

Study Guide



Joshua 13 – March 26, 2017

Land Still to Be Conquered

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we walk through Joshua we are going to see how Joshua relates to our everyday battle of faithfulness. **Our aim and our prayer for this study is to gain the wisdom we need for the battle of faithfulness.** During our time in Joshua we will be adapting our study guide from [Crossway's book, Knowing the Bible: Joshua, A 12-Week Study](#) by Trent Hunter. We recommend you purchase this book and use it in your Community Groups and for personal study as we go through Joshua. We have copies of the book available in our bookstore.

For this weeks study on Joshua please check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

South Sudan & NOLA Baptist— For further information visit norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Please see the list of local ministries under the "Walk" section below.

Calendar

March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)

March 26th— No Kid's Shine

April 2nd-9th— Kid's Shine

April 14th-15th— [Men's Canoe Trip](#)

May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[O Praise the Name](#)":

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

And then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

Read Joshua 13:1-7; 13

Commentary

We have come to a major transition here in chapters 13-21. Probably even the most determined reader of Joshua begins to crumble and nod as he enters these chapters. Dale Ralph Davis says, “watching war movies always tends to be more exciting than participating in land surveys.” This is exactly the transition we make as we come to chapter 13. Starting in chapter 13, we see the land is distributed to the tribes of Israel. You might think these lists and descriptions are dull, but for the Israelite this material describes his inheritance. In this chapter we find two main sections, verses 1-7, which introduces and sets the stage for all of chapters 13-21, and verses 8-33, which detail the territory that the two-and-a-half Transjordan tribes had already been allotted by Moses.

In verses 1-7 Joshua is about to retire but the Lord will continue to be adequate. “You have become old... there remains yet very much land to possess... I will drive them out” (13:1,6). **The mortality of his servants never handicaps the everlasting God.** Joshua had only to allot to the tribes their particular inheritances for them to clean out and occupy. Which we see Joshua does in every chapter up to chapter 21.

In verses 8-33 we see a glimpse of the faithfulness and past victories of God but the disobedience of the Israelites in their daily life. In verse 13 the Israelites have not been obedient in occupying the whole territory. They had initially invaded and conquered a territory but they did not persevere over a period of time to occupy the whole territory allotted to a tribe. “Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day” (13:13). This verse reveals the incomplete obedience of the Israelites. **As God’s people we frequently and strangely prove faithful in the great crisis of faith, remain steadfast in severe storms, perhaps even relish the excitement of the heaviest assaults, yet lack the tenacity, the endurance, the patient plodding often required in the everyday battle of faithfulness.** We are often reluctant to be faithful and steadfast in the little battles everyday.

We must not miss the reminder of God’s faithfulness and victory in our battles. The description of the boundaries of the Transjordan possession all seems like so many lakes, rivers, valleys, plains, and towns all jumbled together. However, we must not glance over the repeated allusions to Israel’s victories over our old friends Sihon and Og (13:10, 12, 21, 27, 30-31), not to mention Balaam (13:22; see Num. 22-25; 31:8). What does this mean? It means that throughout all this geography and topography there are victories the Lord previously given Israel under Moses. The allusions jog Israel’s memory and fortify their faith in face of any contemporary enemies; for it is in remembering how the Lord handles Sihon and Og (Ps. 135:10-12; 136:17-22) that Israel finds assurance that the Lord will still have compassion on his servants and that his covenant love persists into present time (Ps. 135:14). **This is a biblical prescription for faith; faith finds both steadfastness and expectancy by rehearsing and reveling in the Lord’s past acts of faithfulness.**

Through the story of Joshua, God is advancing his promise to bless his people with rest in the land. The Lord has shown himself faithful and promises to “drive the people in the land out from before the people of Israel” (13:6). In order for Israel to experience this blessing the people must entrust themselves to the Lord with full obedience to his Word. We see in verse 8-33 Israel does not entrust themselves to full obedience to the Lord. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ, wins the victory by means of keeping God’s law perfectly (Heb. 10:5-10) and defeating his enemies with the incarnation and crucifixion (Heb. 2:14-15). As children of God, our salvation and victory is found in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:11-14). However, we must persevere to be faithful and steadfast in obedience to God’s Word, pressing on toward the goal, until we are in perfect fellowship with Christ forever (Phil. 3:12-16).

Discussion

1. Chapters 11 and 12 tell of the battles that were fought and kings that were killed in the land of Canaan, and these chapters tell of the victories that God gave to Joshua and the people. In chapter 13:1-7 Joshua is now advanced in years. Is the task of occupying the land completely done (vs. 1)?
2. At the end of verse 6 what does God say to Joshua about the remaining peoples that still need to be driven out of the land?
3. According to verse 7 what new task does God tell Joshua to begin?
4. Verses 8-13 deal with the inheritances for the half tribe of Manasseh, Reuben, and Gad. Their inheritances were located on the east side of the Jordan River in land that was occupied by Moses after defeating King Sihon and King Og (Deuteronomy 2:1-3:13). These verses state that some of the people in this land were not driven out. What ultimately happened to those people, who were not driven out (vs. 13)?
5. Verses 14 and 33 specifically mention that the Levites (the tribe of the priests) were not given an inheritance of land. What was their inheritance? Please read Deuteronomy 18:1-8 for an explanation of this decision.
6. Later in the book of Joshua (chapter 21) the Levites were given specific cities in which to live. These cities were scattered throughout the whole country of Israel. Can you think of any possible reasons why God directed them to live in cities throughout the country instead of allocating a particular part of the country for them to live in?

Application

1. In chapter 13 we see that the task of dividing the land among the 12 tribes of Israel begins. However there are still some areas that have not been conquered, and God promises Joshua that he will drive them out (vs. 6). We also see in verse 13 that some of these unconquered areas were not ever occupied, and they remained a source of irritation until much later in Israel's history. Are there still some battles that need to be fought in your Christian life? Are you enjoying the blessings of forgiveness, joy, and peace with God in your life, but there are still some battles with besetting sins that need to be fought? Please read Romans 6:9-14 and Philippians 3:12-14. What does Paul say in these verses we should do about these remaining battles against sin in our lives?

12 Tribes of Israel

Approximate borders assigned during the Conquest



Copyright 2007, Ralph F. Wilson
www.jesuswalk.com

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!