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Moses appointed Joshua to be his successor and lead the Israelites into the promised land. With the waters of the Jordan River parting, Joshua and the tribes of Israel entered Canaan and conquered cities throughout the region. Then, Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes of Israel.



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JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

## INTRODUCTION

The land of Canaan, which God gave to His people as an inheritance and intended that they possess, is a profound picture of God’s people inheriting God’s riches for the fulfillment of God’s purpose. After God’s people entered the land and possessed it, they eventually built God’s house there and established God’s kingdom in that very land. To the New Testament believer, the land represents Christ and all His riches to be enjoyed and possessed by us. Just as Joshua was to walk the land to possess it (Joshua 1:3), we must walk in Christ to enjoy Him, like Paul encourages, “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him” (Colossians 2:6). The land reminds us that although we have Christ, we must become rich in Christ, just as Paul wishes that the Colossians would attain, “to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:2–3). Not only is the land a picture of Christ Himself, it also represents God’s rest (Deuteronomy 12:9)—the fulfillment of His purpose, which we should all strive to enter and possess to the full. The New Testament warns that we should all “fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it” (Hebrews 4:1). Joshua is an example who encourages us to (1) push forward to the full enjoyment of the rest and inheritance God set before us, and (2) to fight for this experience to be shared by God’s people around us.

We will look at Joshua’s experience in four stages. The first will show how he was prepared by God before he began to lead the people. This stage will cover his experiences recorded from Exodus to Deuteronomy. The second stage will show the nation of Israel’s preparation to possess the land and will cover their experiences from the east side of the Jordan to the plains

outside Jericho. The third stage will focus on the lessons learned as the people possessed the land, from their conquest of Jericho through the summary of Joshua's defeat of the thirty-one kings. The fourth and final stage will show the lessons Joshua delivered in his old age for building up the Israelites to stretch forward to the things that were before them. This stage will include the allotment of the land and Joshua's final wise words. Overall, this stage reveals how we can be prepared to possess more and more of God's good land.

In the first stage, we will see how God prepares His servants to live the courageous life required for possessing the land. Each of Joshua's early experiences added something crucial for his future service. Along with Israel, he fought Amalek as Moses prayed with Aaron and Hur. He remained in the tent of meeting in God's presence as Israel struggled to follow God. He spied out the land and learned how to trust in God for the strength to possess while not being stumbled by the giants he saw. He received a commission from Moses and became related to the priesthood. He heard Moses' song and learned how God's people would push through the disappointments and eventually trust God who gives life and heals. All these lessons added up to make Joshua into the person God could use.

In the second stage, Joshua, a person prepared by God, led the whole nation through important experiences that prepared them to possess the land. They crossed the Jordan under the leading of the priests carrying the ark, showing us that their success depended on man's cooperation with God. They took stones from the river and put stones in the river, showing us the experience of death and resurrection. They were circumcised and ate the Passover, showing us how we must rely on Christ as the fulfillment of both cutting away the old and strength for the new. They ate produce from the land as the manna ceased, showing us a new way of living in the wealth that the land supplies. These experiences prepared the nation to live not in their own strength but together with God as they possessed the land.

In the third stage, the people began to possess and learned even more lessons. Their conquest of Jericho shows us how they relied on the Lord. Their failure and then success at Ai shows us how the Lord purifies to give victory in union with

Him. Their reading of the law at Ebal and Gerizim shows us the reliance on God's Word that is necessary for the blessing. Their failure with Gibeon shows us how important it is to seek His counsel and how God can still cause us to possess, even amidst mistakes. Their victories in general show us how we can advance and become spiritually wealthy in our enjoyment of Him.

The fourth stage is composed mainly of Joshua's final words. These words revealed to the Israelites the vast amount of land that was still in front of them to possess. Their whole lives were to be set in the direction of possessing more land. This shows us that no matter how much Christ we have enjoyed thus far, there is still more to possess and enjoy. We must "stretch forward to that which is before." Their possession was to be little by little. Sometimes God would send the hornet to drive out the inhabitants. Other times they were to fight directly. Sometimes they would inherit vineyards and fields already made. Other times they would inherit forest land that had to be developed. Some would build cities. In these many ways, they were to expand their enjoyment of the land. In the land, God gave them power to make wealth as they learned to cooperate with God and love Him as He sent rain to make the crops in their fields grow. In this way, the people of God became set for God to one day work to build His house and establish His kingdom. They would, in type, enjoy God's riches in Christ to fulfill God's purpose.

Today, it is too easy to become a "common" Christian, satisfied with the status quo and not realizing how rich, vast, and profound Christ is. The lessons of Joshua's life will cause us to live uncommon, spiritual, and spiritually wealthy lives in the church, while also fighting for believers around us to do the same. They can inspire us to realize Christ as all the land we possess. Christ is our mountain. Christ is our valley. Christ is our stream. Christ is our fruit. Christ is our iron. Christ is our wheat. Christ is our supply. Christ is our way to serve God. Christ is our way to fulfill God's great purpose. May we all grow in an ever-increasing measure of Christ and an ever-deepening possession of God's good land for God's purpose!

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

OVERVIEW

MESSAGE ONE || INHERITING THE LAND

- I. The land of Canaan, which God gave to His people as an inheritance and intended that they possess, is a profound picture of God’s people inheriting God’s riches for the fulfillment of God’s purpose. After God’s people entered the land and possessed it, they eventually built God’s house there and established God’s kingdom in that very land. To the New Testament believer, the land represents Christ and all His riches to be enjoyed and possessed by us. The riches of Christ supply us to fulfill God’s eternal purpose that He made in Him.
- II. The land of Canaan is a picture of God’s rich inheritance for His people. It is a picture of Christ, the Spirit, and the enjoyment of God Himself—His inheritance for His people.
  - a. The good land is rich in its variety and bounty and blessings

<sup>7</sup> *“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup>a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup>“When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you. Deuteronomy 8:7–10*

<sup>10</sup>*“For the land, into which you are entering to possess it,*



*is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup>“But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, <sup>12</sup>a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year. <sup>13</sup>“It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, <sup>14</sup>that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. Deuteronomy 11:10–14*

- b. God intended that His people would be brought into the land. This shows God’s purpose for Israel and for us.

*He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers. Deuteronomy 6:23*

- c. The good land is a picture of Christ and all His riches

*“Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. Joshua 1:3*

*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, Colossians 2:6*

*<sup>1</sup>For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, <sup>2</sup>that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:1–3*

- d. The good land is a picture of our inheritance in Christ realized by the Spirit who is the pledge and the fullness. It testifies to a truly spiritual life.

*for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. Deuteronomy 12:9*

*having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14*

*in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:14*

- e. The good land is God's rest, a picture of the fulfillment of God's purpose and of the believer's full inheritance in Christ.

*for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. Deuteronomy 12:9*

*Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. Hebrews 4:11*

### III. The New Testament believers can fall short of this rest

- a. We can fall short of God's intention for us
- b. We can fall short of God's rest/satisfaction
- c. We can fall short of a rich Christian life/experience
- d. We can fall short of what is needed for a greater testimony



*Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. Hebrews 4:1*

*<sup>12</sup>Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup>For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, <sup>15</sup>while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me." Hebrews 3:12-15*

- IV. We need to learn the lessons from Joshua, so we can enter God's rest, enjoy His possession, and participate in His house and kingdom for the fulfillment of His purpose
- V. Joshua is charged to arise with the people to possess the land

*<sup>1</sup>Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Joshua 1:1-2*

- a. He must walk on it to possess it, meaning he must experience to possess

*Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. Joshua 1:3*

- b. No one will be able to stop him, meaning others will oppose and he will prevail

*No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Joshua 1:5*

- c. He is to be strong and courageous, resisting trembling and dismay, meaning that possessing the land requires a great spiritual struggle and endeavor

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

VI. Joshua will cause the people of God to possess the land

*Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Joshua 1:6*

VII. In possessing the land, he must keep the words the Lord gave, just as believers today must hear His voice

*<sup>7</sup>“Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Joshua 1:7–8*

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
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STAGE ONE—THE PREPARATION OF JOSHUA

MESSAGE TWO || THE PREPARATION  
OF JOSHUA (1)

- I. Joshua is first seen leading the people to fight Amalek as Moses, Aaron, and Hur raise Moses’ hands so Israel prevails

*<sup>8</sup>Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup>So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” <sup>10</sup>Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup>So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup>But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. <sup>13</sup>So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. <sup>14</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” <sup>15</sup>Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner; <sup>16</sup>and he said, “The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.” Exodus 17:8–16*

- a. Joshua is seen working with all Israel to prevail against God’s enemy

- b. Joshua prevailed in the generational war with Amalek, a picture of the flesh, learning that he can gain victory if he is joined with God's people and supported by the united prayers of those who serve the Lord.

II. Joshua experienced the Lord's intimate presence in the mountain and in the tent

*<sup>12</sup>Now the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>But to the elders he said, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them." <sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. Exodus 24:12-15*

*Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. Exodus 33:11*

- a. Joshua learned the joy and power of fellowship with the Lord in the highest and most secret, intimate place.

III. Joshua did not always have the right discernment, but he remained in fellowship with the Lord, with Moses, and with God's people

- a. Joshua learned the lesson of seeing the failings of God's people and how the Lord continued to work with them.

*<sup>17</sup>Now when Joshua heard the sound of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a sound of war in*

*the camp.”<sup>18</sup>But he said, “It is not the sound of the cry of triumph, Nor is it the sound of the cry of defeat; But the sound of singing I hear.” Exodus 32:17–18*

- b. Joshua also learned the lesson, like John and James did with the Lord (Luke 9:49–50), of not being narrow, thinking that God is only with them, as he followed the Lord at Moses’ side.

*<sup>26</sup>But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>So a young man ran and told Moses and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, “Moses, my lord, restrain them.” <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!” Numbers 11:26–29*

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE ONE—THE PREPARATION OF JOSHUA

MESSAGE THREE || THE PREPARATION  
OF JOSHUA (2)

- I. Joshua was one of the twelve spies who explored and then reported on the land. He learned the richness, the challenge, the obstacles, and the ways of faith, the spirit, and the Lord necessary to possess the land.

*‘Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, <sup>2</sup>“Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers’ tribes, every one a leader among them.” Numbers 13:1–2*

- a. He saw the riches of the land and the giants who currently occupy it

*<sup>21</sup>So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, at Lebo-hamath. Numbers 13:21*

*<sup>27</sup>Thus they told him, and said, “We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. <sup>28</sup>“Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. Numbers 13:27–28*

- b. After the evil report from the ten spies, Joshua stood with Caleb and argued for the goodness of the land

and that the Lord make a way for the people to possess it

- i. In Numbers 13, Caleb is the only mentioned speaker against the evil report

*<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.” <sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.” Numbers 13:30–31*

- ii. In Joshua 14, Caleb’s request for his inheritance is tied to his personal standing for the Lord. He does not acknowledge Joshua.

*<sup>7</sup> I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought word back to him as it was in my heart. <sup>8</sup>Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the Lord my God fully. Joshua 14:7–8*

- iii. On the day after the evil report, when the sons of Israel were grumbling and determining to return to Egypt, Joshua stood with Caleb.

*<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel. <sup>6</sup>Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; <sup>7</sup>and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, “The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup>“If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup>“Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.” <sup>10</sup>But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the*



*glory of the Lord appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? Numbers 14:5–11*

- iv. After Moses intercedes for the people, the Lord commends both Joshua and Caleb, but especially Caleb.

*<sup>22</sup>Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, <sup>23</sup>shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. <sup>24</sup>But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it....*

*<sup>30</sup>Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.... <sup>36</sup>As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, <sup>37</sup>even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the Lord. <sup>38</sup>But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive out of those men who went to spy out the land. Numbers 14:22–24, 30, 36–38*

- c. Joshua saw firsthand the opposition of the congregation, the glory of the Lord, the faith required, and the “different spirit” which makes possessing the land possible. He learned to stand with faith, with the Lord, and with that spirit.

- II. Joshua, who is full of the Spirit is commissioned by Moses and made ready to cause the people to possess the land. He receives some of Moses’ authority, stands before Eleazar the priest, and realizes God’s leading through the Urim.

<sup>18</sup>So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; <sup>19</sup>and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. <sup>20</sup>“You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him. <sup>21</sup>“Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, both he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation.” Numbers 27:18–21

- III. Joshua hears the words of Moses’ song, accurately predicting the future failure of God’s people and God’s coming restoration through His work. These words show Joshua how the true possession of the land will be based on God’s healing and giving life, not on the nations’ outward effort. He still, however, proceeds to lead the people across the river to possess the land. He must have learned to aim for the unseen work of God and the true possession of the land.

- a. Joshua stood by Moses as he presented his song to Israel

*Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun. Deuteronomy 32:44*

- b. Moses’ song showed how God blessed and cared for His people

<sup>10</sup>“He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. <sup>11</sup>“Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. Deuteronomy 32:10–11

<sup>13</sup>“He made him ride on the high places of the earth, And

*he ate the produce of the field; And He made him suck honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock, <sup>14</sup>Curds of cows, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs, And rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the finest of the wheat— And of the blood of grapes you drank wine. Deuteronomy 32:13–14*

- c. Moses' song showed how God's people would turn from Him

*15“But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked— You are grown fat, thick, and sleek— Then he forsook God who made him, And scorned the Rock of his salvation. 16“They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. Deuteronomy 32:15–16*

- d. Moses' song showed how God would turn from them and provoke them with another people

*<sup>20</sup>“Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end shall be; For they are a perverse generation, Sons in whom is no faithfulness. <sup>21</sup>“They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation, Deuteronomy 32:20–21*

- e. Moses' song showed the future struggles of God's people

*<sup>23</sup>“I will heap misfortunes on them; I will use My arrows on them. <sup>24</sup>“They will be wasted by famine, and consumed by plague And bitter destruction; And the teeth of beasts I will send upon them, With the venom of crawling things of the dust. Deuteronomy 32:23–24*

- f. Moses' song showed how God would eventually turn them back to Him, once they have exhausted their strength

*“For the Lord will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their strength is gone, And there is none remaining, bond or free. Deuteronomy 32:36*

- g. Moses’ song showed how God would heal and gives life, as the full solution to God’s people’s true possession of the land

*‘See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand. Deuteronomy 32:39*

- IV. When Joshua was in place to lead God’s people, he was full of experiences of the Lord, having seen the riches of the land, the challenges, the ways it must be possessed, the blessing of God, the stubbornness of the people, and the eventual healing and life giving that God will bring forth.
- V. In this first stage, we have seen how God prepares His servants to live the courageous life required for possessing the land. Each of Joshua’s early experiences added something crucial for his future service. Along with Israel, he fought Amalek as Moses prayed with Aaron and Hur. He remained in the tent of meeting in God’s presence as Israel struggled to follow God. He spied out the land and learned how to trust in God for the strength to possess while not being stumbled by the giants he saw. He received a commission from Moses and became related to the priesthood. He heard Moses’ song and learned how God’s people would push through the disappointments and eventually trust God who gives life and heals. All these lessons added up to make Joshua into the person God could use.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
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STAGE TWO—ISRAEL’S PREPARATION  
TO POSSESS

MESSAGE FOUR || SENDING SPIES TO JERICHO

I. Spying out the land and finding faith—Rahab

- a. In contrast to Moses’ detailed instruction for the spies of the good land (Numbers 13:17-20), Joshua simply tells these two spies to “view the land, especially Jericho”. With those simple instructions, they found Rahab, a person of faith.

*Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there. Joshua 2:1*

*By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. Hebrews 11:31*

*<sup>24</sup>You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup>For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. James 2:24–26*

II. In faith Rahab hid the spies

*But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof. Joshua 2:6*

III. In faith Rahab heard of God's work and received it

*<sup>9</sup>and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. <sup>10</sup>"For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup>"When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Joshua 2:9-11*

IV. In faith Rahab sought to join God's side

*<sup>12</sup>"Now therefore, please swear to me by the Lord, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's household, and give me a pledge of truth, <sup>13</sup>and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." Joshua 2:12-13*

V. The spies gave Rahab the provision of the scarlet rope, a symbol of Christ's redemption including a faithful person with God's people

*<sup>17</sup>The men said to her, "We shall be free from this oath to you which you have made us swear, <sup>18</sup>unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather to yourself into the house your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father's household. Joshua 2:17-18*

VI. Joshua's spies did not bring back produce of the land; Joshua already knew how rich it was. His spies did not bring back a report about Jericho's defenses or a special way across the Jordan; they simply reported to Joshua "all that had happened to them" (2:23). Why, then, did he send them? Perhaps Joshua was simply looking for the work God was already doing, and this the spies found in Rahab. They saw how God was already triumphing over His enemies.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE TWO—ISRAEL’S PREPARATION  
TO POSSESS

MESSAGE FIVE || **CROSSING THE RIVER  
TO POSSESS THE LAND**

- I. The Israelites lodged by the Jordan for three days

*<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they lodged there before they crossed. <sup>2</sup>At the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp; Joshua 3:1–2*

- II. They were told to follow the ark, which was upheld by the priests, to cross the river into the land, where they had never been before

*<sup>3</sup>and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. <sup>4</sup>“However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.” Joshua 3:3–4*

- III. They were to consecrate themselves for the journey

*Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5*



- IV. Joshua set the priestly company in motion, having them hold the ark and set forth before the people

*<sup>6</sup>And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people. <sup>7</sup>Now the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you. Joshua 3:6-7*

- V. They were to step into the Jordan and stand in the Jordan

*"You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.' " Joshua 3:8*

- VI. The ark with the priests were a sign of the living God giving land to His people, dispossessing it from God's enemies

*<sup>10</sup>Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite. <sup>11</sup>"Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan. Joshua 3:10-11*

- VII. The waters were parted from Adam to the Arabah

*<sup>16</sup>the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho. Joshua 3:16*

- VIII. The priests stood in the middle of the river until all the nation crossed on dry ground.

*And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan*

*while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan. Joshua 3:17*

- IX. The picture of the Israelites crossing the Jordan to possess the land teaches us the secret of helping others inherit the land—we must find the ark, carry the ark into the midst of the river, and hold it till others cross over.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE TWO—ISRAEL’S PREPARATION  
TO POSSESS

MESSAGE SIX || **DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

- I. Twelve men, one from each tribe, each took a stone from the middle of the Jordan and placed it on their lodging place for the night
  - a. The twelve stones taken from the Jordan, which is a picture of the death of Christ, and placed on the west side of the river, are a sign of living in resurrection life necessary for possessing the land

*<sup>1</sup>Now when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, <sup>3</sup>and command them, saying, ‘Take up for yourselves twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet are standing firm, and carry them over with you and lay them down in the lodging place where you will lodge tonight.’ ” Joshua 4:1–3*

*and Joshua said to them, “Cross again to the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel. Joshua 4:5*

*Those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. Joshua 4:20*

*<sup>21</sup>He said to the sons of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’  
<sup>22</sup>then you shall inform your children, saying, ‘Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.’ Joshua 4:21–22*

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Colossians 3:1–2*

II. Joshua set up twelve stones at the place where the priests standing in the river put their feet

- a. The twelve stones placed in the middle of the Jordan are a sign of the old life under the death waters of the Jordan.

*Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing, and they are there to this day. Joshua 4:9*

*<sup>20</sup>If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <sup>21</sup>“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” Colossians 2:20–21*

*“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20*

III. The circumcision

- a. The circumcision is a picture of the removal of the fleshly effort in the possession of the land.

*<sup>2</sup>At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time.” <sup>3</sup>So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. Joshua 5:2–3*

*<sup>8</sup>Now when they had finished circumcising all the nation, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. <sup>9</sup>Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. Joshua 5:8–9*

*<sup>11</sup>and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Colossians 2:11–12*

#### IV. The Passover

- a. The Passover is a picture of the enjoyment of Christ that delivered God’s people from God’s deserved judgment and supplied them to live a life with Him.

*While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. Joshua 5:10*

*Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7*

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE TWO—ISRAEL’S PREPARATION  
TO POSSESS

MESSAGE SEVEN || EATING OF THE  
PRODUCE OF THE LAND

- I. On the day after the Passover, the manna ceased and Israel ate the produce of the land

*<sup>11</sup>On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year. Joshua 5:11–12*

- II. Enjoying Christ in stages

a. Manna

- i. Manna is given as a test

*<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. Exodus 16:4*

- ii. It comes with the dew

*When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground. Exodus 16:14*

- iii. There is no excess and no lack for those who gather manna

*<sup>17</sup>The sons of Israel did so, and some gathered much and some little. <sup>18</sup>When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat. Exodus 16:17–18*

- iv. Manna is a picture of our enjoyment of Christ. Eating manna is the most basic experience of the enjoyment of Christ, teaching God's people to be nourished every day, testing them, and supplying them for their journey through the wilderness.

*<sup>49</sup>"Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>"This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>"I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." John 6:49–51*

- b. The Passover

- i. Each family was to take a lamb

*"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household. Exodus 12:3*

- ii. They put the blood of the lamb on the doorpost and lintel

*<sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. Exodus 12:6–7*



iii. The eat the lamb

*<sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails. Exodus 12:8–9*

iv. While eating they are girded, ready to go

*‘Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord’s Passover. Exodus 12:11*

- v. Christ is the fulfillment of the Passover. Eating the Passover is a picture of enjoying Christ as a rich supply, enabling God’s people to leave the world to follow God as He leads His people into the good land.

*<sup>7</sup>Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Corinthians 5:7–8*

- c. The produce of the land is the product of the cooperation between God and man—man loving God and God sending the rain

- i. The produce of the good land is not like the food of Egypt

*<sup>10</sup>“For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup>“But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, Deuteronomy 11:10–11*

ii. God cares for this land

*a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year. Deuteronomy 11:12*

iii. If we love the Lord, the Lord will give the rain

*<sup>13</sup>“It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, <sup>14</sup>that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. <sup>15</sup>“He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. Deuteronomy 11:13–15*

iv. Eating the produce of the land is a picture of the supply of Christ that comes through our cooperation with God. When we love Him, He sends rain that makes the seeds we sowed to grow and produce food. This is the highest enjoyment of Christ for God’s people.

v. Paul wished that the Colossian saints would attain the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, finding the treasures hidden in Christ, just like the nation of Israel would become wealthy through their possession of the land. For this he struggled according to God’s operation in him.

*<sup>2</sup>that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2–3*

III. In this second stage, Joshua, a person prepared by God, led the whole nation through important experiences that prepared them to possess the land. They crossed the Jordan under the leading of the priests carrying the ark, showing us that their success depended on man's cooperation with God. They took stones from the river and put stones in the river, showing us the experience of death and resurrection. They were circumcised and ate the Passover, showing us how we must rely on Christ as the fulfillment of both cutting away the old and strength for the new. They ate produce from the land as the manna ceased, showing us a new way of living in the wealth that the land supplies. These experiences prepared the nation to live not in their own strength but together with God as they possessed the land.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE THREE—POSSESSING THE LAND

MESSAGE EIGHT || ON CHRIST’S SIDE  
AND IN VICTORY

I. The captain who Joshua joined

- a. Joshua saw the captain of the Lord’s host, and joined with Him for the possession of the land, which began with the conquest of Jericho

*<sup>13</sup>Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” <sup>14</sup>He said, “No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” <sup>15</sup>The captain of the Lord’s host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13–15*

II. Conquering Jericho

- a. God gave the king and the city into Joshua’s hand

*The Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. Joshua 6:2*

- b. The priests, the ark, and the trumpets were crucial for victory

<sup>3</sup>*"You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. <sup>4</sup>"Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. <sup>5</sup>"It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."* Joshua 6:3–5

- c. For six days they circled in silence with the ark and the trumpets.

<sup>8</sup>*And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. <sup>9</sup>The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets. <sup>10</sup>But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard nor let a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I tell you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout!" <sup>11</sup>So he had the ark of the Lord taken around the city, circling it once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp. Joshua 6:8–11*

- d. On the seventh day the people circled the city seven times and shouted

<sup>15</sup>*Then on the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times. <sup>16</sup>At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. Joshua 6:15–16*

- e. All things of the city were under the ban

<sup>17</sup>*“The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. <sup>18</sup>“But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. Joshua 6:17–18*

- f. The treasures of the city were for the Lord

*“But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.” Joshua 6:19*

- g. Rahab was rescued

*However, Rahab the harlot and her father’s household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, for she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. Joshua 6:25*

- h. The conquest of Jericho was a picture of God’s people working with God to conquer and possess the land. Such divine-human cooperation is crucial for our possessing the land with all God’s people.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE THREE—POSSESSING THE LAND

MESSAGE NINE || **THE LESSON OF AI**

I. The failure: the allure of Babylon and of riches

a. Achan covets and steals items under the ban

*But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel. Joshua 7:1*

*<sup>20</sup>So Achan answered Joshua and said, “Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: <sup>21</sup>when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.” Joshua 7:20–21*

b. The mantle of Shinar is a picture of the attraction of Babylon which includes

- i. Wealth and commerce (see Revelation 18 and Zechariah 5:5-11)
- ii. Worldly associations (see Revelation 17 and Jeremiah 51:7)
- iii. Self-reliance and a sense of needing nothing (Revelation 18:7 and Isaiah 47:7-10)

- c. Israel could not stand before their enemies, because they had become accursed

*<sup>11</sup>“Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things. <sup>12</sup>“Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst. Joshua 7:11–12*

- d. Israel must remove the things, after they have consecrated themselves

*<sup>13</sup>“Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the Lord, the God of Israel, has said, “There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst.”’ Joshua 7:13*

- e. The Lord purifies Israel

*‘It shall be that the one who is taken with the things under the ban shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel.’” Joshua 7:15*

*So Achan answered Joshua and said, “Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: Joshua 7:20*

*<sup>24</sup>Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the*



valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup>Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.” And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. Joshua 7:24–25

## II. They people again experience victory

Now the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. Joshua 8:1

“You shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it.” Joshua 8:2

### a. The ambush that works

So not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who had not gone out after Israel, and they left the city unguarded and pursued Israel. Joshua 8:17

The men in ambush rose quickly from their place, and when he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it, and they quickly set the city on fire. Joshua 8:19

### b. Joshua’s javelin is held up until victory

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” So Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. Joshua 8:18

For Joshua did not withdraw his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. Joshua 8:26

c. Israel gains the spoil

*Israel took only the cattle and the spoil of that city as plunder for themselves, according to the word of the Lord which He had commanded Joshua. Joshua 8:27*

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE THREE—POSSESSING THE LAND

MESSAGE TEN || **EBAL AND GERIZIM—  
BLESSING AND CURSING**

- I. At Ebal and Gerizim the people hear God’s words to them and consider the blessings and curses

*<sup>30</sup>Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal, <sup>31</sup>just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of uncut stones on which no man had wielded an iron tool; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings. <sup>32</sup>He wrote there on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written, in the presence of the sons of Israel. <sup>33</sup>All Israel with their elders and officers and their judges were standing on both sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, the stranger as well as the native. Half of them stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had given command at first to bless the people of Israel. <sup>34</sup>Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law. <sup>35</sup>There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them. Joshua 8:30–35*

- II. The curse springs from secret things in the people’s lives

*‘Cursed is the man who makes an idol or a molten image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the*

*craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’ And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen.’ Deuteronomy 27:15*

*‘Cursed is he who misleads a blind person on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ Deuteronomy 27:18*

*‘Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor in secret.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ Deuteronomy 27:24*

### III. The blessing flows from keeping God’s words

*“Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. Deuteronomy 28:1*

*<sup>3</sup>“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Deuteronomy 28:3–5*

*“The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. Deuteronomy 28:12*

*“The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, Deuteronomy 28:13*

### IV. Knowing and keeping God’s word

- a. Knowing the Scripture from a babe makes one wise to salvation

*<sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All*

*Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15–17*

b. Keeping God's word is a key to further knowing of the Father, Son, and Spirit

i. To know the Son we must keep the commandments

*"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." John 14:21*

*"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. John 15:10*

ii. To enjoy the Father's presence and love we must keep His word

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. John 14:23*

*but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 1 John 2:5*

iii. He who keeps His commandments knows the abiding of the Son by the Spirit

*The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. 1 John 3:24*

iv. If we keep Christ's word, He will keep us

*'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Revelation 3:10*

- c. Turning aside from the truth results in following myths, fruitless discussions, strife, confusion, dissipation, and destruction

*<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:3-4*

*<sup>6</sup>For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, <sup>7</sup>wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions. 1 Timothy 1:6-7*

*<sup>3</sup>If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, <sup>4</sup>he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 1 Timothy 6:3-4*

*<sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, <sup>16</sup>as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16*

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE THREE—POSSESSING THE LAND

MESSAGE ELEVEN || **THE GIBEONITES**

I. The Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the Israelites

*“When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, <sup>4</sup>they also acted craftily and set out as envoys, and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys, and wineskins worn-out and torn and mended, <sup>5</sup>and worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and had become crumbled. <sup>6</sup>They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.” Joshua 9:3–6*

II. At first, the men of Israel were suspicious

*The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you are living within our land; how then shall we make a covenant with you?” Joshua 9:7*

III. Then, the people heard their story, took their moldy bread, did not take counsel with the Lord, and Joshua made a covenant with them

*They said to him, “Your servants have come from a very far country because of the fame of the Lord your God; for we have heard the report of Him and all that He did in Egypt, Joshua 9:9*

*So the men of Israel took some of their provisions, and did not ask for the counsel of the Lord. Joshua 9:14*

*Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore an oath to them. Joshua 9:15*

IV. The trickery is eventually made evident

*It came about at the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were neighbors and that they were living within their land. Joshua 9:16*

V. The people grumble against their leaders for the decision, but the decision stood because of the oath

*<sup>18</sup>The sons of Israel did not strike them because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord the God of Israel. And the whole congregation grumbled against the leaders. <sup>19</sup>But all the leaders said to the whole congregation, "We have sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them. <sup>20</sup>"This we will do to them, even let them live, so that wrath will not be upon us for the oath which we swore to them." Joshua 9:18–20*

VI. The Gibeonites become forced labor

*But Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord, to this day, in the place which He would choose. Joshua 9:27*

VII. Five kings attack Gibeon, which Israel defends to gain a great victory

*So the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it. Joshua 10:5*

*Now these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in the cave at Makkedah. Joshua 10:16*



*<sup>20</sup>It came about when Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished slaying them with a very great slaughter, until they were destroyed, and the survivors who remained of them had entered the fortified cities, <sup>21</sup>that all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace. No one uttered a word against any of the sons of Israel. Joshua 10:20–21*

VIII. The leaders of Israel and the Lord Himself honored the word to the Gibeonites. God even honored this word after Saul tried to eliminate the Gibeonites.

*Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord. And the Lord said, “It is for Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.” 2 Samuel 21:1*

- a. David, in his insight, sought to remedy the situation so that the Gibeonites would bless the inheritance of the Lord

*Thus David said to the Gibeonites, “What should I do for you? And how can I make atonement that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord?” 2 Samuel 21:3*

- b. David’s remedy caused Rizpah to exhibit great compassion

*So the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Armoni and Mephibosheth whom she had borne to Saul, and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she had borne to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. 2 Samuel 21:8*

*And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until it rained on them from the sky; and she allowed neither the birds of the sky to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night. 2 Samuel 21:10*

- c. Eventually Saul's bones were buried in a rightful place, ending the era of Saul and his confusion

*They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the grave of Kish his father; thus they did all that the king commanded, and after that God was moved by prayer for the land. 2 Samuel 21:14*

- IX. In this third stage, the people began to possess and learned even more lessons. Their conquest of Jericho shows us how they relied on the Lord. Their failure and then success at Ai shows us how the Lord purifies to give victory in union with Him. Their reading of the law at Ebal and Gerizim shows us the reliance on God's Word that is necessary for the blessing. Their failure with Gibeon shows us how important it is to seek His counsel and how God can still cause us to possess, even amidst mistakes. Their victories in general show us how we can advance and become spiritually wealthy in our enjoyment of Him.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE FOUR—STRETCHING FORWARD  
TO WHAT IS BEFORE

MESSAGE TWELVE || THE ALLOTMENT  
OF THE LAND

- I. When Joshua was old, he allotted the land to Israel and charged them to possess what has been given to them by the Lord. He inspired them to rise up, be inspired, advance, and take new ground given them through their divine inheritance. This is a profound picture of how we are to walk in Christ who we have received.

*Now Joshua was old and advanced in years when the Lord said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and very much of the land remains to be possessed. Joshua 13:1*

*Now these are the territories which the sons of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the households of the tribes of the sons of Israel apportioned to them for an inheritance, Joshua 14:1*

*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, Colossians 2:6*

- II. God will drive out the inhabitants so that Israel can possess the inheritance

*“All the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon as far as Misrephoth-maim, all the Sidonians, I will drive them out from before the sons of Israel; only allot it to Israel for an inheritance as I have commanded you. Joshua 13:6*

a. The ways of gaining the land

i. Little by little

*“The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, for the wild beasts would grow too numerous for you. Deuteronomy 7:22*

ii. In some cases the Lord will send the hornet

*20“Moreover, the Lord your God will send the hornet against them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you perish. 21“You shall not dread them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. Deuteronomy 7:20–21*

iii. In some cases, like Caleb, God’s people will drive out the inhabitants

*Then the sons of Judah drew near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know the word which the Lord spoke to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh-barnea. Joshua 14:6*

*7“I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought word back to him as it was in my heart. 8“Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the Lord my God fully. Joshua 14:7–8*

*“So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God fully.’ Joshua 14:9*

*“I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Joshua 14:11*

<sup>12</sup>“Now then, give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I will drive them out as the Lord has spoken.”  
<sup>13</sup>So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. Joshua 14:12–13

b. The ways of possessing the land

- i. In some cases they will possess that for which they did not labor

<sup>10</sup>“Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, <sup>11</sup>and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup>then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Deuteronomy 6:10–12

<sup>11</sup>“You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus I gave them into your hand. <sup>12</sup>“Then I sent the hornet before you and it drove out the two kings of the Amorites from before you, but not by your sword or your bow. <sup>13</sup>“I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.” Joshua 24:11–13

- ii. In other cases, like Joseph, they will have to cut down the trees to enjoy their possession

<sup>14</sup>Then the sons of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, “Why have you given me only one lot and one portion for an inheritance, since I am a numerous people whom the Lord has thus far blessed?” <sup>15</sup>Joshua said to them, “If you are a numerous people, go up to the forest and clear a place

*for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you.” Joshua 17:14–15*

*<sup>16</sup>The sons of Joseph said, “The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the valley land have chariots of iron, both those who are in Beth-shean and its towns and those who are in the valley of Jezreel.” <sup>17</sup>Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh, saying, “You are a numerous people and have great power; you shall not have one lot only, <sup>18</sup>but the hill country shall be yours. For though it is a forest, you shall clear it, and to its farthest borders it shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, even though they have chariots of iron and though they are strong.” Joshua 17:16–18*

- iii. In other cases, like Joshua himself, they will build a city

*<sup>49</sup>When they finished apportioning the land for inheritance by its borders, the sons of Israel gave an inheritance in their midst to Joshua the son of Nun. <sup>50</sup>In accordance with the command of the Lord they gave him the city for which he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. So he built the city and settled in it. Joshua 19:49–50*

- III. In all cases, the land is blessed by God under His eyes and constant care

- a. The land is blessed by God, unlike the river-supplied fields of Egypt

*<sup>10</sup>“For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup>“But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, <sup>12</sup>a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year. Deuteronomy 11:10–12*

- b. The land is God's way of giving His people power to make wealth

*"But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18*

- IV. Possessing the land is a picture of exploring and enjoying Christ. This makes us attain to the riches of Christ, finding the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hid in Him

*<sup>1</sup>For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, <sup>2</sup>that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:1-3*

- V. This fourth stage is composed mainly of Joshua's final words. These words revealed to the Israelites the vast amount of land that was still in front of them to possess. Their whole lives were to be set in the direction of possessing more land. This shows us that no matter how much Christ we have enjoyed thus far, there is still more to possess and enjoy. We must "stretch forward to that which is before." Their possession was to be little by little. Sometimes God would send the hornet to drive out the inhabitants. Other times they were to fight directly. Sometimes they would inherit vineyards and fields already made. Other times they would inherit forest land that had to be developed. Some would build cities. In these many ways, they were to expand their enjoyment of the land. In the land, God gave them power to make wealth as they learned to cooperate with God and love Him as He sent rain to make the crops in their fields grow. In this way, the people of God became set for God to one day work to build His house and establish His kingdom. They would, in type, enjoy God's riches in Christ to fulfill God's purpose.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE FOUR—STRETCHING FORWARD  
TO WHAT IS BEFORE

MESSAGE THIRTEEN || **THE LESSONS OF  
THE TRIBES BEYOND THE JORDAN**

*If, however, the land of your possession is unclean, then cross into the land of the possession of the Lord, where the Lord’s tabernacle stands, and take possession among us. Only do not rebel against the Lord, or rebel against us by building an altar for yourselves, besides the altar of the Lord our God. Joshua 22:19*

- I. The difference between the land on the east and west side of the Jordan
  - a. The tribes of Rueben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh asked for the land on the east side of the Jordan noting how that land was good for cattle and how they had a lot of cattle

*Now the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad had an exceedingly large number of livestock. So when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that it was indeed a place suitable for livestock Numbers 32:1*

*They said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession; do not take us across the Jordan.” Numbers 32:5*

- b. Moses questioned if their possession would discourage others from possessing land on the west side



*<sup>6</sup>But Moses said to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Reuben, “Shall your brothers go to war while you yourselves sit here? <sup>7</sup>“Now why are you discouraging the sons of Israel from crossing over into the land which the Lord has given them? <sup>8</sup>“This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land. <sup>9</sup>“For when they went up to the valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the sons of Israel so that they did not go into the land which the Lord had given them. Numbers 32:6–9*

*<sup>14</sup>“Now behold, you have risen up in your fathers’ place, a brood of sinful men, to add still more to the burning anger of the Lord against Israel. <sup>15</sup>“For if you turn away from following Him, He will once more abandon them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all these people.” Numbers 32:14–15*

- c. The two and a half tribes had a good reason to possess the east side lands

*<sup>16</sup>Then they came near to him and said, “We will build here sheepfolds for our livestock and cities for our little ones; <sup>17</sup>but we ourselves will be armed ready to go before the sons of Israel, until we have brought them to their place, while our little ones live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. <sup>18</sup>“We will not return to our homes until every one of the sons of Israel has possessed his inheritance. <sup>19</sup>“For we will not have an inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this side of the Jordan toward the east.” Numbers 32:16–19*

- II. After fulfilling their word and accompanying the other tribes as they possessed the land on the west side, the tribes on the east built a large altar, which caused the others to gather to make war with them

*When they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan, a large altar in appearance. Joshua 22:10*

*<sup>11</sup>And the sons of Israel heard it said, “Behold, the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar at the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan, on the side belonging to the sons of Israel.” <sup>12</sup>When the sons of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the sons of Israel gathered themselves at Shiloh to go up against them in war. Joshua 22:11–12*

- III. The west side tribes describe their offense and invite the east side tribes to come into the possession of the Lord where the Lord’s tabernacle stands

*<sup>16</sup>“Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord, ‘What is this unfaithful act which you have committed against the God of Israel, turning away from following the Lord this day, by building yourselves an altar, to rebel against the Lord this day? <sup>17</sup>Is not the iniquity of Peor enough for us, from which we have not cleansed ourselves to this day, although a plague came on the congregation of the Lord, <sup>18</sup>that you must turn away this day from following the Lord? If you rebel against the Lord today, He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel tomorrow. Joshua 22:16–18*

*‘If, however, the land of your possession is unclean, then cross into the land of the possession of the Lord, where the Lord’s tabernacle stands, and take possession among us. Only do not rebel against the Lord, or rebel against us by building an altar for yourselves, besides the altar of the Lord our God. Joshua 22:19*

- IV. The east side tribes explain their intention, and the altar becomes an altar of witness

*<sup>23</sup>“If we have built us an altar to turn away from following the Lord, or if to offer a burnt offering or grain offering on it, or if to offer sacrifices of peace offerings on it, may the Lord Himself require it. <sup>24</sup>“But truly we have done this out of concern, for a reason, saying, ‘In time to come your sons may say to our sons, “What have you to do with the Lord, the God of Israel? <sup>25</sup>“For the Lord has made the Jordan a*

*border between us and you, you sons of Reuben and sons of Gad; you have no portion in the Lord.” So your sons may make our sons stop fearing the Lord.’ <sup>26</sup>“Therefore we said, ‘Let us build an altar, not for burnt offering or for sacrifice; Joshua 22:23–26*

*rather it shall be a witness between us and you and between our generations after us, that we are to perform the service of the Lord before Him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices and with our peace offerings, so that your sons will not say to our sons in time to come, “You have no portion in the Lord.” ’ Joshua 22:27*

V. The pleasing solution

*<sup>30</sup>So when Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the congregation, even the heads of the families of Israel who were with him, heard the words which the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the sons of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them. <sup>31</sup>And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the sons of Reuben and to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Manasseh, “Today we know that the Lord is in our midst, because you have not committed this unfaithful act against the Lord; now you have delivered the sons of Israel from the hand of the Lord.” Joshua 22:30–31*

*The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad called the altar Witness; “For,” they said, “it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.” Joshua 22:34*

VI. Even though the lands on the east side were good and were a possession of the Lord, we should strive for the Lord’s best, and endeavor to possess the land given by Lord, led by Joshua, and in His best pleasure.

JOSHUA—A MAN WITH COURAGE AND STRENGTH  
WHO CAUSED GOD’S PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND

STAGE FOUR—STRETCHING FORWARD  
TO WHAT IS BEFORE

MESSAGE FOURTEEN || JOSHUA’S  
LAST LESSONS

- I. Joshua gave his last words to the people near the end of his life and inspired the people with crucial lessons on how to live lives of possessing the land

*<sup>2</sup>that Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders and their heads and their judges and their officers, and said to them, “I am old, advanced in years. <sup>3</sup>“And you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the Lord your God is He who has been fighting for you. Joshua 23:2–3*

- II. He taught them to realize that much remains that must be possessed and that the Lord will thrust out the nations, so they can possess the land

*<sup>4</sup>“See, I have apportioned to you these nations which remain as an inheritance for your tribes, with all the nations which I have cut off, from the Jordan even to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun. <sup>5</sup>“The Lord your God, He will thrust them out from before you and drive them from before you; and you will possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you. Joshua 23:4–5*

- III. How to possess

- a. Keep the Lord’s word

*“Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, Joshua 23:6*

b.     Cling to the Lord

*<sup>7</sup>so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them. <sup>8</sup>“But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day. Joshua 23:7–8*

c.     Love the Lord

*“So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the Lord your God. Joshua 23:11*

IV.   How to fail, intermarry with the nations

*<sup>12</sup>“For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, <sup>13</sup>know with certainty that the Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they will be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you. Joshua 23:12–13*

V.     Remember where you came from and how much God has brought you out of and has given you

*<sup>2</sup>Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods. <sup>3</sup>“Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. Joshua 24:2–3*

*<sup>5</sup>“Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt by what I did in its midst; and afterward I brought you out. <sup>6</sup>“I*

*brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and Egypt pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. Joshua 24:5–6*

*‘Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan, and they fought with you; and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land when I destroyed them before you. Joshua 24:8*

*9‘Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel, and he sent and summoned Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. 10‘But I was not willing to listen to Balaam. So he had to bless you, and I delivered you from his hand. Joshua 24:9–10*

*‘You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus I gave them into your hand. Joshua 24:11*

## VI. Put away the other gods

*“Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Joshua 24:14*

## VII. Choose to serve the Lord

*“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15*

*“Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” Joshua 24:23*

VIII. Joshua set up a stone of witness and dismissed the people to their inheritance

*<sup>26</sup>And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. <sup>27</sup>Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, so that you do not deny your God." <sup>28</sup>Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance. Joshua 24:26–28*

- IX. Today it is too easy to become a "common" Christian, satisfied with the status quo and not realizing how rich, vast, and profound Christ is. The lessons of Joshua's life will cause us to live uncommon, spiritual, and spiritually wealthy lives in the church. They can inspire us to realize Christ as all the land we possess. Christ is our mountain. Christ is our valley. Christ is our stream. Christ is our fruit. Christ is our iron. Christ is our wheat. Christ is our supply. Christ is our way to serve God. Christ is our way to fulfill God's great purpose. May we all grow in an ever-increasing measure of Christ and an ever-deepening possession of God's good land for God's purpose!