

Exploring the Old Testament

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Joshua + Judges

Joshua & Judges Context

Book of Joshua: From Moses' death to Joshua's death

Book of Judges: From Joshua's death until Israel's 1st King

Joshua & Judges Context

Joshua: Taking the Land

Judges: Keeping the Land

Joshua & Judges Major Themes

LAND

REST

TRUST

Themes of Joshua & Judges

Joshua: Trusting a faithful savior to Lead God's people to land and rest.

Judges: Requiring a perfect savior to maintain their land and rest.

Sections of Joshua

PREPARATION

1. The Israelites must **trust** God as they prepare to enter the Promised land

Chapters 1-5

Sections of Joshua

CONQUEST

2. The Israelites must **trust** God as they take the promised land.

Chapters 6-13

Sections of Joshua

DIVISION

3. The Israelites must **trust** God as they divide the promised land.

Chapters 13-21

Sections of Joshua

REST

4. The Israelites must **trust** God as they accomplish promised rest.

Chapters 22-24

Trusting as God's People

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

Joshua 1:5-6

Trusting God's Faithful Savior

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

Joshua 1:5-6

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:7-8

“And they answered Joshua, ‘All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses!’”

Joshua 1:16-17

Trusting God for Land

¹³ When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴ And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” ¹⁵ And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:13-15

Trusting God for Rest

⁴³ Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. ⁴⁴ And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands. ⁴⁵ Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Joshua 21:43-45

“For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.”

Hebrews 4:8

“Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest”.

Matthew 11:28

Judges: Israel Required a Perfect Savior as they:

- Lose land and their faithful savior (Chapters 1-2)
- Receive imperfect saviors (Chapter 3-16)
- Crave true rest (Chapter 17-21)

Israelites Require Separation as God's People

Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages, for the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land. When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

Judges 1:27-28

Requiring Separation as God's People

And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers.
And there arose another generation after them **who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.**

Judges 2:10

Requiring Punishment that Leads to Repentance

With Israel forgetting God and serving other gods. Consequently, God is rightly angry, verse 8, and this leads to God's punishment. In verse 8, you can see that this specific punishment is slavery. But in verse 9, the Israelites cry out to God. So God provides a savior, verse 9, who goes to war, verse 10, and, verse 11, restores peace. But in verse 12, the cycle starts over again.

Judges 3:7

Requiring a Perfect Savior
who Leads to True Rest

“All the leaders of Shechem came together, and all Beth-millo, and they went and made Abimelech King, by the oak of the pillar at Shechem.”

Judges 9:6

“In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 21:25

Next Week

Dr. Bob Stewart from NOBTS on

“Can I Trust a God Who Would Command Genocide?”