

WEEK TWELVE INTRODUCTION

Week 12 brings us through Joshua and introduces us to Judges. God establishes Joshua as leader of the people of Israel. Under his leadership, Israel would realize the centuries old promise-turned-dream. The promised land was just ahead. The Jordan River stood between the people and the land God had promised them. But it was not just the River which posed a challenge. The land was full of other *peoples*. The promise of God *could not* be obtained by human effort or skill. Bringing the Israelites into the promised land would require the inexhaustible resources of the Lord, who brought them out of Egypt's slavery and sustained them in the wilderness. Each step demonstrates that God is the victor-hero. As Job finally states in Job 42:5, "I know that you can do anything and no plan of yours can be thwarted." God's plan was to bring His chosen people out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the promised land. To achieve His plan He triumphs over kings, armies, desert, and even the unbelief of His people.

KEY SCRIPTURE

*Therefore, fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the LORD. But if it doesn't please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? **As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.**"*
— Joshua 24:14-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where are the people of Israel in Joshua 3? How does the Lord lead the people ahead? What is the significance of the ark of the covenant?

What significance do the memorial stones in Joshua 4 carry? To whom are they intended to testify? What "memorial stones" are we setting up for those behind us? How would you describe your *legacy*? Read Proverbs 10:7 and 22:1 Would you change anything about it? How can you start today? How can we live today to leave a memorial of Christ's work for the next generation?

How were the Israelites unfaithful (Josh. 7:1)? How does the sin of the one (Achan son of Carmi) affect the whole people (7:5)? How does this *interconnectedness* go against the grain of the *individualism* prevalent in Western culture(s), including often churches? Read Romans 12:4-5. What image does the Apostle Paul use to describe the church? How can a sickness/sin in one part impact the whole body? Achan had to die for the sake of the congregation of Israel. Who has died for us? How has God loved us? How then should we respond to sin and unfaithfulness in ourselves and among us?

What miracle does God perform in Joshua 10? Why does He do so? Can you think of other times in Scripture God alters the natural course of day/night? Read Matt. 27:45. How is Jesus the true and better Joshua?

Joshua chapters 10-22 describe the continued conquest of the land and the subsequent distribution of the inheritance among the tribes. How does the conquest of the promised land point ahead to something greater? Read Psalm 2:7-8. Who is this a prophecy about? Read Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5, 5:5. What conquest is *ongoing*? Read Matt. 28:18-20; Rev. 5:9-10. But this greater conquest triumphs through a great death and life.

Why is it such a big deal that the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar in Joshua 22:9-12? Read v. 19. How had God commanded the Israelites to worship? What was the altar actually built to symbolize? Read verses 26-29. What *living* witness testifies among believers in the Lord Jesus? Read Ephesians 1:13-14.

What does Joshua say regarding his own family in Joshua 24:15? What commitments will you make today so that is true of you and your family? Make a plan for how you will worship the Lord together.

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“Therefore, fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth.” -**Joshua 24:14a**

Do you fear the Lord? Is your life marked by a holy reverence before God? Sincere and true worship requires acknowledging God for who He is. How will you cultivate holy reverence and sincere worship this week?