll witness a remarkable event often overshadowed by the parting of the Red Sea. Before the Israelite army could assault Jericho, they needed to traverse the Jordan River. Similar to the incident at the Red Sea, the water of the Jordan parted, allowing the people to pass through on dry ground.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How many days did the Israelites camp at the Jordan before the officers gave them orders about crossing over? (v. 2) _____
- 02 What were the Israelites told to follow? (v. 3) _____
- 03 How many men were the Israelites told to choose from among the tribes? (v. 12) _____
- 04 True/False: The Jordan was at a flood or overflowing stage when the Israelites crossed. (v. 15) _____
- 05 Who carried the Ark of the Covenant? (v. 17) _____
- 06 The Israelites stood on _____ ground while crossing the Jordan. (v. 17)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

One of God's precious miracles occurs in this chapter. Reflecting on this event, consider God's purpose in performing such a spectacular miracle. Why do you think God chose to demonstrate His power in this way, specifically at this moment in Israel's history? How does this miracle reflect God's character and His relationship with His people?

In Joshua 3, we read about the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River, a powerful demonstration of God's intervention on behalf of the Israelites. Reflecting on this miraculous event, how do you think God's miracles in the Bible compare to the miracles we may encounter or hope for in our time today? How can studying these biblical miracles help our understanding of God's involvement in our lives today? And how might we recognize and respond to His miraculous works in our contemporary context?

Recommended Bible Verses on THE REASON FOR MIRACLES:
Exodus 14:31, Deuteronomy 10:21, Mark 16:20, John 4:48, Hebrews 2:4



WEEK 1 IN REVIEW

Congrats, you are at the end of Week 1! Below is our first Week in Review. Read and consider each day's questions reflecting on specific themes, encouraging deeper personal reflection. Pick those that most apply to your life and answer them.

Day 1

We included some important facts about Joshua in the FAQ section at the start of this week. What did you learn about Joshua that contributed more to your understanding of his character?

Day 2

In the Deep Dive for this day, we delved into God's reasons for instructing people to depart or face consequences. This discussion explored how God's stern demeanor in the Old Testament still aligns with His portrayal in the New Testament. Which ideas or insights from this exploration enhanced your faith, and how?

Day 3

In Joshua 1, God commissions Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses' death. Reflecting on this chapter, what qualities or attributes do you think made Joshua an effective leader? How can we apply these qualities in our own lives when faced with challenges or uncertainty?



WEEK 1 IN REVIEW

Congrats, you are at the end of Week 1! Below is our first Week in Review. Read and consider each day's questions reflecting on specific themes, encouraging deeper personal reflection. Pick those that most apply to your life and answer them.

Day 4

In Joshua 2, Rahab hides the Israelite spies and then negotiates a pact for her family's safety. Reflecting on her actions, how does Rahab's courage and quick thinking illustrate the power of taking initiative in times of crisis? Furthermore, how can we emulate Rahab's proactive approach to make a difference in our own lives, particularly when faced with unexpected challenges or obstacles?

Day 5

In Joshua 3, we witness the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River as the Israelites entered the Promised Land. This event is a powerful demonstration of faith in action. As the priests stepped into the waters, they had to trust that God would part the river. What is the significance of taking the first step in faith, even when the outcome is uncertain? How can we apply this principle in our lives today?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 3

1. Mount Nebo
2. False (his eyes were not weakened with age either)
3. Foot
4. Law
5. Three
6. Reubenites, Gadites, and half the Tribe of Manasseh

Application Help

1. The enemies of the Israelites would have been frightening. Numbers 13:32-33 recounts the firsthand accounts of witnesses. Moses tasked 12 spies with exploring Canaan (the collective term for the kingdoms Joshua would later conquer). The spies reported that the Canaanite people were notably large, mentioning the presence of the Nephilim (descendants of Anak). They felt insignificant in comparison, likening themselves to grasshoppers. Despite this, they were poised to triumph over 31 formidable kings.

2. The Law of Moses comprises all the commandments given to the Israelites. Many Bible verses encourage reading the Law. Psalm 119, the longest psalm in the Bible with 176 verses, consistently emphasizes this theme. One reason for not sufficiently valuing God's Law might be unfamiliarity with the laws of neighboring countries. First Samuel 8:24-33 provides examples.

These laws from other nations indicate that those countries were ruled by self-interested kings. They had the authority to seize livestock, land, homes, possessions, and even children without consent. In contrast, God's Law stands out for its selflessness and emphasis on caring for others. It was the only set of laws of its kind and would have been considered remarkably unique.

FROM DAY 4

1. Two spies
2. Rahab
3. True
4. Scarlet
5. False (they agreed to save her whole family)
6. Three days

Application Help

1. If you've succumbed to societal pressures temporarily, you're not alone. This phenomenon isn't new; we can trace it back to the time of the Exodus. During this period, the Israelites often complained, believing that God had led them into the wilderness to perish from thirst or that they had become a source of ridicule in front of other nations. By the end of the Exodus, however, the other pagan nations were fearful of Israel! Concerns about others' opinions is common and widespread. Instead of dwelling on potential negative outcomes, we can strengthen our faith by focusing on the positive possibilities and pray to remember God's promises.

2. God frequently chooses those who are underestimated or considered less likely to succeed. For example, Moses was the youngest of three siblings, while King David was the youngest among seven brothers. Similarly, King Saul and Gideon (the fifth Judge of Israel) came from tribes considered insignificant, yet they achieved greatness against all odds. Rahab was known as a harlot, and Mary Magdalene—who became a close companion of Jesus—had seven demons cast out of her before embracing faith. These examples convey the message that salvation is inclusive and available to everyone, regardless of their past or perceived status.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 5

1. Three
2. The Ark of the Covenant
3. Twelve
4. True
5. Priests
6. Dry

Application Help

1. Verse 17 says for the people to know “that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.” Even many Christians don’t realize this, but there are only three periods in the Bible that were known for many miracles. They include

- The Exodus, 1446-1406 BC
- The reign of the evil kings & the Prophets Elijah and Elisha, 800s BC
- The life of Christ on Earth, 0 AD

The reason for the miraculous was to show people who the God of the universe really was and how powerful He was. Hence, they should put their trust in Him.

2. Miracles happen in all eras, including today, but they often aren’t showcased publicly or televised. Instead, they typically serve individuals in private settings. We shouldn’t expect miracles to happen just because we desire or need them. Throughout history, such as during the Exodus and Jesus’ time, miracles served specific purposes, like revealing God’s nature to people.



JOSHUA

WEEK 2

WEEK 2, DAY 1:

Chapter 4: The Importance of a Memorial

Read Joshua 4

MVP

and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites,
Joshua 4:5

NOTES

Today's chapter discusses a recurring event in Israel's history of building an altar to God. When Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Moses were traveling and wanted to thank God, they set up an altar of 12 stones. Let's see what details we can glean from this story about respecting God and authority.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 The Israelites were to choose 12 men to represent each _____.
(v. 2)
- 02 How many stones did God tell the Israelites to take from the middle of the Jordan? (v. 3) _____
- 03 The stones were supposed to serve as a _____ and a _____ for them and their children. (v. 6-7)
- 04 Whom did God exalt in front of the Israelites? (v. 14) _____
- 05 Where did Joshua set up the stones from the Jordan? (v. 20) _____
- 06 God did all of this so that all the peoples of the earth would _____ Him. (v. 24)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Reflecting on the miraculous event of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, we witness God's power and faithfulness. However, there are times when miracles seemingly don't occur or we feel our prayers go unanswered. Considering this, why do you think some prayers aren't miraculously answered?

In this chapter, we witness the Israelites setting up a monument of twelve stones after crossing the Jordan River. This altar served as a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and provision. What significance do you think this physical monument held for the Israelites? And how might it apply to our lives today in terms of remembering God's faithfulness?

Recommended Bible Verses on SACRIFICES FOR GOD: 1 Samuel 15:22, John 14:21, Hebrews 11:6



DEEP DIVE #2:

Why God Loves Gifts and Why the Cynical Secularists are Wrong

We cannot offer anything to God that resembles a valuable gift, much like a toddler handing their parent a simple drawing out of a desire to share. Even grand cathedrals with stunning stained-glass windows would elicit a similar reaction from God, perhaps akin to “How charming.” The apparent magnitude of our offerings to God holds little significance to Him.

God requires our approval even less. Imagine if a mature adult walked into a nursery and a young child said, “None of these babies like you.” It’s just not comparable to criticism from peers. Our Father’s peers—the Son, Holy Spirit, and a wise council of angels—consider Him so flawless that they consistently praise Him. God simply does not concern Himself with human opinions.

However, He does care. He is compassionate and loving towards all the flawed beings on earth. The altar likely is more for the people than for Him, as a reminder of His love and compassion. As subsequent generations tend toward forgetfulness, a monument can serve as a reminder of God’s goodness for generations to come.



WEEK 2, DAY 2:

Chapter 5: The Passover at Gilgal

Read Joshua 5

MVP

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

Joshua 5:13

NOTES

In this chapter, we'll explore the mass circumcision in Joshua's army at Gilgal, as well as circumcision overall. For adult men, this ritual would be both humiliating and painful. It may be helpful to consider the purpose behind the commandment. This chapter then concludes with a suspenseful encounter as Joshua meets an angel.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 What did God tell Joshua to do to the Israelites a second time? (v. 2) _____
- 02 True/False: God told Joshua to circumcise the Israelites because they had not been circumcised in the wilderness. (v. 7)
- 03 The place was called Gilgal because God rolled away the reproach of _____. (v. 9)
- 04 What did the Israelites celebrate on the 14th day of that month? (v. 10) _____
- 05 True/False: The Israelites continued to eat manna after they crossed the Jordan. (v. 12)
- 06 True/False: The man that Joshua saw standing in front of him wasn't a man at all. (v. 14)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Circumcision, a covenant sign given to Abraham, was reinstituted among the Israelites before they embark on their conquest of Jericho. How does the act of circumcision symbolize a renewal of the covenant between God and His people? (Consider Genesis 17:10-14.) How can we apply the concept of spiritual preparation and covenant renewal, symbolized by circumcision, to our lives as Christians today?

As the Israelites ate the food of the land, manna was no longer sent to sustain them. What does the transition from eating manna to consuming the produce of the land symbolize in terms of the Israelites' journey and God's provision? How might the events described in these verses parallel or apply to our spiritual journey today?

Recommended Bible Verses on FREEDOM FROM THE LAW: John 1:17, Romans 13:10



WEEK 2, DAY 3:

Chapter 6: Invasion of Jericho

Read Joshua 6

MVP

But Joshua had
commanded the army,
'Do not give a war cry, do
not raise your voices, do
not say a word until the
day I tell you to shout.
Then shout!'

Joshua 6:10

NOTES

One of the most renowned Bible stories is told in this chapter, the story of Jericho's invasion. Recall the earlier point about how following God's commands may seem foolish, but actually leads to wisdom. Use this chapter to address any doubts about God's desire to shape you into an honorable individual for His glory.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 The gates of Jericho were barred or shut because of the _____. (v. 1)
- 02 How many priests were to carry the trumpets in front of the Ark? (v. 4) _____
- 03 On the _____ day the Israelites were to march around the city
_____ times. (v. 4)
- 04 What were the Israelites told to do when they heard the long blast of the trumpets? (v. 5)

- 05 True/False: The Israelites were allowed to plunder the city. (v. 18)
- 06 Joshua said that anyone who rebuilt Jericho would be this: (v. 26) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 6, we see the powerful story of the fall of Jericho, where the walls came tumbling down after the Israelites marched around the city. Reflecting on this event, consider the significance of perseverance and obedience in the face of daunting challenges. How do you think the Israelites felt as they continued to march around the city day after day, seemingly without progress? What lessons can we learn from their commitment to follow God's instructions even when the outcome seemed uncertain?

In Matthew 1:5, Rahab is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus, which highlights her significance in biblical history. Read it as one of the Recommended Verses below, and then reflect on how God rewards us for our faith. What personal rewards have you received for your faith? If not, then reflect on a family member's or friend's experience.

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD'S REWARDS: Matthew 1:5, Colossians 3:23-24, Psalm 37:4



WEEK 2, DAY 4:

Chapter 7: The Sinning (and Stoning) of Achan

Read Joshua 7

MVP

That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

Joshua 7:12

NOTES

Today, we'll read about someone who is sentenced to death by stoning. Let's carefully review the story to ascertain the facts, withholding judgment until we have a clearer picture of what actually happened.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Who took some of the devoted things? (v. 1) _____
- 02 Joshua was concerned for God's great _____. (v. 9)
- 03 True/False: It was because Israel sinned that they lost the battle at Ai. (v. 11-12)
- 04 God told Joshua that He would no longer be with them unless they _____
the devoted things among them. (v. 12)
- 05 God told Joshua that whoever was caught with the devoted thing should be destroyed by _____
_____. (v. 15)
- 06 What tribe was Achan from? (v. 18) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 7, we encounter a pivotal moment in the Israelites' journey as they face the consequences of disobedience due to idolatry and covetousness. How would you define idolatry based on the events in this chapter? What are some modern-day examples of idolatry and covetousness that we might encounter? How can cultivating a deeper relationship with God help us resist these temptations?

How does Achan's sin and its consequences illustrate the importance of obedience and accountability within a community? What lessons can we draw from this passage about the impact of individual actions on the collective well-being, and how can we apply these principles in our own lives and communities today?

Recommended Bible Verses on THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE: Exodus 19:5, John 15:10



WEEK 2, DAY 5:

Chapter 8: The Destruction of Ai

Read Joshua 8

MVP

When the king of Ai saw this, he and all the men of the city hurried out early in the morning to meet Israel in battle at a certain place overlooking the Arabah. But he did not know that an ambush had been set against him behind the city.

Joshua 8:14

NOTES

Here we witness Israel engaging in conflict with a nation that fought fiercely, surpassing even the intensity of Jericho's battles. If you appreciate tales of warfare, this narrative is suited for you. Additionally, the text delves into intriguing aspects that highlight God's steadfast support for a small nation amidst formidable adversaries. Let's explore further!

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: The Israelites were allowed to plunder Ai. (v. 2)
- 02 True/False: Joshua planned to make the army of Ai think that they had scared off the Israelites. (v. 3-7)
- 03 What did the men waiting in ambush do to the city? (v. 19) _____
- 04 How many people were killed from Ai? (v. 25) _____
- 05 What did Joshua build on Mount Ebal? (v. 30) _____
- 06 What did Joshua write on stones? (v. 32) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 8, we see the Israelites successfully conquering Ai after their initial defeat. Reflecting on this narrative, consider the importance of learning from failure in our spiritual lives. How can we apply the lessons from Joshua 8 to our own experiences of setbacks or defeats? List some specific strategies or attitudes that can help us rebound and achieve victory in our spiritual battles.

In Joshua 8, the Israelites engage in violent warfare against the inhabitants of Ai as directed by God. How do we reconcile the portrayal of God as a God of peace with the violence depicted in this narrative? Reflecting on this tension, how we can understand and interpret passages like Joshua 8 in light of God's character as revealed throughout the Bible, particularly in relation to concepts of justice, mercy, and the overarching narrative of redemption. How can grappling with these difficult passages deepen our understanding of God's nature and His relationship with humanity?

Recommended Bible Verses on USE OF VIOLENCE: Romans 12:19-21, Psalm 11:5



WEEK 2 IN REVIEW

You have watched the Israelites see the end of their 40-year Exodus with the invasion of Jericho and the destruction of Ai. You've also seen some extreme violence explained. Let's take one more look back and see how more of this speaks to us in modern culture. Answer those questions that apply best to you:

Day 1

The Israelites constructed a monument with twelve stones from the Jordan River as a testimony to future generations of God's faithfulness in parting the waters and leading them into the Promised Land. Reflecting on this act of memorialization, take a moment to envision your own monument of faith. What practical steps can you take to start building this monument in your life today? How can you intentionally commemorate and celebrate God's faithfulness as you continue to journey with Him?

Day 2

In Joshua 5:13-15, we read about Joshua encountering a mysterious figure near Jericho. Joshua initially didn't recognize the figure's divine nature. What does this reveal about our own ability to discern spiritual realities in our lives? How can we grow in our spiritual awareness and sensitivity to God's presence?

Day 3

Reflect on the importance of faith in the face of fear. How did the Israelites' trust in God's promise to deliver Jericho into their hands embolden them to press forward despite the intimidating circumstances? How can the principles demonstrated in Joshua 6—such as obedience, faith, and unity—inspire and guide you in overcoming your own fears and obstacles? Consider what areas of your life may contain "Jericho-like" challenges—situations that seem insurmountable or overwhelming.



WEEK 2 IN REVIEW

You have watched the Israelites see the end of their 40-year Exodus with the invasion of Jericho and the destruction of Ai. You've also seen some extreme violence explained. Let's take one more look back and see how more of this speaks to us in modern culture. Answer those questions that apply best to you:

Day 4

How does Joshua's response to adversity demonstrate his leadership qualities and reliance on God's guidance? Reflecting on this, how can we cultivate similar resilience and faithfulness in the face of setbacks and failures in our own lives?

Day 5

In Joshua 8, we witness a pivotal moment where Joshua inscribes the laws of God onto stones. This act serves as a reminder of the covenant between God and His people. How can leaders today emulate Joshua's dedication to preserving and teaching God's commandments in a world of shifting values and ideologies?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Tribe
2. Twelve
3. Sign, memorial
4. Joshua
5. Gilgal
6. Fear

Application Help

1. Christians who seek instant relief from addiction or immediate recovery from illness may not receive what they ask for, as James 4:3 points out. They might wish to effortlessly shed weight by losing their sugar cravings or to be cured without enduring physical therapy. While some Christians may experience miraculous transformations, such as overcoming severe addictions, more often than not mature Christians will find that God leads them through a process where part of the healing involves developing resilience and character. This journey entails enduring trials that may last for weeks or months, cultivating qualities like endurance, patience, persistence, and hope.

2. God appreciates receiving gifts from us and He specifically provided instructions to the people of Israel on how to give Him gifts, which included altars. Why does He appreciate these offerings? Some scholars have written extensively on the idea that the God of Israel appears “narcissistic.” This accusation is not only baseless but also unconvincing, as we’ll see below.

FROM DAY 2

1. Circumcise them
2. True
3. Egypt
4. Passover
5. False, the manna stopped after they ate the food of the land
6. True

Application Help

1. The concept of achieving salvation through obedience to the Law and gaining favor with God has been superseded by the adoption through the blood of Christ. Rituals such as animal sacrifice for atonement (Christ’s sacrifice provided the ultimate Atonement) are no longer necessary. Through diligent effort we can now directly access God and comprehend His voice.

2. Many Christians are aware of the biblical account of God providing manna for the Hebrew people, but there’s uncertainty about the duration of this provision—whether it lasted for three months, three years, or 30. In fact, according to this passage, manna continued to be provided for all 40 years. The first instance of manna falling from the sky is recorded in Exodus 16, shortly after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, and the final mention is found in Joshua 5, when they ate Passover in the Promised Land. These narratives highlight God’s faithfulness to His promises. Despite the frequent failures and disobedience of the Israelites during their journey, God consistently provided them with sustenance until they were capable of providing it for themselves.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 3

1. Israelites or Children of Israel
2. Seven
3. Seventh, Seven
4. Shout
5. False (They were told not to keep anything)
6. Cursed

FROM DAY 4

1. Achan
2. Name
3. True
4. Destroyed
5. Fire
6. Judah

Application Help

1. It's important to note that unlike many of us, the Israelites had direct experiences with God. Many of them were young when they witnessed miracles like the parting of the Red Sea and heard God's voice at Mount Sinai when the Ten Commandments were given. They also received manna from heaven for 40 years, which ceased when they reached their destination.

Today, we must rely on faith and the records we have from the Bible. This is emphasized in Luke 16:29-31, where Lazarus and the rich man die, and Lazarus is taken to heaven while the rich man goes to Hades. The rich man pleads for someone to warn his family, but Abraham replies that if they didn't believe Moses and the prophets, they wouldn't believe even if someone rose from the dead.

Similarly, we are expected to believe in the miracles of Moses and Joshua without expecting extraordinary signs tailored to our desires.

Application Help

1. Idolatry, in a broad sense, can be seen as the worship of anything other than the one true God. It involves placing anything—whether tangible or intangible—above God in our lives. In Joshua 7, Achan's actions illustrate how the pursuit of material gain and personal desires can become idols when they take precedence over obedience to God.

Modern-day examples of idolatry and covetousness can take various forms, including:

- materialism (wealth, possessions, status)
- technology and entertainment (electronic devices, social media, gaming, entertainment)
- our own selves (success, image, personal gratification)
- relationships (romantic, familial, social)

By prioritizing our relationship with God above all else and seeking His kingdom and righteousness first, we can resist the temptations of idolatry and covetousness, finding true fulfillment and satisfaction in Him alone.

2. Achan's disobedience led to defeat in battle and loss of life among the Israelites. This demonstrates how individual actions can have far-reaching consequences on the collective well-being of a community. It emphasizes the interconnectedness of individuals within a community and the responsibility each person carries for their actions.

In certain situations, it may be necessary to destroy something for the greater good of the community, such as in the case of containing the spread of a contagious illness. For instance, if a community is facing an outbreak of a highly contagious disease, it may be appropriate to quarantine or destroy contaminated items or areas to prevent further transmission and protect the health and well-being of the community as a whole.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 5

1. True
2. True
3. Set it on fire
4. 12,000
5. An altar
6. A copy of the law of Moses

Application Help

1. The Israelites' initial defeat at Ai due to their disobedience to God's commands. However, following this setback, they regrouped, sought God's direction, and eventually achieved victory by implementing a new strategy aligned with God's plan.

This narrative resonates deeply with the human experience, as we are destined to make mistakes and encounter failures along our spiritual paths. Despite our best intentions, we often stumble and falter in our endeavors to live according to God's will. However, the grace of God offers us the opportunity to learn and grow from our mistakes.

2. To reconcile the portrayal of God as both just and merciful in narratives like Joshua 8, it's essential to understand various aspects of God's character as revealed throughout the Bible:

Justice: God's justice is portrayed through His righteousness and adherence to moral principles. In the context of Joshua 8, the destruction of Ai can be seen as a consequence of the city's defiance against God and His people. The Old Testament often depicts God as executing justice against wickedness, ensuring that wrongs are made right and His divine order is upheld.

Mercy: Alongside His justice, God's mercy is a central theme throughout the Bible. Mercy reflects God's compassion, forgiveness, and willingness to extend grace to those who repent and turn to Him. Despite the violence in Joshua 8, instances of God's mercy can be found, such as the sparing of Rahab and her family due to her faithfulness (Joshua 6:25).

Jesus Christ, as the ultimate revelation of God, exemplifies both justice and mercy. His sacrificial death on the cross demonstrates God's justice in dealing with sin while also showcasing His mercy by providing a way for reconciliation through faith in Him.

By grappling with these difficult passages and considering various aspects of God's character, we can deepen our understanding of God's nature and His relationship with humanity. It's through wrestling with these tensions that believers can gain a more nuanced and comprehensive view of God's attributes and His overarching plan for redemption.



JOSHUA

WEEK 3

WEEK 3, DAY 1:

Chapter 9: Deal Made with the Gibeonites

Read Joshua 9

MVP

This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God's wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.

Joshua 9:20

NOTES

In this chapter, the Israelites fall into deception due to their lack of spiritual preparedness. Let's explore what lessons we can glean from this to improve our prayer life.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Which kingdom wanted to make a treaty with Israel? (v. 3-6)

- 02 True/False: The people of this kingdom told the truth to Joshua. (v. 3-6)
- 03 The people of Gibeon were also called the _____. (v. 7)
- 04 From whom did the Israelites fail to seek council? (v. 14) _____
- 05 How many days after making a treaty with the people of Gibeon did the Israelites discover that they had been tricked? (v. 16) _____
- 06 True/False: The people of Gibeon feared the Lord. (v. 24)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Reflect again on how the Gibeonites deceived the Israelites into making a covenant with them. How does this story challenge us to be vigilant and discerning when entering into agreements or making promises? How can we ensure that we uphold our commitments while also being wise and discerning in our interactions with others?

In this chapter, we see the surrounding pagan nations reacting to the news of Israel's God. Reflecting on the broader context of Joshua's conquest of Canaan, what implications does the reaction of the surrounding nations have for our understanding of evangelism and God's desire for all people to come to know Him?

Recommended Bible Verses on THE IMPORTANCE OF A PRAYER LIFE:
Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Hebrews 4:15-16



WEEK 3, DAY 2:

Chapter 10: A Most Astonishing Miracle

Read Joshua 10

MVP

On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: 'Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.

Joshua 10:12

NOTES

Today, we witness an extraordinary event: a prolonged day that seemed to defy its natural course. Joshua ordered the daylight to persist, enabling him to triumph over five kingdoms allied against his allies, the Gibeonites. This chapter unfolds with remarkable miracles alongside profound sorrow, as we will soon discover.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Of which city was Adoni-Zedeck the king? (v. 1) _____
- 02 True/False: Gibeon was small and weak. (v. 2) _____
- 03 Who did Adoni-Zedeck want to attack? (v. 4) _____
- 04 What two things did Joshua pray for God to stop moving? (v. 12-13) _____
and _____
- 05 How many kings came out to fight Gibeon? (v. 16) _____
- 06 Where were the kings from? (v. 23) _____,
_____, _____,

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

The sun standing still for about a whole day defies the laws of nature as we understand them. How does this miraculous event affirm God's sovereignty over creation? How does it reinforce the idea that nothing is impossible for God?

The account of the Israelites' victory over the pagan kings contains quite a bit of violence. Why do you think God commanded the death of the pagan kings rather than allowing for their conversion or peaceful surrender? How might their idolatry and moral depravity have warranted such severe judgment from God? What might this narrative teach us about the consequences of rebellion against God's sovereignty?

Recommended Bible Verses on RECEIVING MIRACLES: Psalm 77:14, 1 John 5:14, 1 John 3:22



WEEK 3, DAY 3:

Chapter 11: More Victories and the Hamstringing of Animals

Read Joshua 11

MVP

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.

Joshua 11:12

NOTES

As Joshua continues his endeavors, it becomes apparent why God chose him for this role in acquiring the Promised Land. Unlike Moses, who was known for his scholarly nature, Joshua became a renowned warrior. Additionally, we address a misconception regarding supposed cruelty to animals.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Where did all these kings join together to fight against Israel? (v. 5) _____
- 02 Which kingdom was the head of the rest of the kingdoms coming against Israel? (v. 10) _____
- 03 True/False: Gibeon was the only city to make a treaty with Israel. (v. 19)
- 04 True/False: These kingdoms came to battle Israel so the Lord might destroy them. (v. 20)
- 05 The only places where there were people left alive were _____, _____, and _____. (v. 22)
- 06 Joshua gave the whole land to Israel as an _____. (v. 23)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In this chapter, a coalition of kings formed who conspired and joined forces against the Israelites. How do you think Joshua and the Israelites felt, facing this coalition of enemies? Have you ever experienced a situation where it seemed like multiple challenges were aligning against you? How did you respond?

In Joshua 11, the Israelites were commanded to hamstring or hough the horses of the defeated enemies. Why do you think God instructed them to do this? How does this command align with God's overall plan for the Israelites? Reflecting on this, what principles can we derive about obedience to God's specific commands, even when they seem unconventional or difficult to understand?

Recommended Bible Verses on HOW TO TREAT ANIMALS: Genesis 1:26-28, Deuteronomy 22:6



WEEK 3, DAY 4:

Chapter 12: List of Defeated Kings

Read Joshua 12

MVP

These are the kings of the land whom the Israelites had defeated and whose territory they took over east of the Jordan, from the Arnon Gorge to Mount Hermon, including all the eastern side of the Arabah:
Joshua 12:1

NOTES

Students studying the Bible may misunderstand the significance of lists found within chapters. They might question the relevance of encountering numerous names that seemingly hold no future significance. Initially, these lists can appear daunting and uninteresting. However, it's valuable to recognize the broader context and significance they provide. For example, consider the list detailing the defeated kings; this signifies their removal from historical records. Therefore, acknowledging the finality of these names is essential. Today, we'll focus on the overarching themes rather than intricate details, reflected in the limited number of short-answer questions provided.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 The first king mentioned on the list of disappeared kings is _____. (v. 2)
- 02 King Og was erased from history before this great hero had died: _____
(v. 4-6)
- 03 Moses gave the land conquered during the Exodus itself to these three tribes: _____, _____, and _____ (v. 6)
- 04 How many kings in all were conquered under Joshua's leadership, according to verse 24?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

This chapter lists the kings defeated by the Israelites under the leadership of Moses and Joshua. Why do you think it's significant for the Bible to record these specific victories and the names of the defeated kings? How might recording these conquests serve to strengthen the Israelites' faith in God's promises? Furthermore, how can we apply the principle of remembering and acknowledging our past victories in our own spiritual journey today?

As we read through the exhaustive list of defeated kings in Joshua 12, what significance do you find in the meticulous recording of these conquests? How does this attention to detail emphasize the credibility of the Bible as a reliable historical document?

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD'S GIFTS OF LAND: Deuteronomy 11:8-14, Leviticus 18:24-28



WEEK 3, DAY 5:

Chapter 13: The Allotment Begins with Another Miracle

Read Joshua 13

MVP

But to the tribe of Levi he gave no inheritance, since the food offerings presented to the LORD, the God of Israel, are their inheritance, as he promised them.

Joshua 13:14

NOTES

This is one of many chapters discussing the allotments, which refer to the division of land among the 12 tribes. You'll encounter similar chapters throughout your reading. To simplify, refer to Map 2. Locate each tribe mentioned on the map, then decide whether to delve into the detailed descriptions of their boundaries, which appear as indented paragraphs in the NIV version.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 The half-tribe of Manasseh, the Reubenites and the Gadites had their inheritance on the _____ side of the Jordan. (v. 8)
- 02 According to verse 13, the Israelites did not drive out the people of/called _____ and _____.
- 03 True/False: The tribe of Levi received no land as an inheritance. (v. 14)
- 04 Who was said to have practiced divination/soothsaying? (v. 22) _____
- 05 Who allotted the inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh? (v. 32) _____
- 06 What was the inheritance for the tribe of Levi? (v. 33) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 13:6-7, we see that God Himself declared His intention to drive out the inhabitants from the land for the Israelites. Yet, as we read through the subsequent chapters, we find Israel engaging in battles to possess the land. What does this reveal about the nature of God's promises and human participation in fulfilling them? How might this dynamic apply to our lives today?

In this chapter, we observe the meticulous division of the Promised Land among the tribes of Israel. Surprisingly, this division occurs without recorded conflict or discord among the tribes. What factors do you think contributed to this? And how does this peaceful division challenge our contemporary understanding of conflict resolution? What lessons can we draw from this to navigate modern-day conflicts within our families, workplaces, or broader societal contexts?

Recommended Bible Verses on VIOLENCE: Proverbs 3:31, Isaiah 60:18, Romans 12:17-21



WEEK 3 IN REVIEW

This week, you saw miracles and violence, destruction and hope. Pick any questions to answer to that apply to your current circumstances.

Day 1

In Joshua 9, we encounter a situation where the Israelites made a critical error in judgment by failing to consult God through prayer before making a decision. Reflecting on this passage, how can we improve our prayer life to avoid similar mistakes and seek God's guidance more effectively in our daily decisions?

Day 2

In Joshua 10, we witness Joshua's faith-filled prayer for the sun to stand still, and God's extraordinary response, which led to a decisive victory for Israel. How does it demonstrate the power of faith in prayer and God's willingness to intervene supernaturally on behalf of His people? Then consider Romans 8:28, which assures us that "God works all things together for the good of those who love Him." How can Joshua's example of faith and God's miraculous intervention encourage us to trust in God's promise in our own lives?

Day 3

In Joshua 11, we read about the Israelites hamstringing the horses of the defeated enemies as commanded by God. Consider the importance of taking decisive measures to prevent future sins. How does hamstringing the horses serve as a practical measure to prevent Israel from relying on the strength and resources of their enemies? How can we apply this principle in our own lives to prevent recurring temptations or sins?



WEEK 3 IN REVIEW

This week, you saw miracles and violence, destruction and hope. Pick any questions to answer to that apply to your current circumstances.

Day 4

In Joshua 12, we encounter a detailed account of the victories and conquests of the Israelites under Joshua's leadership. Take a moment to consider your own life journey. Make a list of significant "conquests" or victories where you've seen God's hand at work in your life. How do these personal conquests reflect God's faithfulness, provision, and guidance?

Day 5

In Joshua 13, there is a transition from conquest to allocation, as Joshua was instructed to divide the land among the tribes of Israel. Considering this shift in focus, how does this chapter highlight the importance of strategic planning and organization in the pursuit of God's promises? What can we learn about the balance between action and preparation as we navigate our own journeys of faith?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Gibeon
2. False (They pretended to be from a distant land)
3. Hivites
4. The Lord
5. Three
6. True

FROM DAY 2

1. Jerusalem
2. False (It was a great city with mighty men)
3. Gibeon
4. Sun, Moon
5. Five
6. Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, Eglon

Application Help

1. In modern times, people often don't take verbal promises seriously. We rely on digital or written contracts produced with paper and printers for efficiency. We justify falsehoods as "white lies" or necessary to protect loved ones, despite the risk of teaching dishonesty to our children. It's important to recognize the influence of our words, as we'll eventually be accountable for them, and prioritize honesty.

2. Christians frequently learn that Israel was a small nation facing adversity in Egypt when they called upon God for help. Less commonly discussed is how God's miracles made Israel formidable to other nations. While understanding God's compassion for the vulnerable is crucial, it's also important to recognize how God shapes reputations as we grow and mature in our personal journeys.

Application Help

1. The event underscores the biblical concept of God's sovereignty, meaning His supreme power and authority over all creation. It demonstrates that God has control over the natural elements, including the celestial bodies like the sun and the moon. This aligns with passages throughout the Bible that emphasize God's dominion over the universe (e.g., Psalm 135:6, Isaiah 45:7, Job 38-41).

The sun standing still represents a supernatural intervention in the natural order of the cosmos. It transcends the laws of nature as we understand them, showcasing God's ability to suspend or alter the laws He established when necessary to accomplish His purposes. This miracle may challenge our scientific understanding of the cosmos, so it's essential to recognize that the Bible often presents supernatural occurrences that defy natural explanations. From a scientific standpoint, explanations for such events typically fall outside the realm of empirical observation and experimentation, as they involve divine intervention beyond the scope of natural laws.

2. Many people express concern about the prevalence of violence, suggesting it hinders non-believers from trusting in God. However, non-believers often overlook deeper analysis of these events or alternative outcomes.

In battles, options for dealing with defeated parties are limited. The notion of survivors simply shaking hands and returning home is unrealistic. Violent offenders would likely reemerge, potentially causing more harm. Killing only the kings might temporarily solve the issue, but their children could seek vengeance later on. Allowing captives to maintain their religious practices, as God foresaw, could lead Israel astray.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 3

1. Waters of Merom
2. Hazor
3. True
4. True
5. Gaza, Gath and Ashdod
6. Inheritance

Application Help

2. Understanding the historical context of the Israelites and their interactions with other nations, such as the Canaanites, provides insight into the reasons behind God's commands. The Canaanites were known for their military strength, including their use of horses in warfare. In the ancient Near East, disabling the enemy's horses would significantly weaken their military capabilities.

Some scholars suggest that hamstringing the horses may have symbolic significance beyond its practical military implications. It could represent a rejection of reliance on worldly strength and a reminder to trust in God alone for victory.

The command to hamstring the horses presents a test of obedience for the Israelites. It requires them to trust in God's wisdom and follow His instructions even when they may not fully understand the reasoning behind them. Obedience despite lack of understanding recurs throughout the Bible and serves as a lesson in faith and submission to God's will.

FROM DAY 4

1. Sihon
2. Moses
3. The Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh
4. 31

Application Help

1. Recording Israel's conquests reinforces the idea that God is actively involved in the affairs of His people and fulfills His promises. Remembering these victories reminds the Israelites of God's power and faithfulness, which in turn strengthens their trust in His promises for the future. By acknowledging these victories, the Israelites are encouraged to remain faithful to God and His commands, knowing that He is with them in their journey.

Just as the Israelites recorded their victories, keeping a record of our past spiritual victories can serve as a source of encouragement and strength in times of difficulty. Reflecting on past victories reminds us of God's faithfulness and provision in our lives, reinforcing our trust in Him for the future. Acknowledging past victories can also help us identify patterns of God's work in our lives, leading to deeper gratitude and faith. Sharing our testimonies can inspire and encourage fellow believers in their own spiritual journey.

2. The Jewish people are known for their meticulous record-keeping, largely due to the involvement of their God. This practice served to authenticate the testimonies of authors recounting miraculous events, ensuring clarity about who participated and what actions were taken. Visualize diligent scribes, dedicated to prayer and diligent work, striving to include details that would validate their narrative for future generations. Comprehensive record-keeping is one of the methods used to enhance credibility.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 5

1. East
2. Geshur, Maakah or Geshurites, Maachathites
3. True
4. Balaam
5. Moses
6. The Lord God of Israel

Application Help

1. While God promises to fulfill His plans and promises, He often involves human beings in the process. In this case, God's promise to give the land to Israel was certain, but Israel still had to actively engage in warfare and obedience to possess it. This reflects a principle of divine sovereignty alongside human responsibility.

Israel had to trust in God's promise while also actively participating in the process of conquering the land. Israel battling to possess the land required both faith in God's promise and action on their part. They couldn't simply sit back and wait for God to fulfill His promise without taking any action. The process of possessing the land was not just about obtaining physical territory but also about learning to trust and depend on God.

2. The Israelites were following the instructions provided by God through Moses, who had received guidance on how to divide the land fairly among the tribes (Numbers 26:52-56). This adherence to divine instruction likely helped maintain unity and minimize disputes. The Israelites likely had trust in Joshua, who led them into the Promised Land after the death of Moses. Joshua's leadership and authority would have played a significant role in ensuring compliance and cooperation among the tribes during the division process. The tribes of Israel shared a common purpose and identity as God's chosen people. This shared sense of belonging and common heritage may have fostered cooperation and a willingness to work together for the greater good.



JOSHUA

WEEK 4

WEEK 4, DAY 1:

Joshua 20: Cities of Refuge

Read Joshua 20 (and peruse 21 if interested)

MVP

**So that anyone who kills
a person accidentally
and unintentionally
may flee there and find
protection from the
avenger of blood.**

Joshua 20:3

NOTES

The concept of cities of refuge holds significance, and delving into this chapter will enhance your understanding of the importance of fairness in God's Laws. Some Christians find visualizing locations on maps aids their comprehension and strengthens their attachment to those places. Consider exploring Chapter 21 along with Map 2 for additional insight, if beneficial.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 God told Joshua to make cities of _____ for the Israelites. (v. 1-2)
- 02 True/False: The cities of refuge were for unintentional killings. (v. 3)
- 03 True/False: The cities of refuge were for protection. (v. 3)
- 04 The fugitive would have to stay in the city of refuge until this person died:
(v. 6) _____
- 05 The Israelites made cities of refuge in the territory of these tribes: (v. 7-8)
_____, _____, _____
_____, _____, _____
- 06 True/False: The person fleeing to the city of refuge could still be killed by the avenger of blood. (v. 9)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 20, we learn about the cities of refuge established by God for those who unintentionally committed manslaughter. Reflecting on the purpose of these cities, how do they serve as a symbol of God's grace and provision for His people? Furthermore, what lessons can we draw from the cities of refuge about the importance of providing sanctuary and support for those who have made mistakes or are in need of forgiveness in our own communities?

In Joshua 20, we encounter a significant shift from the Levitical law where vengeance was demanded (Leviticus 24:19-21) to a system of refuge cities for unintentional manslaughter. How does this align with the principles of forgiveness and grace emphasized in the New Testament (1 Peter 3:9)? In what ways does this change anticipate the ultimate fulfillment of justice and mercy through Jesus?

Recommended Bible Verses on LOVING YOUR ENEMIES: [Matthew 5:43-48](#), [Romans 12:20](#)



WEEK 4, DAY 2:

Chapter 22: The Tribes of the East Build an Altar

Read Joshua 22

MVP

If we have built our own altar to turn away from the LORD and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the LORD himself call us to account.

Joshua 22:23

NOTES

For the first time, the soldiers stationed east of the Jordan River are allowed to go back to their families. They construct a memorial to honor God, ensuring that future generations won't question their allegiance to the God of Israel.

However, the people living to the west become upset and begin plotting a civil conflict prematurely.

Let's find the cause for the immediate tension...

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 What did the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh build at the Jordan? (v. 10) _____
- 02 True/False: The Reubenites, Gadites and Manasseh built their altar in the land of Canaan. (v. 10)
- 03 The Israelites sent _____, son of Eleazar and _____ others to Gilead. (v. 13-14)
- 04 True/False: The altar built by the Reubenites, Gadites and Manasseh was a rebellion. (v. 24)
- 05 The altar was meant to be a _____ that the Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh were indeed part of Israel. (v. 27)
- 06 True/False: The Israelites were glad to hear that this was not a rebellion. (v. 33)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh build an altar near the Jordan River, sparking concern among the other Israelite tribes. How might the construction of this altar have been perceived differently if they had communicated their intentions beforehand?

When the tribes built the altar, it sparked fear and suspicion among their fellow Israelites. However, upon investigation, it was revealed that their intentions were not what they initially appeared to be. Describe a time in your life when you or someone you know jumped to a conclusion about a situation or person without having all the facts. What were the consequences of assuming too quickly?

Recommended Bible Verses on BEING JUDGMENTAL: Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-11



WEEK 4, DAY 3:

Chapter 23: Joshua Says Farewell to His Leaders

Read Joshua 23

MVP

Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

Joshua 23:14

NOTES

We are nearing the conclusion of Joshua's life as he bids farewell. Let's examine how he summarizes everything for the soldiers and their families.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Joshua told Israel to be careful to obey this: (v. 6) _____
- 02 True/False: Joshua told the Israelites that it was okay to associate with the other nations. (v. 7)
- 03 Joshua told the Israelites to be very careful to _____ the Lord. (v. 11)
- 04 True/False: If the Israelites associated with the surrounding nations, the Lord would no longer fight for them. (v. 13)
- 05 If the Israelites associated with the surrounding nations, then those nations would become a _____ and _____ to them. (v. 13)
- 06 None of the promises of the Lord had _____. (v. 14)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Reflecting on Joshua 23:10, how does the concept of God fighting for His people resonate with your own life experiences? Can you recall a time when you felt God's intervention or guidance in a challenging situation? How does this verse encourage you to trust in God's promises and rely on His strength in your daily life?

Read Joshua 23:12-13 and then consider the implications of “allying” and “intermarrying” with ideologies or practices that contradict God's teachings. How might compromising our beliefs or standards lead to spiritual consequences, as seen in the warning given to the Israelites? What steps can you take to reinforce your spiritual boundaries and remain steadfast in your faith despite external pressures?

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD'S PROTECTION: Isaiah 54:17, Romans 8:31



WEEK 4, DAY 4:

Chapter 24: Conclusion & the Renewal of the Covenant

Read Joshua 24

MVP

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, 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

NOTES

Today, we bid farewell and express gratitude to Joshua for his faith and courage. Even in these closing remarks, we encounter some unexpected elements, so let's explore further.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Where did Joshua gather the Israelites to renew the covenant? (v. 1) _____
- 02 What country did God assign to Esau? (v. 4) _____
- 03 Who tried to curse Israel? (v. 9) _____
- 04 Joshua told the people that they were _____ against themselves. (v. 22)
- 05 How old was Joshua when he died? (v. 29) _____
- 06 The Israelites buried the bones of _____ at Shechem. (v. 32)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua famously declares, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Reflecting on this verse, consider your own life. How can we emulate Joshua's bold declaration in our own lives and families? What steps can we take to ensure that our households remain faithful to God?

What was the significance of the covenant renewal ceremony described in verses 25-28? Why was it important for the Israelites to reaffirm their commitment to God in this way? How can we practically renew our commitment to God in our daily lives? What practices or rituals can help us stay focused on serving the Lord amidst the distractions and temptations of the world?

Recommended Bible Verses on DEFINING IDOLATRY: Colossians 3:5, 1 Peter 4:3



WEEK 4, DAY 5:

Most Popular Verses Today in Joshua

Read Joshua 24

You've been provided with the Most Popular Verses (MPVs) for each Bible lesson. Now, let's delve into the MPVs from the book of Joshua. Why are they significant? MPVs are the verses that capture the most interest in our culture, offering insights into how the text remains relevant. Below, you'll find the top five MPVs from the entire book. These may not correspond directly with the MPVs provided, as sometimes entire chapters are highly popular, and multiple MPVs can be found within the same chapter.

Consider why the following Top Five MPVs are receiving significant attention, given the current global circumstances.

#1 Joshua 24:15

Overall Bible Rank: 263

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

#2 Joshua 1:9

Overall Bible Rank: 521

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

#3 Joshua 1:8

Overall Bible Rank: 539

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

#4 Joshua 24:14

Overall Bible Rank: 966

Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

#5 Joshua 10:12

Overall Bible Rank: 2,335

On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

At the beginning of this study, you were tasked with gathering information about Joshua. Now you can use that information to compose a gratitude message below! Although it may seem simplistic at first, seasoned Christians acknowledge that expressing gratitude to God and biblical figures can be both thrilling and daunting. Here are some suggestions to help you craft a meaningful spiritual expression, whether you opt for Joshua or another beloved hero.

- **REMEMBER TO WHOM YOU ARE SPEAKING.** They will be renowned for eternity, much like how movie stars are celebrated for their short time on Earth.
- **REMEMBER TO THANK GOD FIRST.** You should always prioritize the Creator over any creation, even someone as significant as these individuals.
- **OFFER TO DO A GOOD DEED IN THIS PERSON'S NAME.** Occasionally, we may experience intense emotions towards God or one of His revered figures. How should we handle such feelings? Demonstrating gratitude through acts of kindness is one approach. Being innovative is another way to express appreciation. Additionally, honoring our commitments to these figures is essential.
- **IF THIS SEEMS CHILDISH,** consider it as an opportunity to reconnect with our youthful spirit. Jesus encourages us to maintain childlike faith each day.

Some individuals claim to send letters to God and friends by placing them in the fireplace. Others shred them into confetti and release them with balloons. Some choose to scatter the pieces into a body of water. Follow whatever method gives you the confidence that your message has been seen by God and will be delivered to its intended recipient.

[illegible]



WEEK 4 IN REVIEW

Congratulations! After today you will have completed this study of Joshua–Moses’ successor, the great prophet and warrior. Pick any questions from this week that inspire your thoughts and feelings and answer them:

Day 1

The New Covenant has indeed taught us that “vengeance is the Lord’s.” What other freedoms have you experienced that have to do with the New Covenant or the love of Christ?

Day 2

We studied on this day the problems that arise when we judge wrongly. The church is getting into some strong challenges today for judging the outside world. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 and state how it can be used to keep us out of trouble with unnecessary judgment.

Day 3

God seemed to be repeating at every turn how injurious it could be to Israel if they marry the pagans nearby. He may come across like a broken record, but this very situation is what got Israel time after time. Think of something you would like to repeat to your children time after time because the danger is so great. How does reflecting on this help you feel good about your repetitiveness and not like you’d be a nag?



WEEK 4 IN REVIEW

Congratulations! After today you will have completed this study of Joshua—Moses' successor, the great prophet and warrior. Pick any questions from this week that inspire your thoughts and feelings and answer them:

Day 4

Did you make the decision on this day to write a thank you note to Joshua or another Bible hero? If so, figure out what you'd like to say and finish. If the idea doesn't appeal, simply answer the question: Which MPV from yesterday resonated with you the most, and why?

Day 5

Linguists have noticed how prevalent sarcasm was in the ancient cultures. Some would feel that Joshua was using sarcasm in Joshua 24:15. As well, some Christians have testified to God having a sense of humor and making them laugh in prayer or a meditation, using sarcasm as His motivation. If you've had an experience with God's sense of humor, describe it.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Refuge
2. True
3. True
4. The high priest
5. Naphtali, Ephraim, Judah, Reuben, Gad, Manasseh
6. False (They could not be killed prior to standing trial)

Application Help

1. Cities of refuge played a crucial role in ancient times, particularly before Christ, when societies adhered to the principle of “an eye for an eye.” In such communities, if someone’s family member was killed, seeking retribution against the perpetrator was commonly accepted. This often led to cycles of revenge, where individuals responded to harm with more harm, without much regard for the consequences. It was only with the teachings of Christ that concepts like “vengeance is mine, sayeth God” and “love your enemies” emerged. Understanding these principles, we recognize the importance of due process, which is inspired by God and essential for justice. While we may not require literal cities of refuge today, we can still emulate their spirit by offering mercy and grace to those who have erred.

2. The teachings of Christ represent Christ Himself and cannot exist independently from Him. Although the Bible comprises 66 books written by 40 authors across 2 testaments, it tells one unified story of God’s interaction with humanity. During the 1,500-year span from the Fall to the Flood, God’s relationship with humanity was distant, focusing primarily on the lineage from Noah to Christ. However, in Genesis 11, God shifts focus from a single lineage to a single nation, allowing people to gain favor without being part of a specific lineage. In the latter part of this narrative, God’s focus becomes more personal after the death of Christ, enabling individuals to approach the throne of grace directly.

The individuals we’re examining lived during this transitional period. Understanding and practicing fairness was a prerequisite for embracing unconditional forgiveness, which itself requires the presence of the Holy Spirit—or Christ.

FROM DAY 2

1. An altar
2. True
3. Phineas, ten
4. False
5. Witness
6. True

Application Help

1. Communicating their intentions beforehand would have allowed the tribes to clearly articulate the purpose behind building the altar. Explaining the significance of the altar in their faith and its alignment with Israelite beliefs could have mitigated concerns about any deviation from established religious norms. Additionally, they could have informed the other Israelite tribes about their plans and invited representatives to participate in the altar’s construction or at least observe the process. This would have fostered a sense of inclusion and prevented feelings of exclusion or suspicion.

2. Jumping to conclusions without having all the facts can have significant consequences, often leading to misunderstandings, strained relationships, or unnecessary conflict. It can cause problems such as:

- Misinterpretation of intentions
- Damage to relationships
- Missed opportunities for understanding
- Escalation of conflict
- Undermining trust and unity
- Regret and guilt
- Difficulty repairing damage

Despite the negative outcomes, experiences of assuming too quickly can serve as valuable lessons for future interactions. They highlight the importance of seeking clarity, withholding judgment until all the facts are known, and approaching situations with empathy and understanding.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 3

1. The Law of Moses
2. False
3. Love
4. True
5. Traps, Snares
6. Failed

Application Help

2. In the Old Testament, particularly in the book of Deuteronomy, the Israelites were explicitly warned against forming alliances or intermarrying with neighboring pagan nations. This was because such alliances often led to adopting their practices—which, in the case of the Israelites, led to idolatry, moral decay, and ultimately, divine judgment. This serves as a cautionary tale about the spiritual consequences of forsaking God's teachings.

As we all face societal pressures, we should understand the importance of maintaining spiritual integrity, considering where we are weak spiritually and taking proactive steps to reinforce our faith in the face of external pressures.

FROM DAY 4

1. Shechem
2. Seir
3. Balaam
4. Witnesses
5. 110 years old
6. Joseph

Application Help

1. Joshua's declaration comes at the culmination of his address to the Israelites, reminding them of God's faithfulness throughout their history. Joshua's declaration was personal; he wasn't speaking for others but for himself and his household. Similarly, individuals must make a personal commitment to serve God, recognizing that faith is not merely inherited but a conscious choice.

Joshua's commitment extends to his household, emphasizing the importance of influencing those closest to us towards serving the Lord. This underscores the significance of fostering relationships that encourage spiritual growth and accountability.

2. The covenant renewal ceremony was a way for the Israelites to remind themselves of their covenant relationship with God. It often involved reading the law, recommitting to obedience, and acknowledging God's faithfulness. The ceremony also symbolized the continuity of God's covenant relationship with His people. By renewing the covenant, the Israelites were acknowledging their ongoing commitment to follow God's commandments and remain faithful to Him. This was crucial to the Israelites maintaining their identity as God's chosen people and to stay faithful to His commandments, especially as they entered a new phase in their journey.