

REAL LIFE MINISTRIES

Biographical Study Method Bible Characters

JOSHUA

~ Review:

1. What stood out to you from Dan's teaching on Pater last week?
 - o Did God reveal anything to you throughout the week because of something you heard last Sunday?

1. Name/Names:

Joshua: son of Nun; Hoshea son of Nun; Servant of Moses
Last Patriarch ~ First Judge of Israel

2. Bible References:

Exodus 17:9-14; 24:13; 32:17; 33:11
Numbers 11:28; 13:8,16; 14:6,30,38; 26:65; 27:18-22; 32:12,28; 34:17
Deuteronomy 1:28; 3:21,28; 31:3-23; 32:44; 34:9
Joshua
Judges 1:1; 2:6-23
1Chronicles 7:27
Nehemiah 8:17
Acts 7:45
Hebrews 4:8

3. First Impressions:

First Impression before starting:

- Joshua was a mighty warrior and a faithful Leader/Judge in Israel

First Impression after studying:

- Joshua was a popular, brilliant military leader, who faithfully served Moses and faithfully led Israel into the Promised Land, encouraging them to obey and trust in God.

4. Chronological Outline:

ENSLAVED IN EGYPT

1. **Born in Egypt during the time of Slavery**
 - a. Hoshea Son of Nun

WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS

1. **Chosen by Moses to form a militia to fight the Amalekites (Ex 17:8-16)**
 - a. Defeats the Amalekite army
 - b. Moses, Aaron & Hur overseeing the battle and soliciting divine support
2. **Served as Moses' aide/servant from his youth (Nu 11:28)**
 - a. Accompanied Moses up the mountain to receive divine guidance (Ex 24:13-32:17)
 - i. Did not participate in the golden-calf worship & revelry

- b. Worshipped God inside the Tent of Meeting, even after Moses returned to the camp, while others worshipped from the entrance to their own tents (Ex 33:11)
- c. Jealously defended Moses when elders prophesied inside the camp (Nu 11:24-30)
- 3. **Chosen as one of 12 spies to reconnoiter the land of Canaan, the “Promised Land” (Nu 13:16)**
 - a. Had his name changed by Moses from *Hoshea* (Oh Save!) to *Joshua* (The Lord is Salvation!)
 - b. Along with Caleb, gave a good report of the land; entreated the people to trust God & not rebel (Nu 14:1-9)
 - c. Received God’s promise to enter the Promised Land with Caleb & all <20yrs old (Nu 14:30-38; Dt 1:38)
- 4. **Identified by God as “a man in whom is the Spirit” who would succeed Moses (Nu 27:18; Dt 3:28)**
 - a. Ordained by Moses and Eleazar the Priest in a commissioning ceremony witnessed by the whole assembly (Nu 14:12-23)
 - b. Filled with the spirit of wisdom when Moses laid hands on him (Nu 27:23; Dt 34:9)
- 5. **Honored by Moses in presence of the assembly; encouraged to “be strong & courageous” as he leads the Israelites into their possession (Dt 31:7-8)**
- 6. **Commissioned by God to “be strong & courageous” as he entered the land ; was told by God that He would always be with him (Dt 31:14-23)**
- 7. **Became the recognized Leader of Israel after Moses died (Dt 34:9)**

CONQUERING CANAAN

- 1. **Receives his missions & encouragement from God (Js 1:1-9)**
 - a. Complete 4 Specific Missions:
 - i. **Cross the Jordan**
 - ii. **Seize the territory from the Negev (S) to Lebanon (N), Euphrates (E) to the Great Sea (W)**
 - iii. ***Apportion the land to the 12 tribes (Nu 34:17)***
 - iv. **Obey the Law of God**
 - b. Encouragement
 - i. God will give them everyplace they set their foot
 - ii. God will be with him always
 - iii. No one will be able to stand up against them
 - iv. Be Strong & Courageous!
 - v. Don’t be terrified or discouraged!
- 2. **Prepares to cross the Jordan (Js 1-2)**
 - a. Tells the people to get ready
 - b. Sends 2 spies into Jericho {**Why 2 spies?**}
 - i. Rahab helps
 - 1. protects them
 - 2. provides intel on morale
 - 3. tells them how to evade capture
 - 4. spies promise not to let any harm come to her family
 - ii. Spies’ Report: *The Lord has given the land into our hand!*
- 3. **Crosses the Jordan (Js 3-4)**
 - a. Camp 3 days at the edge of the river
 - b. Instruct the people to consecrate themselves and be prepared follow the Ark of the Covenant, but keep their distance!
 - c. God promises to exalt him in the eyes of Israel
 - d. God instructs Joshua who instructs the priests, leaders & people
 - i. Priests carrying Ark step into the Jordan & stand in the middle {**step of faith**}
 - ii. God stops the water flow – in a heap; not natural causes
 - iii. Israel crosses on dry ground
 - iv. 12 stones set up by Joshua in the place where the priests stood
 - v. This is a sign that God will give them victory in the land!
 - vi. Joshua is exalted in the eyes of Israel!
 - e. Camp at Gilgal
 - i. 2 miles from Jericho
 - ii. 12 stones set up to commemorate the crossing!
 - 1. To teach the children
 - 2. As a witness to the world
 - f. **Mission #1 Complete!**
- 4. **Prepares to take Jericho (Js 5)**
 - a. Unfinished business; **consecration must precede conquest!**
 - b. Covenant is renewed through circumcision

- c. Passover meal is eaten; manna ceases & they eat the fruit of the land
 - i. A great reminder of how this journey began, God's provision over 40 years, and God keeping His promise to them!
 - ii. **{Note: God didn't stop sending manna when they hated it (Nu 11:6); only when they no longer needed it!}**
- d. Meets the Commander of the Lord's Army
 - i. Theophany – Christophany! Pre-incarnate Christ!
 - ii. Drawn sword = ready to fight
 - 1. Sin of the Amorites was full (Ge 15:16)
 - iii. Not an enemy; not an ally – He's the Lord!
 - 1. Joshua falls on his face in worship
 - 2. This isn't Joshua's battle; it's the Lord's
 - iv. Remove your sandals, this is holy ground
 - 1. He must get himself right *spiritually*
 - v. He must have been trying to figure out what he was going to do to take this fortified city with slings & arrows
 - vi. God didn't give him the plan right away, but Joshua was confident that God would do it
- e. There is a marked parallel between Joshua and Moses in these chapters:
 - i. Crossed the waters on dry ground with divine help (Js 3:14-17 & Ex 14:21-22)
 - ii. Struck fear in their enemies (Js 5:1 & Ex 15:10-16)
 - iii. Circumcision before the task (Js 5:2-9 & Ex 4:24-26)
 - iv. Celebrated Passover (Js 5:10-12 & Ex 12)
 - v. Removed their sandals before the Lord (Js 5:13-15 & Ex 3:5)

5. Conquers Jericho (Js 6)

- a. March around the city once each day for six days
 - i. Armed men up front
 - ii. Seven priests blowing trumpets
 - iii. Ark of the Covenant
 - iv. Armed rear guard
- b. Seventh day, march around the city seven times
 - i. Same formation
 - ii. On completion of the seventh trip long trumpet blast
 - iii. People shouted & the walls fell
 - iv. The army charged the city and destroyed everything
 - v. No plunder was to be taken – it was all to be devoted to the Lord
 - vi. Rahab's household was to be spared
- c. Joshua pronounces a curse on anyone who would rebuild the city

6. First Battle of Ai (Js 7)

- a. Achan acted unfaithfully by taking plunder for himself
- b. Joshua did not inquire of the Lord, but proceeded on his own
- c. Israelites are routed
- d. Joshua appeals to God – Why?
 - i. God: Stand up! Israel has sinned!
- e. Lots are drawn to determine the culprit
- f. Joshua has Achan and his household stoned, burned & buried
 - i. Valley of Achor (Trouble)

7. Second Battle of Ai (Js 8)

- a. The Lord encourages Joshua and tells him to take Ai by ambush
 - i. Plunder will be for the Israelites
- b. Ruse to draw the men out of the city
 - i. Upon a signal an ambush set the city on fire
 - ii. Retreating men turn to fight – pincer maneuver
- c. Ai is defeated, all the men killed, city burned & turned into a heap
- d. Joshua builds an altar and reads the Law aloud to the whole assembly

8. Gibeonite Deception (Js 9)

- a. Pretended to be from a far country
- b. Joshua did not inquire of the Lord & made a covenant with them
- c. After learning of their deception, they were made servants of the Israelites

9. Battle with the Five Amorite Kings (Js 10:1-28)

- a. Kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon joined forces to attack Gibeon
- b. Israel comes to their defense as promised
- c. God intervenes
 - i. Throws the enemy into confusion
 - ii. Sends huge hailstones which killed many
 - iii. Sun stands still for a full day to allow Joshua to pursue the enemy
- d. Five kings were discovered hiding in a cave
 - i. Kings were killed & hung on a tree until sundown
 - ii. City of Makkedah was put to the sword

10. Southern Cities Conquered (Js 10:29-43)

- a. Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron, and Debir
- b. Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings.
- c. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.
- d. Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon.
- e. All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.
- f. Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

11. Northern Kings Defeated (Js 11)

- a. Massive confederation of kings led by Jabin, King of Hazor
- b. Assembled at Waters of Merom, a few miles NW of the Sea Of Galilee to fight Israel
- c. God told Joshua to attack them
 - i. By this time tomorrow they will be defeated!
- d. Surprise attack resulted in victory
- e. Pursued the fleeing soldiers until they were completely defeated
- f. Burned their cities & destroyed their horses & chariots
- g. **Mission #2 Complete!**

12. Allocation of Territory to the 12 Tribes of Israel (Js 13-21)

- a. 2 ½ Tribes East of the Jordan
- b. 9 ½ Tribes in Canaan
- c. Levites given 48 towns and pasturelands as Moses had instructed
- d. **Mission #3 Complete!**

13. Crisis: The Altar of Witness (Js 22)

- a. Eastern Tribes create a crisis by building an imposing altar at Geliloth near the Jordan
 - i. Wanted to ensure they weren't neglected/excluded from the rest of Israel
- b. Western Tribes misinterpreted it as a breach of faith by building a rival altar to the Lord
- c. By taking immediate actions to investigate and listen, reconciliation was achieved

14. Joshua's Farewell Address & Covenant renewal at Shechem (Js 23-24)

- a. Reminds them of God's faithfulness
- b. Exhorts them to obey God
- c. Encourages them to continue taking possession of their allotted land
- d. Reminds them of the consequences of disobedience
- e. Exhorts them to choose whom they will serve; either...
 - i. The false gods of Egypt & Amorites
 - ii. The Lord
- f. 24:15 "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"
- g. **Fourth & Final Mission Complete!**

15. Joshua Dies at 110 years old

- a. Buried in Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim
- b. Israel remained faithful throughout the lifetime of all those who had come out of the wilderness
- c. Joseph's bones are buried in Shechem
- d. Eleazar dies; buried in Gibeah in the hill country of Ephraim

5. General Insights:

1. Joshua was called by God to lead Israel in to take possession of the Land of Canaan – the Promised Land

- a. Keep the Law
- b. Cross Jordan
- c. Take the land
- d. Apportion the land

2. He was a Military Genius

- a. Divide & Conquer Method
 - i. Separated the kings of the North from those in the South
- b. Always took the offensive; initiated the battle to gain the advantage
- c. He listened to God when forming his battle plans
 - i. Battle of Jericho was *crazy!*

3. He was a Popular Leader ~ the people loved him and obeyed him

- a. There is no record of any grumbling or regret from the Israelites under his command
- b. They fought hard for him and for the Lord – even the Eastern Tribes
 - i. They capitulated to his decisions
 - ii. Gibeonite Deception
 - iii. Altar of Witness Crisis

4. He refused to let his mistakes define him

- a. Corrected by Moses regarding elders prophesying
- b. Mistook the Lord before Jericho
- c. Presumed to take Ai without the Lord's direction
- d. Made a peace treaty with the Gibeonites

5. Biggest Failure: He did not raise up a Leader to follow him as Moses had done with him!

- a. As we read in the Judges 2:6-15, their spiritual connection to God is lost in a single generation!

6. Character Qualities:

What Character Qualities do you see in Joshua?

- **Brave** – led the fight against the Amalekites as a young man; faced massive army of the Kings of the North
- **Bold** – stands before the Commander of the Lord's Army and challenges Him!
- **Disciplined** – was careful to obey the Law of God; marching around Jericho
- **Confident** – As for me and my house...

7. Bible Truths:

What Bible Truths do we see in this study of Joshua?

- **Obedience to God is rewarded!**
 - God instructs Joshua very clearly about how to cross the Jordan and how to take Jericho
 - Both seem crazy, yet he obeys God explicitly
 - Joshua is exalted in the eyes of the people; which never seems to dissipate
- **God's Plan is so much bigger than what we see!**
 - Joshua honors the agreement made by the two spies and Rahab the prostitute because he is a man of integrity
 - Rahab marries Salmon, a Prince in Israel
 - She is King David's Great-Great-Grandmother!
 - She is among the five women noted in the lineage of Jesus (Mt 1:5)
 - **You never know what God is doing through your obedience!**
 - **Liberty Boat Story**
- **Failure is Not Fatal!**
 - Corrected by Moses regarding elders prophesying

- He moved on in ministry
- Mistook the Lord before Jericho
 - Fell on his face & removed his sandals
 - Acquiesced to the Lord's leading and direction
- Presumed to take Ai without the Lord's direction
 - Repented & inquired of the Lord
 - God corrected him then encouraged him to try again!
- Made a peace treaty with the Gibeonites
 - He honored his mistake but dealt with the deceit
 - This did not preclude him from leadership or Israel from victory in the land

*** What Bible Truths do you see?

8. Main Lesson:

- **God has given us a (co)mission: Go and make Disciples!**
 - **How we do this is as individual as the different battles Joshua faced**
 - **Jericho was different from Ai - different from the Kings of the North, etc.**
 - **We need to remember the Biblical Truths:**
 - **Failure is Not Fatal!**
 - **Stand up! There is sin in the camp!**
 - **Take care of it (repent) & carry on!**
 - **He will reward our Obedience**
 - **His Plan transcends our own circumstances**

9. Personal Application:

**This is for me personally. You may have something totally different!*

- **I need to:**
 - Assess how I am to carry out His mission in my life.
 - Adjust the things that are not in alignment with His mission
 - Accept that I'm not able to carry it out perfectly
 - Act as the Holy Spirit prompts and guides me
- **What about you?**

10. Transferable Concepts:

Simple summary that will help me share this with others:

1. Joshua was born into slavery and came out in the Exodus of Israel
2. He faithfully served Moses and obediently took on more responsibility as opportunity presented itself
3. He successfully chose a militia force and led them to victory against the Amalekites
4. He showed faith in God, bringing back a good report as one of the 12 spies into Canaan
5. He ministered in the Tent of Meeting for 40 years in the desert with Moses
6. He accepted the mantle of leadership given him by God and the laying on of hands by Moses
7. He obeyed God, crossing the Jordan and taking Jericho
8. He faithfully led the Israelite forces against the inhabitants of the Promised Land, subduing them and taking possession
9. He divided the land in accordance to the instructions of the Lord and Moses
10. He kept the Law of God and encouraged the people to do the same
11. He died in the land of his inheritance at the good old age of 110

11. Who Will You Share This With?

Next week – The Mary’s! (Joe Troxell)