



*Joshua*

every good  
promise fulfilled





# Joshua

every good promise fulfilled

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# Foreword:

## How Should We Approach God's Word?

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### our purpose

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The Bible study you are about to begin may be different than studies you have done in the past. It will not cover a specific topic from all angles. It will not have poetry or stories that leave you laughing, crying, or inspired. It will not focus on answering the question "What does the Bible say about me?" It will not aid you in self-discovery, at least not as its primary intent.

What it will do is teach you a book of the Bible in a way that will stay with you for years to come. It will challenge you to move beyond loving God with just your heart to loving Him with your mind. It will focus on answering the question "What does the Bible say about God?" It will aid you in the worthy task of God-discovery.

You see, the Bible is not a book about self-discovery: it is a book about God-discovery. The Bible is God's declared intent to make Himself known to us. In learning about the character of God in scripture we *will* experience self-discovery, but it must not be the focus of our study. The focus must be God Himself.

This focus changes the way we study. We look first for what a passage can teach us about the character of God, allowing self-discovery to be the byproduct of God-discovery. This is a much better approach because there can be no true knowledge of self apart from knowledge of God. So when I read the account of Jonah, I see first that God is just and faithful to His Word: He is faithful to proclaim his message to Nineveh no matter what. I see second that I, by contrast (and much like Jonah), am unjust to my fellow man and unfaithful to God's Word. Thus knowledge of God leads to true knowledge of self, which leads to repentance and transformation. This is what Paul meant when he wrote that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).

Women are good at loving God with their hearts. We are good at engaging our emotions in our pursuit of God. But the God who commands us to love with the totality of our heart, soul, and strength also commands us to love Him with all of our minds. Because He only commands what He also enables his children to do, it must be possible for us to love Him well with our minds or He would not command it. I know you will bring your emotions to your study of God's word, and that is good and right. But it is your mind that I want to engage. God intends for you to be a good student, renewing your mind and thus transforming your heart.

### our process

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Being a good student entails following good study habits. When we sit down to read, most of us like to read through a particular passage and then find a way to apply it to our everyday lives. We may read through an entire book of the Bible over a period of time, or we may jump around from place to place. I want to suggest a different approach, one that may not always yield immediate application, comfort or peace, but one that builds over time a cumulative understanding of the message of Scripture.

## Reading in context and repetitively

Imagine yourself receiving a letter in the mail. The envelope is hand-written, but you don't glance at the return address. Instead you tear open the envelope, flip to the second page, read two paragraphs near the bottom, and set the letter aside. Knowing that if someone bothered to send it to you, you should act on its contents in some way, you spend a few minutes trying to figure out how to respond to what the section you just read had to say. What are the odds you will be successful?

No one would read a letter this way. But this is precisely the way many of us read our Bibles. We skip past reading the "envelope" – who wrote this? To whom is it written? When was it written? Where was it written? – and then try to determine the purpose of its contents from a portion of the whole. What if we took time to read the envelope? What if, after determining the context for its writing, we started at the beginning and read to the end? Wouldn't that make infinitely more sense?

In our study we will take this approach to Scripture. We will begin by placing our text in its historical and cultural context. We will "read the envelope". Then we will read through the entire text multiple times, so that we can better determine what it wants to say to us. We will read repetitively so that we might move through three critical stages of understanding: comprehension, interpretation and application.

### Stage 1: Comprehension

Remember the reading comprehension section on the SAT? Remember those long reading passages followed by questions to test your knowledge of what you had just read? The objective was to force you to read for detail. We are going to apply the same method to our study of God's Word. When we read for comprehension we ask ourselves "What does it say?" This is hard work. A person who *comprehends* the account of the six days of creation can tell you specifically what happened on each day. This is the first step toward being able to interpret and apply the story of creation to our lives.

### Stage 2: Interpretation

While comprehension asks "What does it say?" interpretation asks "What does it mean?" Once we have read a passage enough times to know what it says we are ready to look into its meaning. A person who *interprets* the creation story can tell you why God created in a particular order or way. They are able to imply things from the text beyond what it says.

### Stage 3: Application

After doing the work to understand what the text says and what the text means, we are finally ready to ask "How should it change me?" Here is where we draw on our God-centered perspective to ask three supporting questions:

- What does this passage teach me about God?
- How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?
- What should I do in response?

A person who *applies* the creation story can tell us that because God creates in an orderly fashion, we too should live well-ordered lives. Knowledge of God gleaned through comprehension of the text and interpretation of its meaning can now be applied to my life in a way that challenges me to be different.

## some guidelines

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It is vital to the learning process that you allow yourself to move through the three stages of understanding on your own, without the aid of commentaries or study notes. The first several times you read a passage you will probably be confused. This is actually a good thing. Allow yourself to feel lost, to dwell in the “I don’t know”. It will make the moment of discovery stick.

Nobody likes to feel lost or confused, but it is an important step in the acquisition and retention of understanding. Because of this, I have a few guidelines to lay out for you as you go through this study:

1. **Avoid all commentaries** until *comprehension* and *interpretation* have been earnestly attempted on your own. In other words, wait to read commentaries until after you have done the homework, attended small group time, and listened to the teaching. And then, consult commentaries you can trust. Ask your pastor or a trusted teacher for suggested authors.
2. For the purposes of this study, **get a Bible without study notes**. Come on, it’s just too easy to look at them. You know I’m right.
3. Though commentaries are off-limits, here are some **tools you should use**:
  - **Cross-references**. These are the Scripture references in the margin or at the bottom of the page in your Bible. They point you to other passages that deal with the same topic or theme.
  - **An English dictionary** to look up unfamiliar words.
  - **Other translations** of the Bible. We will use the English Standard Version (ESV) as a starting point, and the New International Version (NIV) as our secondary translation. You can easily consult other versions online. I recommend the NASB or NKJV in addition to the ESV and NIV. Reading a passage in more than one translation can expand your understanding of its meaning. Note: a paraphrase, such as the New Living Translation or the Message, can be useful but should be regarded as a commentary rather than a translation. Paraphrases are best consulted after careful study of an actual translation.
  - **A printed copy of the text**, double-spaced, so you can mark repeated words, phrases, or ideas. For certain lessons in this workbook, portions of the text will be provided for you to mark. If you find it helpful to mark other sections of the text, you should print them and do so.

## storing up treasure

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Approaching God’s Word with a God-centered perspective, with context, and with care takes effort and commitment. It is study for the long-term. Some days your study may not move you emotionally or speak to an immediate need. You may not be able to apply a passage at all. But what if ten years from now, in a dark night of the soul, that passage suddenly opened up to you because of the work you have done today? Wouldn’t your long-term investment be worth it?

In Matthew 13, we see Jesus begin to teach in parables. He tells seven deceptively simple stories that leave his disciples struggling for understanding - dwelling in the “I don’t know”, if you will. After the last parable he turns to



them and asks “Have you understood all these things?” Despite their apparent confusion, they answer out of their earnest desire with “Yes”. Jesus tells them that their newfound understanding makes them “like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

A storeroom, as Jesus indicates, is a place for keeping valuables over a long period of time for use when needed. Faithful study of God’s Word is a means for filling our spiritual storerooms with truth, so that in our hour of need we can bring forth both the old and the new as a source of rich provision. I pray that this study would be for you a source of much treasure, and that you would labor well to obtain it.

Grace and peace,

*Jen Wilkin*

## how to use this study

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This workbook is designed to be used in a specific way. The homework in the workbook will start you down the process of comprehension, application and interpretation. However, it was designed to dovetail with small group discussion time and the audio teachings. You can use the workbook by itself, but you are likely to find yourself with some unresolved questions. The audio teaching is intended to resolve most, if not all, of your unanswered questions from the homework and discussion time. With this in mind, consider using the materials as follows:

- If you are going through the study **on your own**, first work through the homework and then listen to the corresponding audio for that week.
- If you are going through the study **in a group**, first do your homework, then discuss the questions your group decides to cover (we suggest the bolded application questions and the wrap-up questions), and then listen to the teaching. Some groups listen to the teaching before they meet, which can also work if that format fits best for everyone.

**Note:** For week 1, there is no homework. The study begins with an audio introduction. You will find a fill-in sheet on page 2 that you can use as you listen to the introductory material.

## acknowledgement

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I am deeply grateful to **Jenni Hamm** for her editorial help on this study. Her insights, attention to detail and love for the Lord and His Word have been indispensable to me. “Let her works praise her in the gates.”

# Joshua

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# Joshua

## Introduction

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1. Who wrote the book of Joshua?
2. When was it written?
3. To whom was it written?
4. In what style was it written?
5. What are the central themes of the book?

# Joshua

Week 2

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Your weekly homework questions are designed to help you take a closer look at what you are reading. Not all of the questions will have answers that are immediately clear to you. If you are unsure of an answer, give it your best shot. We'll expand our understanding in the discussion and teaching time.

This week's homework will have two purposes: to familiarize you with the book of Joshua as a whole and to help you focus on the contents of chapter 1. As we discussed in the introductory lesson, you'll want to read through (or listen to an audio version of) the entire book of Joshua if you haven't done so already. This will take a little time, so there are fewer homework questions to answer than in a typical week. If your week's schedule doesn't cooperate, you may need to do a partial read-through and skip ahead to the homework questions over chapter 1. Then finish your read-through as you are able. If at all possible, read the entire book this week.

As you read, don't worry about drawing a lot of conclusions from the text – just form a first impression of the book from start to finish. Keep in mind what you learned about Joshua in the introductory lesson. Think about how the “archaeological questions” we addressed give context to what you are reading.

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Once you have completed your initial read-through of Joshua, answer the following questions:

1. Which sections of the book interested you the most?
2. Which sections were confusing on your first read-through?
3. What are your biggest questions after reading through the book?

# Joshua

Week 2

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Now shift your focus to **Joshua Chapter 1**.

4. Summarize this chapter in one sentence:
5. At the beginning of verse 2, God begins his words to Joshua with an obvious statement. What is it?

Why do you think he begins with this statement?

6. Skim through Chapter 1. How many references to Moses do you find? \_\_\_\_\_

What connection between Moses and Joshua does the author want his readers to make from these references?

7. Think back to last week's introduction. Based on the experiences God had given to Joshua during his years as Moses' assistant, how prepared was Joshua to take on the role of Israel's leader? What skills did he possess that would help him fulfill this role?
8. **Apply: Moses' death marks both an end and a beginning. When has a loss of some kind ushered in a season of new possibilities, hopes, changes or responsibilities for you? How does the knowledge that God is with us help us navigate times of change?**

# Joshua

Week 2

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Now look at **Joshua 1:1-9**.

9. In the space below, list every command that God gives to Joshua in **1:1-9**.
10. Now list every promise God makes in **1:1-9**.
11. In **1:7-8**, God tells Joshua to be careful to obey the law (Hebrew: *torah*) of Moses, referring to it as the Book of the Law. To what section of your Bible is God referring? Check your answer below:
- the Ten Commandments
  - Leviticus
  - the first five books (Genesis through Deuteronomy)
12. What level of attention was Joshua to give to this law?
13. Note every instruction God gives with regard to this in **1:7-8**. What should Joshua do? What should he not do?
- Do: \_\_\_\_\_ Do not: \_\_\_\_\_

# Joshua

Week 2

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14. Repetition gives us a clue to what the author most wants us to understand. What repeated phrases or ideas do you notice in **1:5-9**?

15. Think about what you know of the laws, lessons and stories contained in the first five books of the Bible. How would meditating on these books give strength and courage to Joshua as he leads the nation of Israel in the conquest of Canaan? (**1:5**)

**16. Apply: Describe a time when you took courage from Scripture in the face of a daunting circumstance.**

**When we face an overwhelming or intimidating task or situation, where (besides Scripture) do we tend to run to bolster our courage? List a few possibilities below. How are these sources of reassurance inferior to the words of Scripture?**

Now look at **Joshua 1:10-15**.

17. In the space below, list every command that Joshua gives to the people in **1:10-15**.



# Joshua

Week 2

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18. Of the twelve tribes, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh were granted an inheritance east of the Jordan River by Moses. Skim through the account in **Numbers 32**. What promise did Moses require of them in return for granting their inheritance before the other tribes? (**Numbers 32:16-27**)
19. Notice that the inheritance of land was not given by the Lord simply so that the people could have a place to live. What is the Lord's purpose in giving the Israelites land? (**1:13a, 15a**)
20. **Apply: God's emphasis on the blessing and necessity of rest stretches from the first to the final pages of Scripture. How good does a promise of rest sound to you? From what effort do you most need rest? (Matthew 11:28-29)**

Now look at **Joshua 1:16-18**.

21. How do the people respond to Joshua's words? Paraphrase their response below in one sentence:

22. What are the three "we will's" the people commit to in **1:16-18**? Note them below:

We will \_\_\_\_\_

We will \_\_\_\_\_

We will \_\_\_\_\_

# Joshua

Week 2

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23. What do you think about their response? Based on your knowledge of the last forty years of their history, how reassured would Joshua be by their words?

**24. Apply: Is your first response to the Lord's instruction usually "all that you have commanded I will do"? What keeps you from responding in this way?**

## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly? (For help answering this question each week, see the list of attributes on the last page of this workbook.)

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

# Notes

Week 2

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# Joshua

Week 3

Joshua has been installed as successor to the great leader Moses. The Israelites have sworn their willingness to obey the words of the Lord and to follow Joshua's leadership. After forty years of wandering, God's people are at last poised to enter the land of Canaan.

Joshua sets his sights on Jericho, a fortress city located west of the Jordan. Because of its strategic location, taking Jericho would give Israel an advantageous position from which they could strike their enemies to the north and the south. Within Jericho's walls Israel will find help from an unlikely source, a woman whose story can teach us much about fear, faith and faithfulness.

## Read Chapter 2

1. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 2** in 3-4 sentences.
2. Throughout the book of Joshua we will read of fortress cities like Jericho. These walled cities were relatively small in size and were ruled by "kings" who, along with a handful of nobles, lived off the economy of the city and paid tribute to Pharaoh. It was a sharply divided social system of "haves" and "have-nots" similar to the feudal system of Europe during the Middle Ages. On the map on page 81 of your workbook, underline the Valley of Shittim where Israel was camped. Underline Jericho as well.
3. If the Lord had promised to give the land of Canaan to Israel, why do you think Joshua sent spies ahead? Does this action show doubt on his part? Why or why not?

## Now shift your focus to **Joshua 2:1-7**.

4. How was Rahab's house a good strategic choice for the spies to use for lodging? (consider also **2:15**)

# Joshua

Week 3

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5. There has been a great deal of discussion through the years as to whether Rahab sinned by lying to the king's men. What do you think? Explain your answer.
  
6. By her response to the king's men, who does Rahab demonstrate she fears most?
  
7. Does Rahab seem like a likely person to be included in this narrative? How is she an odd fit for the story? How is she a good fit?
  
8. **Apply: What kinds of people do we tend to think are beyond the reach of God's saving grace? What personal experience have you had that has shown you that no one is below his notice or beyond his reach?**

Now look at **Joshua 2:8-14**.

9. Though she is a Canaanite woman of low social standing, Rahab knows a thing or two about the God of Israel. What do her words to the spies reveal about what she knows to be true of God? List what you find below:

# Joshua

Week 3

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10. In **2:10**, Rahab refers to two incidents in Israel's history. What are they?

On the timeline below, notice the timing of each of these events in Israel's history. Fill in the blank with what the Israelites were doing during the time between them. (Hint: how many years passed between the two events Rahab mentions?)

1446 BC      The exodus from Egypt (parting of the Red Sea)

\_\_\_\_\_

1407 BC      Sihon and Og defeated

1406 BC      Death of Moses, Joshua becomes Israel's leader

11. Immediately following their miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, Israel sang a song of thankfulness to the Lord. Look up **Exodus 15:13-16**, an excerpt of that song sung forty years earlier than our current story in Joshua 2. What did the song say would happen to Israel's enemies as a result of God's deliverance?

12. Israel would have had no way of knowing if their words in **Exodus 15:13-16** were actually accurate. When news travels at the pace of a camel, it would be hard to know who might actually hear about the miraculous events of the exodus from Egypt. How do Rahab's words in **Joshua 2:11** testify to the truth of God's faithfulness to Israel?

13. In your own words, describe the verbal contract Rahab makes with the spies.

14. What adverb does Rahab repeat twice in **2:12**? \_\_\_\_\_

The repeated word is the Hebrew word *hesed*, which connotes not just kindness, but loving-kindness, steadfast love, unfailing love. It described faithful love in action. Though used to describe relationships between humans in the Bible, it is most closely associated with the character of God. God shows *hesed* to his covenant people.

# Joshua

Week 3

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15. Rahab's fear of the God of Israel (**2:11**) causes her to respond with *hesed* toward the spies (**2:12**). Is this response surprising to you? What is the motivation for *hesed*?
  
16. What did Rahab stand to lose if the spies were found and her lie was exposed? What do you think motivated her to take the risk she did?
  
17. **Apply: God may not often call on us to take a major risk like Rahab, but what kinds of smaller risks does He ask us to take on a regular basis? What motivates us to avoid these risks? To take them?**

Now look at **Joshua 2:15-21**.

18. What instructions do the spies give to Rahab to guarantee the safety of her family when Jericho is overthrown? Rewrite **2:18-19** in your own words:
  
19. What do you think was the significance of the scarlet thread? Why not a blue thread or a green thread? Look up **Exodus 12:7-13** and note any similarities between that story and this one.
  
20. How is Rahab's obedience to hang the scarlet thread a demonstration of faith?

# Joshua

Week 3

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21. Rahab's story is referenced two places in the New Testament. Read each of them and note what they teach about her:

**Hebrews 11:1-2, 31**

**James 2:20-26**

22. **Apply:** A Canaanite prostitute is certainly an unlikely person to come to faith in Israel's God. Rahab not only believes in God, she demonstrates that faith in a manner that brings her the commendation of two New Testament authors. How is Rahab's faith in the God of Israel an example to us?

Now look at **Joshua 2:22-24**.

23. In your own words, briefly describe the outcome of the spying mission.
24. You may remember from our introduction in week 1 that Joshua himself has acted as a spy in the past. Skim through **Numbers 13 and 14** and note how this previous spying incident relates to the one in Joshua 2. How is it similar? How is it different?
25. Compare **Joshua 2:24** in the ESV and the NIV. How certain were the spies that the promises of God would be fulfilled?



# Joshua

Week 3

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26. How do you think the report the spies brought back would have impacted those who heard it?

**27. Apply: The spies bring back a word of assurance and encouragement to those who have already been given a firm promise from the Lord. How has the Lord used the faithful testimony of other believers to encourage you in a truth you already knew?**

## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

# Notes

Week 3

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# Joshua

Week 4

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Having scouted out the land, the nation of Israel begins to move into position to claim its inheritance. While Rahab waits with her scarlet cord in the window, Joshua and his people walk forward in obedience to the word of the Lord. First up: crossing the Jordan River, an event through which the Lord will once again show Himself strong to His people. As they set foot on the soil promised to Abraham generations before, God will challenge His people to trust and obey, to follow His lead, and to remember His promises – habits we, too, must be mindful to practice.

## Read **Chapter 3-5:12**

1. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 3** in 3-4 sentences.
  
2. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 4** in 3-4 sentences.
  
3. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 5:1-12** in 2-3 sentences.
  
4. On the map on page 81 of your workbook, Highlight the Jordan River from the Sea of Kinnereth to the Dead Sea in blue. Trace the Israelites' path from the Valley of Shittim across the Jordan to Gilgal with a yellow highlighter.
  
5. Count how many references you can find to the ark in chapters 3-4. \_\_\_\_\_. As you count, note in the space below the different titles used for the ark. What important truth or truths about God does each point to?
  
6. Read the following verses to refresh your memory on the purpose and contents of the ark.

**Exodus 25:10-22**

**Hebrews 9:1-5**

# Joshua

Week 4

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7. Why do you think the ark figures so prominently in these two chapters?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. **Apply:** How might a constant visual reminder of God's presence have reassured the people as they faced the great task before them? How should this story reassure us?

Now shift your focus to **Joshua 3**.

9. Why do you think **3:1** includes a detail about the time of day? What might this detail be intended to communicate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Look up how long 2000 cubits is in modern measurement (yards): \_\_\_\_\_ yards  
How many football fields is that? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you think the people were told to keep such a distance from the ark?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What did Joshua mean by "consecrate yourselves"? (**3:5**) Read **Exodus 19:9-10**. Then look up the word *consecrate* in the dictionary and write a definition for it below that best fit the way it is used in **3:5**.

**consecrate** (verb):

12. Why is what God promises to do for Joshua in **3:7** a necessary and good promise?

# Joshua

Week 4

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13. Joshua tells the people what is about to take place in **3:10-13**. Next to each verse number below, note what it tells us:

**3:10** (God's purpose):

**3:11-12** (the people's obedience):

**3:13** (God's response):

14. What do we learn in **3:14-17**? What purpose does this part of the narrative serve?

15. **Apply: Israel waits on the ark before stepping forward in obedience. How is this an example to modern-day believers?**

**How good are we at waiting on the Lord? What does this practice even look like? Reflect on Psalm 37:7-11,34 to help with your answer.**

Now look at **Joshua 4**.

16. Most of chapter 4 (verses **5-18**) follows the structure of a chiasmus, the form of parallelism that we saw in chapter **1:5-9** when God commissions Joshua. As we noted in the week 2 teaching, a chiasmus moves inward to a central point and then outward again. It cues the reader to what the most important message of the narrative is. Let's get some practice identifying that central message.

At the end of this week's homework is a copy of the text for chapter 4 (page 24). The margins are marked with brackets. Next to each bracket, draw the symbol for statement that best summarizes that section of the text. You should draw each symbol twice, leaving one bracket unlabeled:

Children asking/people remembering – draw a string tied around a finger

Taking up/setting up twelve stones – draw a pile of stones

Priests feet in the midst of the Jordan -- draw a foot

Now look at the bracket you have yet to label. What is the central message of this portion of the narrative? (Hint: look back at **3:7** to confirm your answer.)

# Joshua

Week 4

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17. What were the twelve stones to be a reminder of? (4:21-22)
18. What earlier miraculous act of God was this miraculous act a reminder of? (4:23) Look back at **Exodus 14:21-22** and **15:8** to note the similarities.
19. Think of some visible reminders we wear or build to memorialize significant occasions. List a few below. Why would a visible reminder of the crossing be good for the people?
20. **The twelve stones were intended to remind the Israelites not just of the miraculous crossing, but of the mighty God who brought it about. What milestone in your past serves as a reminder to you that God is mighty to do what he has promised? Use the space below to build an altar of remembrance with your words:**

Now look at **Joshua 5:1-12**.

21. How is **5:1** a statement of God's faithfulness?
22. It would be physically impossible to circumcise someone twice. Why is it necessary to "circumcise the sons of Israel a second time"?

# Joshua

Week 4

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23. Look back at **Genesis 17:1-14**. How important was it for the Israelites to observe the practice of circumcision?
24. From a military strategy perspective, why might circumcising all the males at once be a risky plan?
25. What do you think is meant by “the reproach of Egypt”? (**5:9**) In what sense was the reproach of Egypt removed from Israel upon entering Canaan?
26. What second ceremony did Israel observe while encamped at Gilgal? (**5:10-12**)

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think God allowed the timing of this annual observance to coincide with the people entering Canaan?

27. After years of being fed by heavenly means, the people now begin to be fed in a new way. What is it (note the repetition of the idea)? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the significance of this change? Read **Deuteronomy 8:2-10** to help with your answer.

# Joshua

Week 4

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**28. Apply:** Upon entering Canaan, the Lord removes Israel's reproach and ends her time of testing. How has He done both of these things for you as well by the blood of the Passover Lamb, Christ?

## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?



# Joshua

Week 4

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Chiasmus practice:

## Twelve Memorial Stones from the Jordan

**4** When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup>“Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, <sup>3</sup>and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” <sup>4</sup>Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. <sup>5</sup>And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, <sup>6</sup>that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ <sup>7</sup>then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

<sup>8</sup>And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down<sup>(1)</sup>there. <sup>9</sup>And Joshua set up<sup>(2)</sup> twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day. <sup>10</sup>For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua.

The people passed over in haste. <sup>11</sup>And when all the people had finished passing over, the ark of the LORD and the priests passed over before the people. <sup>12</sup>The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them.<sup>13</sup> About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. <sup>14</sup>On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.

<sup>15</sup>And the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>16</sup>“Command the priests bearing the ark of the testimony to come up out of the Jordan.” <sup>17</sup>So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.” <sup>18</sup>And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests’ feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.

<sup>19</sup>The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup>And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. <sup>21</sup>And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>22</sup>then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’ <sup>23</sup>For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, <sup>24</sup>so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”<sup>(1)</sup>

# Notes

Week 4

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# Joshua

Week 5

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At Gilgal, twelve stones had been set up to memorialize the miraculous crossing of the River Jordan. The people had been circumcised and had kept the feast of Passover. With memories of water, blood and broken bread fresh on their minds they make their approach on Jericho.

A man trained in war, Joshua was no doubt preparing himself mentally for a lengthy siege. But God had other plans for his people. As you study this week, do your best to clear your mind of felt board presentations, Veggie Tales retellings and coloring pages. Let the story unfold for you with freshness, as an account written for adults as much as for children, laden with truth about God.

**Read Chapter 5:13-6.**

1. Summarize what happens in **5:13-6:7** in 2-3 sentences.
2. Summarize what happens in **6:8-14** in 2-3 sentences.
3. Summarize what happens in **6:15-27** in 2-3 sentences.
4. On the map on page 81 highlight in yellow the line between Gilgal (where Israel was camped) and Jericho.
5. Skim back through this week's passage. How many times is the ark mentioned? \_\_\_\_  
Based on last week's lesson, why is this noteworthy?

**Now shift your focus to Joshua 5:13-6:7.**

6. Based on your careful reading of this section, who do you think the man is that Joshua sees? Give an explanation for your answer. Cite the verse(s) that back it up.

# Joshua

Week 5

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7. Look at **5:13-14** in both the ESV and the NIV. Is the man's response to Joshua's question reassuring? Threatening? Ambiguous? Explain your answer.
  
8. What does Joshua's reaction reveal he understood from the man's response?
  
9. Compare **Exodus 3:1-6** with our current passage. What similarities do you find?
  
10. **Apply: What do you think was the purpose of this encounter between the commander of the Lord's human army (Joshua) and the commander of the Lord's heavenly army? What was Joshua to learn from it?**

**What should you and I learn from it with regard to our own battles?**

Now look at **Joshua 6:1-14** .

11. What does **6:1** indicate about Jericho's readiness for battle?
  
12. Note the verb tense used by God in **6:2**. What does it indicate?

# Joshua

Week 5

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13. Briefly summarize what God tells Joshua. What obedience does He require? What will be the result? (6:3-5)
  
14. Do you think Joshua was surprised to learn God planned a miraculous victory over Jericho? Why or why not?
  
15. Unlike the crossing of the Jordan, where is the ark to be positioned relative to the people of Israel as they walk forward in obedience to God's commands? (6:7-9)
  
16. What additional requirement do we learn about in 6:10?
  
17. What does 6:12 indicate once again about Joshua's attitude toward God and His commands? (see also 6:15)
  
18. How might the people of Israel have felt, circling the walls of Jericho for six days in utter silence, lifting no other weapon than a trumpet? How might the watching people of Jericho have responded to this odd parade, particularly as the week wore on?
  
19. **Apply: When you feel threatened in some way, especially over a length of time, how hard is it for you to remain silent? To continue "marching forward" in obedience? What tempts you to verbally defend yourself or stop obeying the Lord?**

# Joshua

Week 5

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Now look at **Joshua 6:15-21**.

20. In the Bible, the number seven represents completeness or perfection. How is it used in the story of the fall of Jericho?

To your knowledge, where else is this number used in the Bible to communicate the same idea of completeness or perfection?

21. What is being made perfect or complete in Joshua 6?

22. Starting in **6:17**, what other repeated idea occurs throughout this section of the text? Count how many occurrences of it you find. \_\_\_\_\_

23. Look up the word *devote* in a dictionary and/or thesaurus and write a brief definition for it below that best fits the way it is used in the text:

<p><b>devote</b> (verb):</p>
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24. What warning does Joshua give in **6:18-19**? Why might such a warning be necessary?

25. We will discuss this during the teaching time, but for now, be honest: What is your initial reaction to **6:21**?

26. Can you think of a way to reconcile this picture of the wrath of God with the truth of His infinite love, goodness and mercy? Give it your best effort. Read **Leviticus 18** to help with your thought process, paying special attention to **18:3** and **18:24**.

# Joshua

Week 5

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27. **Apply:** Describe a time your circumstances seemed to be telling you that God was not who you thought He was. During times like those, how can we trust God's character?

Now look at **Joshua 6:22-27**.

28. What happens to Rahab and her family?

29. Look up **Matthew 1:1-6**. How is Rahab's name surprising to find in this list? How is it perhaps not surprising at all?

30. Compare **Joshua 6:26** to **1 Kings 16:34**. What do you note?

31. Compare **Joshua 6:27** to **Joshua 1:9**. What do you note?

32. **Apply:** How is Rahab's story a picture of our own salvation? List as many parallels as you can identify.

# Joshua

Week 5

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## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?



# Notes

Week 5

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# Joshua

Week 6

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With Jericho supernaturally given into their hands, Joshua and his people turn their eyes north toward Ai, another strategic location in the conquest of Canaan. As far as Joshua knows, Jericho had been completely devoted to destruction and Israel is completely devoted to the Lord. But events will soon prove otherwise. After dealing with deception at Ai, Joshua will meet it in another form at Gibeon. And God will continue to impress on His people the implications of covenant living.

## Read **Chapters 7-9.**

1. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 7** in 2-3 sentences.
  
2. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 8** in 2-3 sentences.
  
3. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 9** in 2-3 sentences.
  
4. On the map on page 81, note the progression of the conquest of Canaan by highlighting in yellow the line from Jericho to Ai, and from Ai to Gibeon.

## Now shift your focus to **Joshua 7.**

5. What does **7:1** indicate about the relationship in God's covenant between the sin of one Israelite and the sin of all Israel?

# Joshua

Week 6

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6. How is the account in **7:2-5** similar to the account of the battle of Jericho? How is it different?
  
7. What does Joshua's response in **7:6-9** indicate about his knowledge of Achan's sin?
  
8. Do you think Joshua displays faithlessness in his response? Why or why not?
  
9. How does God respond to Joshua in **7:10-15**? How do you read the tone of the response?
  
10. How does the act of honest confession "give glory to the LORD God?" (**7:19**)
  
11. Look closely at Achan's confession in **7:20-21**. What was the progression of his sin? Can you think of anywhere else in Scripture we see a similar progression?
  
- 12. Apply: How does Achan's story of giving in to temptation challenge the mindset that "it doesn't hurt to look"? What area of sin in your own life persists because you choose to believe this same lie?**

# Joshua

Week 6

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13. How does **Numbers 15:27-31** help explain the seemingly severe penalty for Achan's crime?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. God's covenant with Israel required corporate obedience as well as individual obedience. In other words, the disobedience of one man brought guilt on the entire nation. If all of Israel bore the guilt of Achan's disobedience, how might Achan's death sentence be considered merciful?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. The sin of one man, Achan, resulted in the death of many. Read **Romans 5:15-18**. How does Achan's story point us toward the better story of one man's deadly sin and the work of Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. **Apply: Is it possible to commit a sin that harms no one but the sinner? What types of sins are we most likely to tell ourselves won't harm others?**

Now look at **Joshua 8:1-29** .

17. What is particularly interesting about the instructions God gives regarding Ai in **8:2**?

What reason do you think God had for giving these different instructions versus the ones he gave regarding Jericho?

# Joshua

Week 6

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18. In your own words, explain Joshua's strategy for taking the city.
19. How does **Deuteronomy 21:22-23** shed light on the treatment given to the king of Ai? What purpose might the public nature of his death have served?
20. Compare **7:26** to **8:28** and **8:29b**. What were each of these memorial heaps to be a reminder of? Look up **Deuteronomy 9:4-6** to help with your answer.
21. **Apply: When you experience a victory over sin, to whom or to what are you tempted to give credit? List several possibilities.**

**What steps can you take to help remind you where credit lies? How can you memorialize the work of Christ in your life?**

Now look at **Joshua 8:30-35**.

22. What acts of worship does Joshua perform after the victory at Ai? Number them in the order they occur:
- \_\_\_ Builds an altar
  - \_\_\_ Gathers the people (implied)
  - \_\_\_ Offers sacrifices
  - \_\_\_ Reads the law to the people
  - \_\_\_ Writes out a copy of the law

# Joshua

Week 6

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23. Look up Deuteronomy **27:1-8**. How do these earlier words of Moses shed light on Joshua's activities?

24. What two mountain peaks did the people stand between? (**8:33**)

Mount \_\_\_\_\_ and Mount \_\_\_\_\_

Find these peaks on your map on page 81. What city is located between them?

\_\_\_\_\_

25. Look up Genesis **12:1-7** and answer the following questions:

- At what location does God first promise Abram that He will give his descendants the land of Canaan? (verse **6-7**)
- How does Abram respond? (verse **7**)
- How does this story add depth and context to **Joshua 8:30-35**?

26. What three-letter adjective is repeated in **8:34-35**? Why?

**27. Apply: Look back at the acts of worship in question 22 above. With regard to repentance and seeking restoration with God, how can we as modern day believers learn from the example of the Israelites in 8:30-35?**

Now look at **Joshua 9**.

28. Who forms an alliance to fight against Israel? (**9:1-2**)

Who decides to rely on cleverness instead of strength? (**9:3-6**)

# Joshua

Week 6

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29. Read Deuteronomy **20:10-18**. What did God command with regard to cities that were “very far from you” versus those that were a part of the land Israel was to possess?

Cities far away:

Cities close by:

How does this shed light on the words the Gibeonites choose to describe themselves in **Joshua 9:6** and **9:9**?

30. What critical error did the Israelites make in their dealings with the Gibeonites? (**9:14b**)

Look up **James 4:2**. What would James say to Israel regarding their lack of discernment in dealing with the Gibeonites?

“You do not \_\_\_\_\_, because you do not \_\_\_\_\_.”

31. Why do you think the leaders of Israel decided to honor the covenant they had made with the Gibeonites?

32. What becomes the fate of the Gibeonites? (**9:23**)

**33. Apply: Read Psalm 15 in the NIV, paying special attention to the second half of verse 4. Think of a time when you have kept a promise you made as a result of poor judgment. How does keeping such a promise honor God and preserve your witness?**

# Joshua

Week 6

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## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?



# Notes

Week 6

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# Joshua

Week 7

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By conquering Jericho, Ai and Gibeon, Joshua has driven a geographic wedge between the northern kings and the southern kings of Canaan. If alliances are formed, they can only be formed on either side of the dividing line that Israel controls. Stricken with panic at the news of the fall of Ai and Gibeon's treaty, the king of Jerusalem hastens to form a united front with his neighbors. But God fights for Israel.

Our study this week (and for the next several weeks) will take us into some passages that you may be tempted to see as repetitive and dull. In the pattern of honest confession bringing glory to the Lord (a la Joshua 7:19), confess your lack of enthusiasm! Ask the Lord to teach you from even the most unlikely passages. I'm praying we'll be surprised by the wealth they contain.

## Read **Chapters 10-12.**

1. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 10:1-28** in 3-4 sentences.
2. Summarize what happens in **Chapter 10:29-11:23** in 2-3 sentences.
3. Summarize **Chapter 12** in 2-3 sentences.

## Now shift your focus to **Joshua 10:1-15.**

4. On the map on page 81, circle the location of Jerusalem. List below the four cities with whose kings Adoni-zedek forms an alliance. Circle their locations on the map. In what general direction are these cities located from Jerusalem?
5. Against whom does the alliance strike? Why do you think they pick this city to attack?

# Joshua

Week 7

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6. Why do you think Joshua comes to the aid of the Gibeonites?
  
7. Look carefully at **10:8-14**. Who fights the battle these verses describe?
  
8. What miraculous event takes place during the battle? (**10:12-14**) Do you think this story should be understood literally or figuratively? Explain your answer.
  
9. You may be wondering about the Book of Jashar (or Jasher). Look up the following article and see what you learn about it:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/book-of-Jasher.html>

Summarize what you learn in the space below:

10. **Apply: Because of their covenant with Israel, the Gibeonites received protection not just from Israel, but from the Lord. Read Psalm 61:1-5. Note that the word “tent” in verse 4 is the word “tabernacle”. Remember from our teaching time last week the servant role the Gibeonites had been given with regard to the tabernacle. How are we Gentile believers like the Gibeonites?**

Now look at **Joshua 10:16-28**.

11. What familiar phrases or ideas from earlier chapters occur in this section of the text? List all that you find.

# Joshua

Week 7

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12. On the map on page 81 underline the location to which the five Amorite kings flee.
  
13. In your own words, explain Joshua's treatment of the five Amorite kings in **10:16-21**. Why does he not command they be put to death immediately?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Compare **10:21** in the ESV and the NIV. Then look up **Psalms 63:9-11**. What similarities do you see between the words of the psalm and the events described in **10:16-21**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What were "all the men of Israel" (**10:24**) supposed to understand from the symbolic act of the chiefs placing their feet on the necks of the kings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. Look up the following verses and note what greater truth this symbolic act shadowed:  
  
**Psalm 110:1**  
  
**1 Corinthians 15:24-28**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. **Apply: What parallel can you draw between the way Joshua dealt with the Amorite kings and the way we should deal with our spiritual enemies?**

# Joshua

Week 7

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Now look at **Joshua 10:29-11:23**.

18. On the map on page 81, highlight in pink the path of the conquest of southern Canaan. Circle all the cities that Joshua overthrows in **10:29-36**.
  
19. What do you notice about the tempo of the narrative? Why do you think the author takes this approach?
  
20. Now skim through **11:1-5** and underline as many location names on the map as you can find. Highlight the route of the northern conquest in green.
  
21. How is the situation described in **11:1-5** similar to the account of the southern alliance? How is it different?
  
22. In **11:6-15**, what details stand out as deviations from the pattern we have seen Joshua follow in dealing with Israel's enemies? List any below. Give a possible explanation for these deviations.
  
23. What insights about the conquest do you find in **11:18-20**?
  
24. Despite the pace of the narrative in chapter 11, what does **11:18** tell us?

# Joshua

Week 7

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25. The concept of God hardening the hearts of his enemies (see **11:20**) has been the topic of much discussion by theologians. We will discuss it in our teaching time, but for now, based on your understanding of both the justice and mercy of God as revealed in Scripture, what do you think it means that God hardened the hearts of the Canaanites?
26. Compare **Genesis 15:18-21** to **Joshua 11:23**. What beautiful connection do you see?
27. What is the tone of the narrative at the end of chapter 11? What response do you think the narrator wants to evoke from the reader?
- Can you think of any other significant passages in Scripture with similar *work-then-rest* language and tone?
28. **Apply: Even though God had decreed and enabled victory over the Canaanites, Joshua still had to fight for a long time (11:18). How is this a picture of our own battles to overcome sin?**

Now look at **Joshua 12**.

29. On which side of the Jordan did the list of kings in **12:1-6** live? \_\_\_\_\_
- On which side of the Jordan did the list of kings in **12:7-23** live? \_\_\_\_\_

# Joshua

Week 7

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30. Why do you think the author lists both the kings defeated by Moses (as described in the book of Numbers) and the kings defeated by Joshua? What does he want his readers to understand by connecting the two lists?
31. How many kings does the list in Joshua 12 mention? **(12:24)** \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think more are mentioned here than in the preceding chapters?
32. What purpose do you think a list like this serves? How does it glorify God? How does it instruct or edify God's people?
- 33. Apply: When you reflect on the faithfulness of God in your life, how specific are you in expressing your thanks to Him? How might making a list of specific instances in which He has granted you victory over sin increase your faith?**

**List at least five specific examples of His faithfulness in your life. Take time to pray and thank God for what he has done.**

# Joshua

Week 7

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## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?



# Notes

Week 7

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# Joshua

Week 8

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Now shift your focus to **Joshua 13**.

5. Though all of the Promise Land has been effectively claimed, has it been completely subdued? Does this seem strange to you? Why or why not?
  
6. What promise does God make to an aging Joshua in **13:6**? How do you think Joshua felt about this promise?
  
7. Is the next order of business for Joshua military or administrative? (**13:7**) \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Specifically, what is it?
  
8. Before we hear how Joshua divides the land to the nine and a half tribes who will settle west of the Jordan, we see once again a careful mention of the lands already allotted to the Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh east of the Jordan. On the map on page 83, highlight in yellow the borders of the land given to each of these three groups by Moses.
  
9. What does **13:13** tell us about how thoroughly the Israelites had cleared their inheritance of enemies?
  
10. Look at the verses below and describe the kind of inheritance given to the tribe of Levi in lieu of a land allotment:

**13:14**

**13:33**

**14:4b**

Look up the following verses to expand your understanding of this arrangement:

**Numbers 18:8-20**

**Numbers 35:1-8**

# Joshua

Week 8

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11. In **13:22** the author takes care to mention by name someone who was numbered among the slain. Who was it? \_\_\_\_\_

His story is found in **Numbers 22:5-24:25**. We will discuss him further in the teaching time, but for now, look up the definition of his occupation in a dictionary and write a definition for it below:

**divination:**

12. **Apply: Who do you think received the better inheritance – the landed tribes or the Levites? Explain your answer.**

**Is our inheritance in Christ more similar to the tribes who received land or the Levites? As you answer, note any verses that might support your conclusion.**

Now look at **Joshua 14-15** .

13. Unlike the land granted by Moses east of the Jordan, by what process was the land allotted by Joshua west of the Jordan? (**14:2**)

Look up the following verses and note how they expand your understanding of this practice.

**Numbers 33:50-54**

**Proverbs 16:33**

# Joshua

Week 8

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14. How would this method of allotment have helped to avoid disputes over the fairness of the allocations?
15. **Apply: If it were up to us, many of us would choose different circumstances than have been allotted to us. Look up Proverbs 14:12 and 19:21. How do these two verses speak to the nature of your circumstances and the state of your heart?**
16. Who is the first tribe to be allotted land west of the Jordan? **(15:1)** \_\_\_\_\_ On the map on page 83, highlight the boundaries of the allotment for this tribe in pink.
17. Why do you think so much of this week's reading is devoted to describing the boundaries of this particular tribe? Look up **Matthew 1:1-3** to help with your answer.
18. Joshua's old friend Caleb, a son of the tribe of Judah, receives a special allotment of land within Judah's boundaries. Read **Numbers 13:30-33** and note specifically who the giants were that led the other spies to give a bad report forty years earlier:  
the sons of \_\_\_\_\_  
Now read **Joshua 15:13-14** and note what geographic area Caleb is given. How is this allotment appropriate?
19. Who else in Caleb's family is not afraid to speak their mind? **(15:16-19)**  
What does her boldness gain for her?  
In an arid land, how valuable a gift do you think this was?

# Joshua

Week 8

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20. **Apply:** Caleb is commended for “wholly following the LORD God” even when others around him gave in to fear. In what area of your life are you tempted to give in to fear instead of wholly following after the LORD God? What wisdom should you draw from Caleb’s example?

Now look at **Joshua 16-17**.

21. Who is the second tribe to be allotted land west of the Jordan? (**16:5**) \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the third tribe? (**17:1**) \_\_\_\_\_

On the map on page 83, highlight the boundaries of the allotments for these tribes in pink.

22. How successful were the people of Ephraim in driving out their enemies? (**16:10**)

What was their solution for those they were not able to conquer?

23. How successful were the people of Manasseh in driving out their enemies? (**17:12-13**)

What was their solution for those they were not able to conquer?

24. How are these groups of Canaanites different than the Gibeonites dwelling among Israel? Look up **Numbers 33:55** to help with your answer.

# Joshua

Week 8

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25. What interesting note occurs in **17:3-6**? Look back at **Numbers 27:1-11** for the background on this story.

26. How does the story of Zelophehad's daughters (along with Achsah's story) challenge the thinking of many about how the Bible views women?

27. The people of Joseph (i.e. the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh) question their allotted inheritance. In the space below, rewrite their dialogue with Joshua in **17:14-18** in your own words. Try to capture what you believe to be the tone of the dialogue in your paraphrase.

People of Joseph:

Joshua:

People:

Joshua:

28. In your opinion, was their request reasonable or presumptuous? Explain your answer.

29. **Apply: Israel inherits and inhabits the land of Canaan, yet a remnant of her enemies still dwell in her midst and around her borders. How is this a picture of our situation as believers today?**

# Joshua

Week 8

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## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?



# Notes

Week 8

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# Joshua

Week 9

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Now shift your focus to **Joshua 18:1-10**.

5. Locate Shiloh on your map on page 81. Why do you think this spot might have been chosen as the location for the tabernacle?
  
6. What steps does Joshua take to “get the ball rolling” with the seven tribes yet to possess their territories? (**18:3-7**)
  
7. Once the land has been divided equitably according to the surveying team’s judgment, how are the portions assigned? (**18:8-10**)
  
8. How does Joshua’s two-layered approach to dividing and assigning the land guard against controversy?
  
9. **Apply: The decision of which tribes got which territories was reached by employing both human and divine means. When you face a decision, which of these means are you more likely to turn to? Why?**

**Give an example of a major decision in which you employed both your own judgment and the counsel of God. What was the outcome?**

# Joshua

Week 9

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Now look at **Joshua 18:11-19:51**.

10. Who is the first of the remaining tribes tribe to be allotted land west of the Jordan?

\_\_\_\_\_

On the map on page 83, highlight the boundaries of the allotment for this tribe in pink.

What significant city do you see listed within Benjamin's allotment? (**18:28**)

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Highlight each of the six remaining tribal boundary lines in the order in which they are assigned in **chapter 19**.

12. How is Simeon's allotment different than the others? (**19:9**)

Look up Jacob's final prophecy spoken over his son Simeon (**Genesis 49:5-7**) to see why this allotment makes sense. Who else's portion does the prophecy shed light on?

13. Joshua is a member of the tribe of Ephraim, whose inheritance was outlined in chapter 16. Why do you think Joshua's personal inheritance is mentioned last of all the allotments, three chapters later?

14. Why do you think so much care is given to clearly define and record the boundaries between each of the tribes?

# Joshua

Week 9

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15. **Apply:** Look up Psalm 16:5-6. Spend a few minutes meditating on them. How have you found these words to be true in your own life?

Now look at **Joshua 20**.

16. In order to understand what is being allotted in chapters 20 and 21, we need to go back to Numbers 35 to see what was “spoken through Moses” (**20:1**) Read through **Numbers 35** and then define the following terms as best as you understand them from the context:

**manslayer:**

**avenger of blood:**

17. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? Were they meant to harbor criminals? Explain your answer.

18. What greater truth do the cities of refuge point to? Look up the following verses to help with your answer:

**Psalm 18:30-32**

**Psalm 28:8**

**Psalm 91:1-4**

**Proverbs 18:10**

# Joshua

Week 9

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19. **Apply:** With regard to sin, how are you like and the manslayer fleeing to the city of refuge? How are you unlike him?

**How has the Lord been a refuge for you with regard to your sin?**

Now look at **Joshua 21**.

20. Look at **Numbers 3:14-17**, noting the names of Levi's three sons below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Then trace those names through **Joshua 21**. How is the chapter organized? Write the name of each son next to the reference that describes his family's allotment:

**21:20-26** \_\_\_\_\_

**21:27-33** \_\_\_\_\_

**21:34-40** \_\_\_\_\_

21. Why do you think the Levites were distributed throughout the land in various cities, rather than just where the tabernacle was located? Look at **Deuteronomy 33:8-10** (especially verse 10) to help with your answer.

22. Look up the following verses and note how they connect the office and wide distribution of the Levitical priesthood to a New Testament understanding:

**1 Peter 2:9**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

# Joshua

Week 9

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23. Why does **21:43** begin with the word “Thus”? What is the final section of chapter 21 (**21:43-45**) supposed to communicate about all that has been described in the preceding chapters?

24. What three things did the Lord give Israel?

**21:43**

**21:44a**

**21:44b**

25. Note the parallel structure of 21:44b-45:

**21:44b:** *Not one* \_\_\_\_\_ withstood; *All* \_\_\_\_\_ were given in to Israel’s hands by the Lord.

**21:45:** *Not one* \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord failed; *All* \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord came to pass.

26. **Apply:** Read through 21:43-45 one last time, savoring its words. Paraphrase 21:45 in the space below in one sentence that sums up its message:

**God makes many trustworthy promises to the believer in His Word. Look up Romans 8:28 and write it in the space below:**

**How is this promise, in particular, one you need the Lord to bring to pass? How certain are you that He will?**

# Joshua

Week 9

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## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week's passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God's character has this week's passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?



# Notes

Week 9

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# Joshua

Week 10

With the land subdued before them and the boundary lines laid, Israel is at last ready to settle into her inheritance. The two and a half tribes from east of the Jordan have fulfilled their duty to their brothers. It is time to divide the spoils and return home. Having worked together to wage war, the nation will now begin learning to work together to maintain peace and unity. And an aging Joshua will begin measuring out his final careful words.

Read **Chapters 22-23**.

1. Summarize **Chapter 22** in 3-4 sentences.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Summarize **Chapter 23** in 2-3 sentences.

Now shift your focus to **Joshua 22:1-19**.

3. Notice the chiasmus in **22:1-6**. Fill in the blanks below:

(22:1) Joshua \_\_\_\_\_ the 2 ½ tribes

(22:2-3) Joshua *commends* the 2 ½ tribes for their *past obedience*

(22:4) "God has given \_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_, as he \_\_\_\_\_ them."

(22:5) Joshua *exhorts* the 2 ½ tribes to *continuing obedience*

(22:6) Joshua \_\_\_\_\_ away the 2 ½ tribes

4. On whose words and actions does the center of the chiasmus focus?



# Joshua

Week 10

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10. How many people gathered at Shiloh? Check the correct answer below:

- \_\_\_\_\_ the entire assembly
- \_\_\_\_\_ a small army
- \_\_\_\_\_ a Levite and ten chiefs

How many people went to confront the eastern tribes? Check the correct answer below:

- \_\_\_\_\_ the entire assembly
- \_\_\_\_\_ a small army
- \_\_\_\_\_ a Levite and ten chiefs

11. What line of reasoning did the western delegation take to dissuade the eastern tribes from their actions? What solution did they pose?

12. What explanation did the eastern tribes give for why they had built the altar? **(22:21-29)**

13. What repeated purpose did they give for the altar? **(22:27-28)**

*“to be a \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_”*

14. How did the western delegation respond to the explanation they were given? **(22:30-32)**

15. Do you think the western tribes overreacted to the building of the altar? Why or why not?

# Joshua

Week 10

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16. How important was unity to each party in this disagreement? How can you tell?

17. **Apply:** What principles regarding conflict resolution should we draw from this story? How is it an example to the modern-day church in how to deal with quarrels or misunderstandings?

Now look at **Joshua 23:1-13**.

18. Notice the parallel structure of Joshua's speech by filling in the chart below with the main idea of each verse noted:

23:3	23:10
23:6	23:11
23:7-8	23:12
23:9a	23:13a
23:9b	23:13b

What is the difference in what is being communicated in column 1 versus column 2?

# Joshua

Week 10

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19. Notice the repetition of the phrase “cling to” in **22:8, 12** (and also in **22:5**). Note below what the people were to cling to and avoid clinging to.

20. This same phrase occurs elsewhere in scripture. Look up **Genesis 2:24** in the ESV and the KJV to see if you can identify it there. How does the way this verse uses the phrase add to your understanding of the dangers and importance of what we “cling” to in Joshua 22-23?

21. **Apply:** Much like the remnant of Israel’s enemies, remnants of our past sin patterns may remain in our lives, appearing to pose no threat. What lingering sin patterns still tempt you to cling to them? (Consider: pride, jealousy, laziness, apathy, spending habits, hobbies, entertainment choices, speech patterns, peer pressure, etc)

**Why are these “old enemies” so potentially dangerous? How is clinging to the Lord our best defense against them?**

Now look at **Joshua 23:14-16**.

22. How is the structure of this part of the text similar to the one before it? (hint: compare it to your answer to question 18)

# Joshua

Week 10

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23. Notice the repeated emphasis of the “all” and “none” language we saw last week in **21:44-45**. In the copy of the passage below, mark every occurrence of “all” with a yellow highlighter. Mark every occurrence of “not one” with a red underline.

<sup>14</sup>“And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. <sup>15</sup>But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you, <sup>16</sup>if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”

- 24. Apply: Why do we need both promises regarding obedience and warnings regarding disobedience? Which should be the primary motivation for the believer? Why?**

## Wrap-up

Did you see evidence of the theme of obedience in this week’s passage? If so, where?

What aspect of God’s character has this week’s passage of Joshua shown you more clearly?

Fill in the following statement:

*Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

What one step can you take this week to better live in light of this truth?

# Notes

Week 10

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# Joshua

Week 11

With ten weeks of study behind us, we now turn our eyes to the closing scenes of the book of Joshua. Having charged Israel's leaders with a call to obedience, Joshua now gathers the entire nation for a final exhortation. No doubt you can guess what his theme will be. As you read and study our final chapter this week, reflect on how it reiterates everything that has come before. Hear Joshua's call to obedience as a call to you personally.

## Read **Chapter 24**.

1. Summarize **Chapter 24:1-28** in 1-2 sentences.
2. Summarize **Chapter 24:29-33** in 1 sentence.

## Now shift your focus to **Joshua 24:1-13**.

3. Does Joshua assemble the people to present themselves before *him*? Fill in the blanks below:

*24:1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves \_\_\_\_\_*  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. What structure of authority is being reinforced in verse 1?
5. Who is the subject of the "Thus says the Lord" narrative that Joshua relates in **24:2-13**?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Count how many statements you find that declare what "he did". \_\_\_\_\_

# Joshua

Week 11

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6. Note the repeated idea in **24:13**:

24:13 I gave you a land on which \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and cities that \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that \_\_\_\_\_.

Why does God make this point? How does it summarize the previous section (**24:2-13**) and set up the verses that follows (**24:14-28**)?

Now look at **Joshua 24:14-28**.

7. Paraphrase the dialogue that occurs in this section between Joshua and the people.

Joshua (24:14-15):

People (24:16-18):

Joshua (24:19-20):

People (24:21):

Joshua (24:22a):

People (24:22b):

Joshua (24:23):

People (24:24):

8. Why does Joshua persist in this back-and-forth? What is his objective?

# Joshua

Week 11

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9. Note each action Joshua takes in response to the people's commitment to obey God (24:25-28):

Joshua made \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua wrote \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua took \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua said \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua sent \_\_\_\_\_

10. What other similar scenes to this one have we seen in the book of Joshua?

11. **Apply:** The words of Joshua 24:15 (especially the last sentence) are some of the most familiar in the Old Testament. How does reading them in context change or expand your understanding of them?

Now look at **Joshua 24:29-33**.

12. What three people are laid to rest in this final section? Write their names below. We will discuss their significance further during the teaching time, but for now, next to each name you wrote give your best guess as to why he is mentioned here.

1.

2.

3.

# Joshua

Week 11

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13. What “benediction” is given on the life of Joshua in **24:31**? What does it indicate about the strength of his influence as a leader?

**14. Apply: Give some thought to your influence over those around you. Who has the Lord granted you godly influence over? What do they most need you to model, remind them of, and exhort them to?**

**Wrap Up:** Reflect back over the past eleven weeks you’ve spent in **Joshua**.

15. What aspect of God’s character has emerged most clearly as you have studied Joshua?

How do you understand this character trait more fully because of studying Joshua?

16. How has the Holy Spirit used Joshua to convict you of sin? What thoughts, words, or actions has He shown you that need to be redeemed? What do you need to stop doing?

# Joshua

Week 11

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17. How has the Holy Spirit used Joshua to train you in righteousness? What disciplines has He given you a desire to pursue? What do you need to start doing?
18. How has the Holy Spirit used Joshua to encourage you? What cause to celebrate has the book imprinted on your heart?
19. What verse or passage from Joshua stands out most in your mind after eleven weeks of study? Why?

*Close in prayer. Thank God for giving us the example of Joshua, a faithful picture of the Messiah he shadowed. Thank God for deliverance through Christ from the enemies of sin and death. Ask God to grant you the grace to walk in obedience to His commands. Bless Him for the gift of Christ and ask Him to help you treasure your rich inheritance as a child of God.*

# Notes

Week 11

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# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists

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Appendix

# **Maps and Lists**



# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists

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# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists



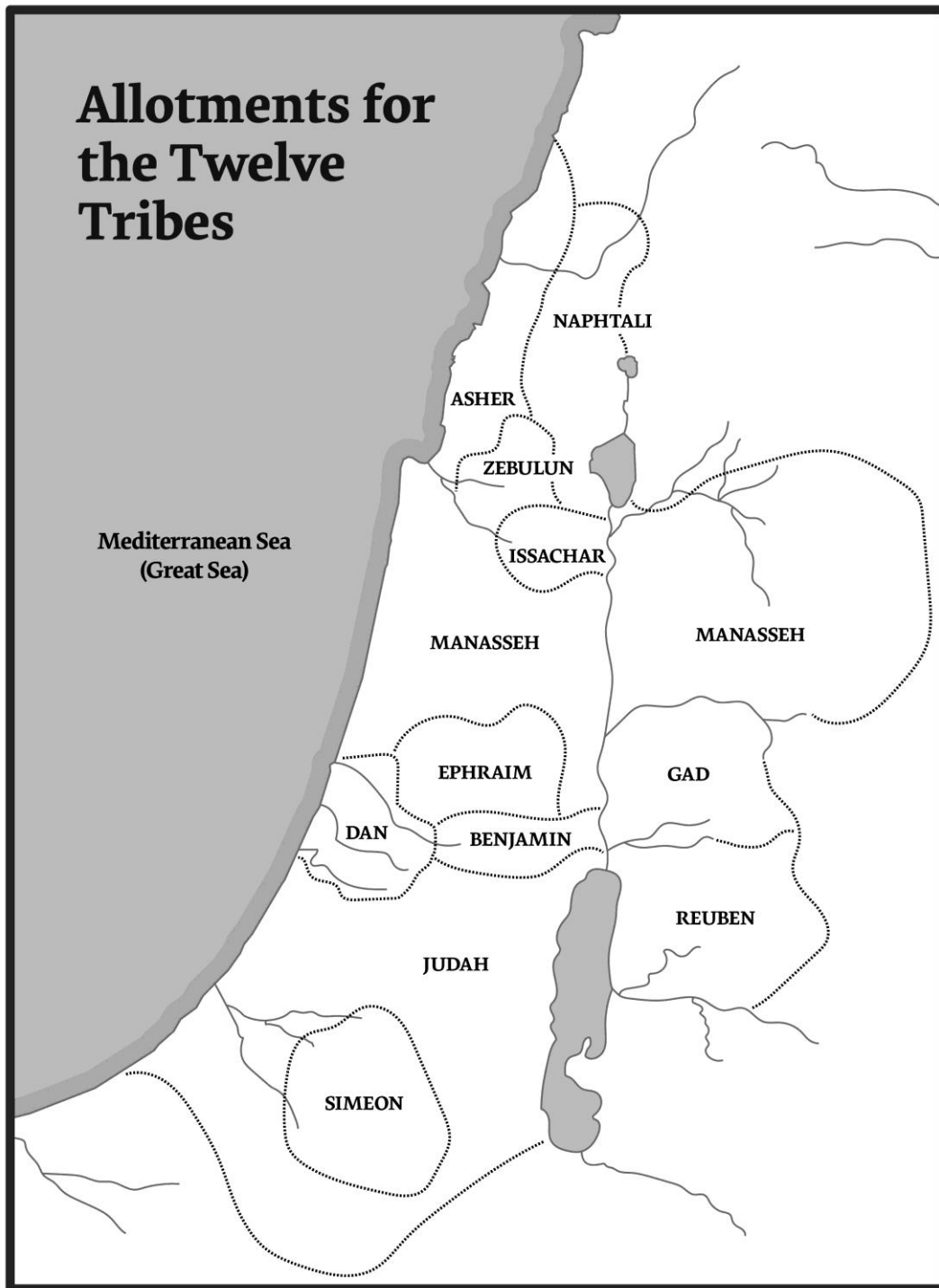
# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists

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# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists



# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists

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# Joshua

Appendix – Maps and Lists

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## The Twelve Sons of Jacob (Israel)

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. Levi
4. Judah
5. Dan
6. Naphtali
7. Gad
8. Asher
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Joseph
  
12. Benjamin

## The Twelve Landed Tribes of Israel

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
- Levi
3. Judah
4. Dan
5. Naphtali
6. Gad
7. Asher
8. Issachar
9. Zebulun
10. Ephraim (Joseph)
11. Manasseh (Joseph)
12. Benjamin

# Joshua

## Appendix – Maps and Lists

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### The Attributes of God

**Attentive:** God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

**Compassionate:** God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

**Creator:** God made everything. He is uncreated.

**Deliverer:** God rescues and saves His children.

**Eternal:** God is not limited by and exists outside of time.

**Faithful:** God always keeps His promises.

**Generous:** God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**Glorious:** God displays His greatness and worth.

**Good:** God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**Holy:** God is perfect, pure and without sin.

**Incomprehensible:** God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**Infinite:** God has no limits in His person or on His power.

**Immutable/ Unchanging:** God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

**Jealous:** God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

**Just:** God is fair in all His actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**Loving:** God feels and displays infinite unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response or merit.

**Merciful:** God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

**Omnipotent/ Almighty:** God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

**Omnipresent:** God is fully present everywhere.

**Omniscient:** God knows everything,, past, present and future, all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**Patient/Long-suffering:** God is untiring and bears with His children.

**Provider:** God meets the needs of His children.

**Refuge:** God is place of safety and protection for His children.

**Righteous:** God is always good and right.

**Self-existent** God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

**Self-sufficient:** God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**Sovereign:** God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

**Transcendent:** God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**Truthful:** Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**Wrathful:** God hates all unrighteousness.

**Wise:** God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**Worthy:** God deserves all glory and honor and praise.