

Friday, June 1, 2018

## Shiloh

Joshua 18-19

*"The whole assembly of Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the Tent of Meeting there. The country was brought under their control."* Joshua 18:1

Shiloh is the place where the Israelites would come to worship for hundreds of years. The tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting are set up in a permanent way. God has chosen His dwelling place (Deuteronomy 12:5) until He comes to dwell in Jerusalem. They will no longer need to set up and tear down the tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting! Shiloh will be the place of sacrifices and the place for the ark will be kept here until it is taken by the Philistines. The Israelites will remove it and take it into battle. It will not be returned to Shiloh again after that. It is in Shiloh that the Lord will be sought and the final land will be distributed. The land is now under the control of the Israelites. They have not yet taken full possession, but it is under their control. They will never take complete possession, but will instead settle in the lands without full conquest and this will come back on them in a negative way. In this I am reminded that God has come to a dwelling place in my life. He has indwelt me with His Holy Spirit and He has commanded me to rid my life of all that is not pleasing to Him. He has told me He is there to help me in that process. I am able to take complete possession of my life away from evil. I must complete the conquest with God's help.

*Dear LORD, Thank You for Your permanent and beautiful indwelling presence. I am in awe of You, so help me defeat all the things in my life that are displeasing to You. Amen.*

Saturday, June 2, 2018

## Not one

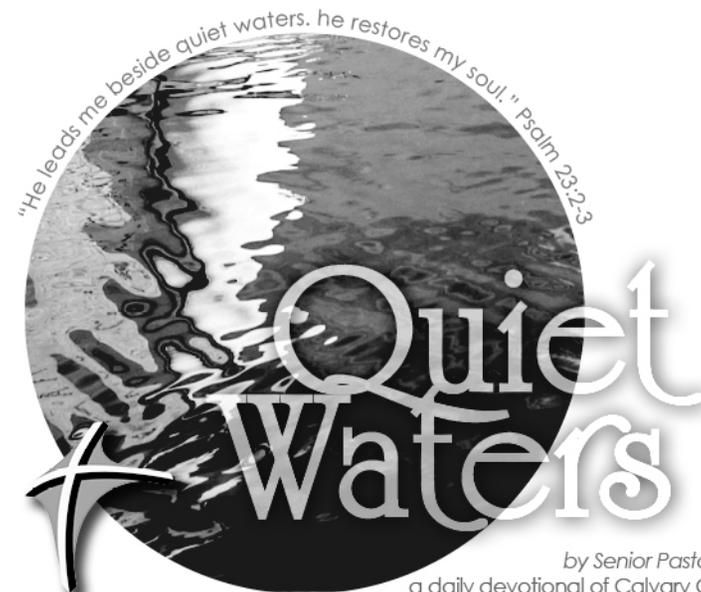
Joshua 20-21

*"So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of all the LORD'S good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."* Joshua 21:43-45

Not one of the promises of the Lord failed. Not one. It was not because the Israelites were so good and did everything exactly the way God said, right when He said it. It was not because the Israelites deserved it or earned it on their own merit. It was not because they worked so hard that God was obligated to them. It was because God is faithful. The promises He made to Israel were not conditional. Sometimes the promises of God are, but not in this case. He determined to bring His people into the land He had given to them and He gave them rest and peace. It is His to give as He deems best. He placed them there so that they would bring glory to Him for all time, as His people. Even today, the land is still theirs because God kept His promise. Many have tried to take the land but have been unable, because it is God's land to give away to whoever He wishes. Israel is there because not one of the good promises of God fails. Not one. That goes for me too. I need to know the promises of God for my life so that I can celebrate all the times He has fulfilled His promises.

*Dear Lord, You are so faithful and true. You keep every one of your promises. Help me hold on to that truth when I have doubts. Remind me of Your loving kindness. Amen.*

May 28 - June 2, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, May 28, 2018

**Because**

Joshua 10-11

*All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.*

Joshua 10:42

God has fought for Israel. He has gone ahead of them and has secured victory over these different nations and kings in one campaign. Joshua has been victorious because the LORD fought for him. Each step of the way, Joshua does exactly as the LORD has commanded—the author of this book is careful to record that fact. Joshua has been, and will remain, victorious as he continues to battle the enemies of the LORD in the strength and will of the LORD. He is intentional in his mission. He is setting out to accomplish all that God commanded through Moses (11:15). As much as possible, I believe that Joshua was focused on obedience and the cleansing of the land for the LORD and for His people. He knew he would be victorious because of the promise of the LORD. I can be sure of this as well. I must learn what it means to decisively and completely obey the Lord when He commands me to put off every sin in my life. I must go to battle confidently against the sins that have such a hold on my life. I can conquer these things because the LORD will fight for me, just as He fought for Israel. I can be confident that the sins within me that war against my soul can be defeated by God.

*Dear God, help me to step out in obedience and confidence that I can fight victoriously against the very things that wage war inside me. Help me realize that I must completely rid myself of these things—that only happens with Your help! Amen.*

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

**Be sure**

Joshua 12-13

*When Joshua was old and well advanced in years, the LORD said to him, “You are very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over... I myself will drive them out before the Israelites. Be sure to allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you...”*

Joshua 13:1 & 6b

Joshua has reached the end of his fighting for the LORD. It is not that the conquest is complete, it is that Joshua’s involvement is over. He has brought them to a time of rest from war (11:23). Now it is time for him to complete the task assigned to him—dividing the land among the tribes in the exact way that God had instructed. God tells Joshua that He himself will drive the peoples out before the Israelites. As usual, Joshua obeys and begins the process of dividing the land. The account begins with a reminder of the land already allotted to the tribes that settled on the east side of the Jordan. These lands were assigned through Moses. God is fulfilling the promise of land. I try to imagine what could be going through the mind of the weary warrior. Was there discouragement that his age stopped the process or was there great celebration that at long last, the promise on the lips of the people as they left Egypt was being fulfilled? How full was his heart, as he prepared to utter the words that so many people had longed to hear? Did he revel in remembering once more that God is faithful?

*Dear LORD, You are true to Your promises. You are faithful. Remind me often of all that You have done through me and for me. Remind me, as I age and as my body grows more weary, that You still have assignments for me to fulfill for You! I’m Yours! Amen.*

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

**Wholeheartedly**

Joshua 14-15

*So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’*

Joshua 14:9

Caleb has been waiting a long time—45 years! It was that long since the time his feet first touched the land that he was being given now. He was ready to take the land. He knew there were still battles to be fought but, at 85 years old, he was ready to fight for the land he was promised (Deuteronomy 1:36). I am sure that Joshua loved giving him the land. Remember that Joshua and Caleb were the two spies who were certain the people of the land could be defeated (Numbers 14:6). How many conversations had they had since that day, looking forward to when the land would be theirs? Caleb had trusted and followed the LORD with his whole heart. He believed God even when others feared. When others saw the obstacle, he saw the Lord. The implication is that Caleb continued to follow God wholeheartedly his whole life, trusting that God would keep His word. I long to serve the Lord and follow Him with all my heart—every moment of the day and night. He has promised so many great things to me. He has promised me an inheritance, held for me in heaven. What a Savior! What a God! How can I give my heart to anything but Him?

*Dear Father, I love You with all my heart. I know that many times my actions don’t reveal the depth of my love for You. Take my heart and make it Your very own! Amen.*

Thursday, May 31, 2018

**Worship**

Joshua 16-17

*The people of Joseph replied, “The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have iron chariots, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel.”*

Joshua 17:16

As the land is divided, one tribe feels slighted. They are not happy with the provision of God. Joseph is only giving that which the LORD has decreed. The people of Joseph tell Joshua that the provision of God is not enough. This is not worship. Worship recognizes that God is sovereign and majestic. He allows or decrees all that is and all that will be. He is in complete control. Worship is coming to declare this truth. It is not coming to accuse God of not giving enough. The others have come humbly reminding Joshua of the promises made to them. These people just want more. They want more than enough. Who knows better what I need—me or God? I need to come to a place in my life where I am not looking for more than what God has determined is enough for me! There are so many ways that I do this, and it always keeps me from worshipping God in gratitude for the abundance that He has bestowed on me.

*O Lord, keep me from prideful discontent with Your amazing provision. Forgive me for the times that I have not worshiped You because I have allowed myself to be dissatisfied. I worship You and Your gracious generosity to me. I long to give back to You. Amen.*