

Joshua

Jesus, the Better and Greater Joshua

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I'll never forget when my son, Crider, got to watch Star Wars, episode six. It had been a year coming because we had started him on episode one. It was a big day; a big father/son moment. We had started with episode one, went to two, skipped three, went to four, went to five and this night was the night to show him Star Wars, episode six. We made a big bowl of popcorn; he's in his chair and I'm in my chair. He is watching as the whole movie is unfolding, and then he gets to that final scene where Luke and Darth Vader are fighting. All of a sudden, the emperor joins in, and through the force, begins to shock Luke. It looks as though Luke is not going to make it; he is not going to survive, therefore, the whole galaxy is not going to have peace, but turmoil. At this point in the movie, the camera would cut to Darth Vader and it would show Darth Vader who was looking at the emperor, and then look at his son, Luke; back and forth, looking at the emperor, looking at his son. As I watched Crider, I caught him looking at the TV and then he would look at me, back and forth, look at the TV and then look at me. He said, "Dad, what is going to happen? Is Darth Vader going to be bad? Is he going to be good? What is going to happen?" And all of a sudden, you have that moment where Darth Vader grabs the emperor, holds him up, and then throws him down the chute. I'll

never forget the look on Crider's face as he looks over at me. With excitement he says, "Dad, Darth Vader's good!!!" Then he runs into the play room, grabs his three foot Star War's action figure, brings it into the living room, and sits down with it in his chair. For Crider, that scene was epic. For Crider, it answered so many questions that had been put forth through all of these episodes, mainly the question of whether peace be restored to the galaxy. Would that promise in episode one finally come true? Would there be a resolve to everything that has been happening in these episodes? What episode six said was, yes, the prophecy comes true; the promise is fulfilled. There is rest in the galaxy, and all that tension that had been told through all of these movies were finally resolved in episode six. That is why we love final movies, because they resolve all the tension. That is why we love final books. You love reading through all the books, but you love that final installment, because that final installment takes all the story lines, ties them together, and it completes them.

The God Who Promises is Faithful

That is what we are going to see in Joshua. Although it starts a new section of Scripture, the historical books, what I would argue, it also bookends the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. It really gives and ending to what started in Genesis. It is really the final episode of the Pentateuch; it's the final book. It is where we get resolve for the tension that has been playing out through the Pentateuch. Because what God started in Genesis was to call Abraham, and the first thing He said to him was, I am going to take you from this land and I'm going to give you your own land. Then He said, I'm going to make you into a great nation, and through you, all the nations are going to be blessed, and I'm going to bless you. Throughout the Pentateuch, we see God growing Abraham into a mighty nation called Israel. He fulfills that promise and enters into a covenant with them on Mount Sinai after bringing them out of Egypt. He blesses them so they are a great nation. But at the end of Deuteronomy, this blessed nation is wandering around in a desert called Moab and they have no land. Now, every person in Israel was thinking, is God going to keep His promise? The very first promise He made us was that He was

going to give us our land. Is that promise ever going to be fulfilled? Is that tension going to be resolved? Is the God who promises, faithful to keep those promises? Is God faithful? In Joshua, we will see that tension resolved. We will see the people of Israel get their own land and what the God who promises is the God who keeps His promises. 'God is faithful' is one of the big pictures in Joshua. And the God who brings His people out of Egypt brings them into the land of Canaan, His presence, and His rest. He is the same God who brings us out of sin, brings us into rest in Christ Jesus, where we are in His very presence.

Joshua chapter 1 says:

"After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

There are two big sections in the book of Joshua.

1. **The conquest:** Chapters 1-12 is all about them going in and taking the land.
2. **The division:** Chapters 13-24 is about how God divides up the land and gives it to His people.

From Jordan to Canaan

Section One

- **Their Commission**

But I want us to go back through and divide up the chapters a little bit deeper. Chapters 1 and 2 is their commission. They are commissioned, and I want us to see that just as they were commissioned, we are as well. As the church today, we are commissioned. So what exactly was their commission? God told them, "*Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.*" God is telling Joshua, it is time for Me to keep My promise. It is time for me to give the sons of Abraham the land that I promised him, so you will go into Canaan and conquer the land that I am going to give you. Their commission was to go into the land. When you read through the book of Joshua, you see that it is full of battles, it is full of wars, because their commission was to go in and not just to occupy Canaan, but to wipe out the Canaanites, to execute complete judgment. They were to devote every breathing person to destruction. They were to wipe out every nation living in Canaan, so that they could take the land. That was their commission; go in, execute temporal judgment on the people in Canaan, wipe them out, and then take over the land.

Now Joshua is troubling at points. It is troubling because God is sending Israel with a sword to kill and to wipe out and to destroy kings and kingdoms, thirty-one in total. So, we have to ask first, does God really have the right to do this? Can God really send Israel into Canaan to wipe them out?

The first thing we have to realize is that God is God, and He owns the whole world. He owns every square inch of every piece of property. So when God sent them into Canaan and all the Canaanites that dwell there, we need to understand that it was not the Canaanites land; it was God's land. So God can take away land and God can give land however He chooses because He is God. We might struggle with that, but that is His right. He is the Creator, He can do as He pleases with the earth.

Secondly, does God have the right to send them to execute judgment on the people? I have to say absolutely yes, because God is the judge of the whole world, and the judge of all the earth must do what is right. What is right is for a righteous and holy judge to judge and condemn sin, because God is holy and He is good. He created us holy and good, but we fell. We sin, and God told us the wages of sin is death. If you sin, you deserve to die. Every person on the planet who has sin righteously deserves death from God. So as God sends Israel to go into this land and execute judgment, He has every right to do so because that is the wages of sin, it is death.

Now what about the Canaanites? Who were these people? What were they doing? Why would they provoke the wrath and judgment of God? Leviticus 18 tells us what the Canaanites were doing, and God told the Israelites not to be like the Canaanites. He said to look at what the Canaanites are doing and be sure you don't do these things. Primarily, we see that the Canaanites were sexually immoral. They were a very sexually promiscuous culture. They wanted whatever they wanted, and they wanted no rules regarding their sexuality.

We see three primary sexual sins with the Canaanites: incest, homosexuality, and bestiality. They had fathers sleeping with daughters and sons sleeping with mothers. They had men sleeping with men and women sleeping with women. And then there were men and women committing sexual acts with animals. They were completely bankrupt in their sexuality. What God had given to His people as a good gift to be celebrated in the covenant of marriage between a woman and a man, they were completely taking as a commodity to be used with their own pleasure. Throughout history, we see this as evidence that a culture has

left the one true God and is worshipping things and idols. We see in Romans 1 that they didn't worship the one true God, they worshipped things. So God gave them over to the lust of their flesh and they did whatever they wanted with their bodies, and that is exactly how the Canaanites were, and I believe that is how we are in our culture today.

The last thing they were doing was killing their own babies. They would kill their babies to worship their god, Molech. The Canaanites were sexually immoral and they were killing their babies. That was who the Canaanites were. So God said, My mercy has ran out for this people who defy My name, who run from all of My commands, who are completely sinful. My mercy, and grace, and forbearance, has run out and I am going to do what is right. I'm going to send you execute judgment on those people.

If we have a problem with God sending Israel to execute temporal judgment on people who are completely rebelling against God, then we will also have a problem with that same God executing eternal judgment on sinners rebelling against His will. If we struggle with Joshua, we are going to struggle with Revelation. We're going to struggle with Jesus teaching on Hell because what we want to say no, God gives love to everyone and He is gracious! Yes, He is, but He is just, and He is holy, and He must punish sin. Therefore, the Israelites were commanded to go into Canaan and be the sword of His judgment, to execute judgment on the people for their sins and transgressions against Him.

How in the world were they going to do this? How were the people of Israel going to go into a land that was full of kings, full of kingdoms, full of cities, full of walls, full of armies, full of chariots? How were they going to do this? There was no way; it was an impossible commission! But God knew that. He told them three things in these opening passages. The first was to be strong and courageous. He told them three times: If you are going to follow Me in obedience and fulfill the commission I'm giving you, you are going to be strong and courageous. You can't be weak and cowardly to do this; you have got to be strong and courageous.

Now, why were they supposed to be strong and courageous? Because of the second thing God told them: I am with you always. He repeated that multiple times in the opening lines. I am with you, therefore your strength and your courage is not in how great you are, how strong you are, it is in the God who is with you. I am with you every step of the way, therefore, be strong and courageous, not in yourself; be strong and courageous in Me, because I am your God.

And then thirdly: Follow my word; love my word. Follow my word; meditate on it. Be a people who follows My good commandments. Don't turn to the right or the left, but follow it. Be strong and courageous. I am with you. Follow my word. That is how these people are going to fulfill the commission God gave to them.

What about our commission? See, we have been given a commission as well. There is so much of our commission that correlates, though it is different from the commission that God gave to the people of Israel. So what is our commission that King Jesus has given to us? Let us go therefore, into the nations, not to execute temporal judgment, but instead, warn them of the eternal judgment and share with them that judgment had fallen upon a hill outside Jerusalem. And God soaked it up in His Son Jesus, so that whoever flees to Him, whoever looks to Him, whoever believes in Him, would find love and mercy and grace rather than judgment, because God has judged His Son Jesus for them. See, we are not to go into the nations and wipe them out. We are to go into nations and make them disciples. We are to go into the nations and redeem them. We are to go into the nations and gather them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, you deserve judgment, but judgment has fallen on Christ for you. That is our message, that if you would turn and believe in Him, you will have ever lasting life with Him forever. You see we have a commission to go into the same nation to warn of judgment and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that all people in all nations could come to know Him and worship the Lamb forever.

So how in the world are we going to do our commission? I believe it is equally as hard. In our current culture in America, it is extremely difficult to go into our culture and say there is a standard, there is truth, there is sin,

and there is God's judgment. It is really hard to talk about those things in our very tolerant postmodern culture. We live in a land a lot like Canaan, and we are supposed to go into that land and preach the gospel? It is the same impossible task that Joshua and the Israelites had; maybe more impossible. So how in the world are we going to do it? We do it by being strong and courageous; not weak and not cowardly. How in the world are we going to be strong and courageous? The same thing God told the Israelites is what Jesus tells us, "And behold, I am with you always to the end of the earth." He sends us into the world to preach the gospel, and it is going to take strength and courage, not in ourselves, not in our power, but we are going to have to be strong and courageous because Jesus is with us just like He is with the people of Israel. Jesus is with us! He is always going to be with us; He has promised us that.

So, as we think about fulfilling our great commission, we are going to have to be strong and courageous, because Jesus is with us, and then we too are going to have to follow His Word. We're going to have to bank on His book and say, you know what, I believe every word of this book. I'm betting my life on it. I'm not going to turn to the right or the left, but I'm going to follow what Jesus says to me in His Word. We have to follow the great commission through following His good Word. They had a commission; we have a commission, and hope that we would be faithful in our day to fulfill our commission that God has given to us.

- **Their God**

The second thing we see in chapters 3-4 is that God shows them He is their God. I think God has also shown us that He is our God. We see it in two primary ways. First, by the crossing of the Jordan River. God actually stops the flow of the Jordan River and raises walls up so that the people of Israel could walk through the Jordan on dry ground. God is saying, I am your God, and I am mighty and I am strong. I am going to do mighty things, because I am with you. He is revealing to them that He is their God, just as Moses went across the Red Sea, Joshua and his people go across the Jordan. God is saying, I'm your God, trust Me; lean on Me. As they are going through the Jordan, God tells them to collect twelve big stones and carry them with you, because when you get to the

other side, I want you to set up those stones as a pillar. Why the stones? Why set up stones? God tells them because every time you see the stones, I want you to remember what I did in the Jordan River. Every time your kids ask about them, "Hey, Dad, why is there a pile of stones here?" Dad can say, "Let me tell you who our God is. He delivered us through the Jordan River." God showed up in a mighty way and revealed that He was their God and He gave them something to remember it by. He gave them stones.

I think God does to us the same thing. He has revealed to us that He is God and He is mighty by raising Jesus from the dead. There has been a resurrection that tells us God is our God. He is real; King Jesus is His Son! Very God from very God, He rose from the dead, so we know that our God is real, that He is our God, just like He was the God of the Israelites He drove through the Jordan River. There has been a resurrection where God has revealed this is who I am; I am your God. Here is proof, here is how much I love you; My Son died in your place, was buried, and He rose from the grave to show that I am your God.

Not only that, but I think He has given us a stone that we can hold on to. I think our stone is our own resurrection. See, if you believe in Christ, if you become a believer, not only did Jesus raise from the dead, you have been raised from the dead! You have experienced new life, a new heart, a new spirit, new desire, and new wants. You have crossed over from death to life. You have had a resurrection. You got this stone, you got this testimony, where you cannot only say that two thousand years ago God raised Jesus from the dead, but in your life, God raised you from the dead. I've got a stone so I can remember just how faithful God is! He is my God and He is mighty to save. See, if Israel was going to complete their commission, they had to know that God was their God. And if we are going to complete our commission, we have to know that God is our God, and He raised Jesus from the dead and then raised us from the dead. So, in believing God is God, it will help us to complete our great commission.

- **Their Response**

So what was their response? What was their response to God being their God? We see their response in chapter 5, and hopefully it is our response. Their response was obedience. In light of who God was, they were obedient. They did two things that they had not done in the wilderness. First, they circumcised their sons. This was a huge deal, because circumcision was a sign for the people of Israel of the covenant God had with them. In the wilderness, there had been no circumcision. So here, forty years later, after God showing them who He is, they now put the mark of the covenant on their body. They now obey what God had told them to do. Secondly, for the first time, they do what God had told them to do when they came out of Egypt; they took the Passover. To remember what God had done for them in rescuing them from Egypt, and passing over them because the blood of the lamb on their doorpost, they took the Passover. When they came out of the Passover, the manna ceased and now they took the produce of the land. They ate of the vineyards of the land. Their obedience brought blessing and they were a blessed people because they obeyed in light of who God was.

Our response should be the exact same thing. In light of who God is, that He raised Jesus from the dead and resurrected you from the dead, your response to that should be obedience. You want to follow King Jesus. You want to do what He has commanded you to do, not to somehow earn or to cause Him to be your God, but because He already is your God. He already does love you, therefore, you want to walk in His obedience because you know that His Word and His will is a blessing because it is connected to Him, and you get to enjoy Him and His presence. So their response to who God was, was obedience. Our response to who God is, should be one of obedience, because we love Him so much.

- **Their Commander**

We also see their commander in chapter 5, and I hope we are going to see our commander as well. I love this; Joshua experiences this guy, he comes upon him, and this guy has his sword out. He must have been a scary looking guy because Joshua is kind of freaked out, and Joshua asks this

guy: Are you for us or are you for our adversaries? Hey, guy with the sword, are you on my team or the other team? I got to know, because you look like you could take me. Notice what the commander of the army says: NO! Okay...I asked if you were on my team or their team and you said no; I don't get that response. It was like, that team or this team and you answered no? What does that mean, NO? He says: No, but I am the commander of the army of the Lord; now I have come. I am on neither one. I'm not on your side, I'm not on their side. You are on my side. This is my doing; this is my conquering. You are on my team; I'm not on your team. Here we have a theophany, a visible manifestation where God shows up to Joshua. We know that, because Joshua worshipped Him, which is forbidden for anyone except God. If there is ever a wrong use of worship it is always condemned in the Bible. It isn't condemned here. He says the same thing that was said at the burning bush; take off your shoes, you are on holy ground. We have the God of Israel, (I believe Jesus Christ Himself) standing before Joshua saying, I'm not on your team buddy, you are on mine. This isn't your victory, this is My victory. You are in My kingdom, I'm not in yours. That is exactly what King Jesus says to us. He comes into our life and doesn't say, hey, I'm going to join you so you can have a great life, and I'm going to bless you and it is going to be all about you. No, He says, I'm not here for you, you are here for me. I'm building a kingdom and this is My agenda, and it is My glory, and it is My renown. So what I need you to do is to come on My team, because I am the commander of your life, so you follow Me. Their commander is our commander, King Jesus. He is not here for us, we are here for Him and His glory and His renown.

- **Their Participation**

In chapters 6-12, we see the conquest of the land and we learn of their participation in God's victory. Notice how I worded that; their participation. They had a sword, they went in, they fought, and they did not get the victory. They were participants with God, who got the victory. A verse from chapter 23 speaks about these chapters, "*And you have seen all that the Lord, your God has done* (Not all that you did, but the Lord your God has done) *to all these nations for your sake; for it is the Lord, your God who*

fought for you." In the whole conquest of the land, God wanted Israel to know, this was His doing. That is why in Jericho, it seemed kind of weird that they are hauling around the Ark of the Covenant, marching around the city seven times, blowing trumpets and yelling, and then the walls come down. The whole point is not, man, good job; you yelled really loud, check it out! No...it is, we didn't do that; this is God who did that! Every single time they take over a people, God said, I have given you Ahab, or I have given you Jericho, or I have given you this, or that, people. At one point, God stops the sun, and at another, He brings down hail stones. It is God who is fighting for Israel. It is God who is getting the ultimate victory. Israel has the sword, Israel is marching, but they are not the ones that are conquering. They are not the ones getting the victory. It is the Lord God who is fighting for Israel. They were participants in God's sovereignty. They are participants in what God already had planned and was already going to do.

You know, the same is true with us. What we do is participate in God's victory. As we go and share the gospel, as we have success when His people come to Christ, we don't say, man, look what I did! That was a great presentation; that was a great life I'm living. Man, look at that illustration; it brought them to Christ. No, we share the Word, but we have no power to win the victory. It is God, and God alone, who brings men and women to Himself. So it is God who gets the victory. In your personal struggle with sin, in your fight with sin, you are fighting. But any sin that has been defeated in you, that is because the Lord got victory over that sin through the death, burial, and resurrection, of Jesus Christ. So as we battle with sin, it is not just me trying really hard. It's no, I'm going to battle this through the gospel. I'm going to battle this through the Spirit, because as I try to defeat this, it is only God who can truly defeat this. So I'm going to make sure that I battle my sin through the gospel and not through my own labor. It is not me who gets the victory. It is God who ultimately gets the victory. So we see Israel participating as we participate in the kingdom of God, but it is God who builds it. It is God who gets every victory, therefore He gets all of the glory.

Arrival in Canaan

Section Two

- **Their Inheritance**

This next section in chapters 13-21, we see their inheritance is divided up and given out. When you read these chapter, you yawned all the way through it. You just did. I did. I fell asleep a few times and had to wake myself up, thinking, oh, I'm still reading. Yeah, here is this land, and here is Judah, and they get the land west of the Jordan, and to the east of the Big Rock, and to the southwest of the creek.... I mean, for me, it is just geography points. I'm just reading about Gad and all these different nations, and all these different Israelites who are getting this property. I just yawned through the whole reading. But we will see how the land is divided. He is promising He is going to give them the land and they are going to take possession of it. We see them spreading out and taking possession of it, and they conquer it. But you have to read about all of it! There's no pictures, just reading! And I'm bored and I'm yawning. But what I realized in reading is that the reason I was bored and yawning was because it wasn't my land. All of these points of geography were just points of geography. I realized that when the people of Israel, when the clan of Gad, read their portion of the allotment, they read it with excitement. They took in every single geographical point and they knew where it was. They marked it out. They were excited about it because it was their inheritance!

My wife and I got a new house back in October and what I wanted was the plat. I wanted the plat that shows the property, exactly, that I have, because I have two acres now! I have two whole acres! I was so excited; I had trees, and a little bit of woods. And when we went on the property, I wanted them to mark the boundaries. I wanted to know exactly where it was, and it seemed like nobody else wanted to do that. Nobody even cared about it. But I wanted to know, so I had to do that. I had to go out and dig around the weeds and move all the brush. I had to find my property line, and for the next two or three weeks, I just wandering around my property

line. I would take my son and I would say, "You stand at this point, you stand by this pole." I would take my other son and say, "You stand by this point." I'd go to the third point and say, "Hey, guys look! This is our property line right there. This is our land, this is not our land. This is our land, this is not our land." When we'd go to another side of the little property, I'd say, "Here it is, here it is!" We would draw it out, we'd map it out, and we'd make a trail around it. See for me, it was so exciting because it was my land. If you looked at my plat, it would be so boring to you. You wouldn't care! But for me, I wanted to know every single centimeter because it was my land. That is what it was like for the people of Israel as they read through those divisions, it was exciting to them. They didn't yawn, because it was their land.

As Israel had an inheritance, we have an inheritance, as well. Look at what 1st Peter says, "...He (God) has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in Heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." Now some of you, when you read that, you yawned: 'Oh yeah, Heaven, Kingdom, what is to come; that's cool...What I love is now. Man, I love now! I wish now could last forever.' This is the yawning stuff for you: the Kingdom of God, Heaven, forever, Jesus, forever; yeah, hopefully that will come. Do you know why you might have yawned? It's because that might not be your inheritance. It might be like my yard plat. It is not your house, you don't care, but to me it is a big deal. And for those that have an inheritance in Christ for those to come, when we see that, we get excited. When we see that, something in us says, yes! I realize I am a sojourner in this land, but there is an inheritance that is coming to me, and it is imperishable. I'm going to live with King Jesus forever, and there is going to be a kingdom where all wrong is going to be made right! I'm going to be with King Jesus forever, that is what I long for, and we read a verse like that, we say, "Yes, come Lord Jesus, come!" Why? It is because that is our inheritance. It was the same with them when they read that, they loved it. When you read a verse like this, if it is our inheritance, we will love it.

- **Their Rest**

I love these verses in chapter 21:44-45. Here is what it says, "And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hand. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass." This ties into the last thing I want to show you in chapters 22-24. It is all about their rest. What this says is that God is faithful. The God who promised them rest, gave them rest. The God who rescued them from Egypt and had them wander around the wilderness, has now gotten them into Canaan, a place of rest, a place of His very presence. They now have rest to enjoy God; no more enemies, no more toiling. They can rest in the very present and place, under His good rule.

Here is what Hebrews says about Joshua, "For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his work as God did from His." The writer of Hebrews is talking about Psalm 95, where God tells His people there is another rest coming. Joshua gave the people of Israel rest, but it was temporary. It was pointing to a much greater rest, and I would argue that rest is found in Jesus Christ. In Christ, we rest in the gospel. We cease from laboring to earn God's love. We cease from trying to fix our broken lives. We come to Christ and we find rest in the very presence of God. Jesus says, "Come to Me all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

For those of you who are working really, really hard to be a good enough person, so God will love you...it's not going to happen. Come to Jesus, because only Jesus has made God happy with His life, and only in Jesus will God look at you and say, *I am well pleased with you*. It is in Jesus that we stop fixing ourselves; we stop trying to clean ourselves up. We stop trying to fix everyone around us, but instead, when we come to Jesus, He fixes us, He redeems us. He saves us and He brings us into Canaan. He brings us into the very presence of God, and it is a full and final resting. It is a place where we don't toil for God's love anymore. No, we have got it.

- **Their Service**

So what do you do when you have got it? What do you do when you are resting? Well here is what the people of Israel did. They heed what they were commanded to do in their place of rest. They have their final salvation from God. In this rest, this is what they were commanded to do, "Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

So what do you do now that you are in Christ? What do you do now that you are in the complete rest of God? You enjoy God. That is the whole point here, enjoy God, love Him, walk in His ways, cling to Him, worship Him, and serve Him. Enjoy God, because in Christ, He has brought you into a perfect and final resting relationship with the God of all creation.

Redemptive Marker

In closing, I want to give you one redemptive marker, and that would be Rahab. In chapter 2, they go into Jericho and they are supposed to wipe it out. But there is prostitute named Rahab, who according to Hebrews, has faith in Yahweh, and her faith caused her to hide the spies. So she is a Gentile, she is a sinner; she's a prostitute. She is not in the people of God. But by faith, she sides with the people of God, so she is saved rather than killed when they walk into Jericho. And this begins that whisper that God said at the very beginning...Abraham, I am going to give you land. I'm going to make you a great nation. I am going to bless you so that you will be a blessing to all peoples! Rahab is a little echo, a little whisper of that promise coming true. Because in Rahab, you have not just Israel, but all peoples getting blessed in Israel, by Israel.

We see this promise fulfilled in Christ. When Christ comes, all people from all nations, like Rahab, who have faith in Christ, become a people of God. You see, the Old Testament is not just about Israel, it is about nations. God has to build the nations so that He can send a Redeemer and

so the Redeemer can come and redeem the nations. Even here, we see a glimpse of the big redemption story of God.

Hopefully you have seen Jesus in Joshua, but if you haven't, I'll give you this statement: Jesus, the better and greater Joshua, conquers our greatest enemies, Satan, sin, and death, and gives us permanent rest in God's presence forever. That is Jesus in Joshua. He is the better, He is the greater Joshua. Joshua took the people into the land, conquered all their enemies, gave them rest, but it was finite, it was limited. They had a bigger enemy inside them. Their own sin is going to tear them apart. What Jesus does as the better Joshua, is to not only fight the enemies outside of us, He comes and fights the enemy within. He fights our own sin, our own death, and our great enemy Satan. He has slain them all on the cross. He was buried and He rose from the dead so that He could do away with all of our enemies so that we are in Christ. We have permanent rest! It is never going to go away, because unlike Joshua's fleeting rest, Christ brings eternal rest. He has done for us what we couldn't do, and that is defeat the greatest giants we have, Satan, sin and death.

If you are in Christ, you should be resting. You don't have to work to earn God's favor, you have it. He loves you, and in that rest, you are to be enjoying the glory of God, fulfilling the great commission, loving Him, and serving Him because you are in a place of rest. You are in His presence, and your task now is to enjoy His goodness forever. In enjoying His goodness, we are to march out into the nations telling them the good news of Jesus Christ, and to do this, we are going to have to be strong and courageous, knowing that Jesus is with us wherever we go.