

OT-OV

Lesson 71

1. Last week I continued teaching the Doctrine of Joshua.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will begin new material on page three.
3. Joshua was written by Joshua and some unknown writer after Israel entered the land. The anonymous writer having written during the judgeship of Othniel a judge of the tribe of Judah (1370-1330 B.C.). Othniel himself could have been the anonymous writer.
4. The Book of Joshua is a tale of Moses' death, Joshua as his replacement and the victories (and an occasional defeat) of the enemies in the land. The book was written, in the main, from somewhere in Canaan about 1427 B.C. It is a story of God demanding trust, Israel's need to learn war, their need to follow His rules and fight for their land.
5. The importance of doctrine is stressed as a source of success. Jos 1:8
6. Joshua was the leader of the Israelites in their conquest of the Promised Land.
7. Since Joshua was over 40 when he left Egypt and seemed well-qualified to command the Israelite forces who fought off the Amalekites at Rephidim it is possible that he had been trained in Pharaoh's army. (Exo 17:8-16),
8. During the year at Mount Sinai Joshua served as personal attendant to Moses when the latter was receiving the law and whenever he went to the tent of meeting to hear the Lord. (Exo 24:13; 32:17; 33:11)
9. In addition to whatever contacts he may have had before the Exodus with Canaan and its inhabitants as they came to trade in Egypt or as he may have traveled there on an Egyptian military campaign, Joshua gained experience of that land as one of the 12 spies.
10. The Lord ordered Moses to give Joshua a commission as the new shepherd of His people; Moses would soon die instead of crossing into Canaan. (Num 27:12-23; Deu 3:21-29)
11. Moses invested Joshua solemnly with honor and authority before Eleazar the high priest and the entire congregation, and imparted to him a spirit of wisdom as he laid his hands upon him (Num 27:18, 23; Deu 34:9).
12. As part of Moses' final arrangements he charged Joshua publicly to be strong and courageous in order to bring Israel to the land of its promised inheritance. (Deu 31:3, 7-8)

13. When Moses and his successor went and stood at the door of the tent of meeting, God directly commissioned Joshua (Deu 31:14-15, 23).

13.1 After Moses' death the Lord graciously repeated this charge to Joshua privately, enlarging His promises to encourage him on the eve of the invasion of Canaan. (Jos 1:1-9)

14. The Doctrine of Joshua's spies:

14.1 Having some firsthand knowledge of Canaan from his own spying experience thirty-eight years before, Joshua, in executing divine orders, prudently sent spies to Jericho, the key fortress of the entire southern Jordan Valley.

14.2 Two immediate difficulties faced him: how to overcome the hostile Canaanites on the western bank; and how to cross the Jordan at flood stage.

14.3 The spies must have navigated the swollen river by small boat or perhaps they swam the river.

14.4 The mission of Joshua's two spies was carefully concealed, even from the Israelites, lest the circulation of an unfavorable report should dishearten the people (Num 13:28-33 and 14:1-4).

14.5 They came into an harlot's house, named Rahab. Josephus and many writers since his time have argued that Rahab was an innkeeper.

14.6 But the Hebrew word Zona, the Greek Porne in the LXX, and Heb 11:31 and Jam 2:25 all definitely class her as a common harlot (not a Qedesha, a temple- or cult-prostitute).

14.7 Did the spies spot her walking the street toward evening (Pro 7:9-12) and follow her to her house, as detectives today may visit places of ill fame, where they may overhear the secrets of criminals?

14.8 Or, guided entirely by the Lord, did they merely "happen upon" the house of this one prepared beforehand by the Spirit?

14.9 Her house was probably built against the western city wall, her rear window overlooking the mountain (Jos 2:15, 16); hence her house was some distance from the one city gate of Jericho, which opened upon the fine flowing well just to the east of the city mound.

14.10 Her harlotry is mentioned to bring into bold relief God's mercy in giving her faith and in sparing her (Mat 21:32; Luk 15:1).

14.11 Many have conjectured that Salmon the father of Boaz was one of the two spies sent by Joshua; this only because Mat 1:5 tells us his wife was Rahab.

Mat 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, Mat 1:6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

14.12 He sent two spies to reconnoiter the bastion of Jericho and commanded them to keep their mission secret lest their report discourage the people as the ten spies had done.

14.13 God by working many miracles for Israel had filled the inhabitants of the land with terror. Rahab made this known to the spies.

14.14 God, no doubt further impressed the inhabitants of Jericho, by stopping the flow of the Jordan (at flood stage) thus permitting safe passage across the Jordan just as he had done at the Red Sea. Jos 3:14-17

15. And now for new material. In obedience to the Lord, Joshua had the men born in the wilderness circumcised. (Jos 5:3)

Jos 5:3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

15.1 The nation was willing once again to walk by faith with Yahweh their God in the promises of the Abrahamic covenant and to submit to circumcision, the covenant sign.

15.2 Thus God removed the reproach or disgrace of their idolatrous and sensual ways in Egypt.

Jos 5:9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.

16. Joshua exhibited great faith and discipline in obeying God's unusual tactics for reducing Jericho.

17. He commanded the priests and people to march round the city each day and to refrain from shouts and retorts to the undoubted mockery of the defending Canaanites. (Jos 6:6-10).

Jos 6:6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

Jos 6:7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.

Jos 6:8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

Jos 6:9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the reward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

Jos 6:10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

18. Except for Achan, the Israelite troops followed his orders in not looting the ruins for their own benefit.

18.1 Feeling a personal responsibility, Joshua agonized over the defeat and loss of 36 of his men at Ai, and fell on his face in desperation before the Lord.

Jos 7:6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

Jos 7:7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to GOD we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!

Jos 7:8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!

Jos 7:9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

19. The details of the second attack on Ai illustrate the thorough planning and strategy that went into Joshua's campaigns.

19.1 He was swift and decisive in his movements, as the all-night forced march up from Gilgal to relieve the siege of Gibeon would indicate. (Jos 10:9)

Jos 10:9 Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.

19.2 When the Amorite ranks broke, he urged his army to follow up the victory

Jos 10:19 And stay ye not, but pursue after your enemies, and smite the hindmost of them; suffer them not to enter into their cities: for the LORD your God hath delivered them into your hand.

Jos 10:20 And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel had made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they were consumed, that the rest which remained of them entered into fenced cities.

19.3 He had prayed for God to help him destroy in the open field the enemy's fighting potential, and after the divinely sent hailstorm he pressed his advantage as the Amorite armies fled to fortresses 20 miles away.

Jos 10:10 And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

Jos 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Jos 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

Jos 10:13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Jos 10:14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

20. With blitzkrieg speed he assaulted the key southern strongholds one after another, aiming at killing their troops rather than occupying and holding the cities. (Jos 10:28-43).

20.1 He counted on divine direction and support, on surprise and ruse, on discipline and incentive among his own troops, and on collapse of enemy morale rather than on superior weapons and numbers. Such was the case when he attacked and defeated the southern cities of Judah.

Jos 10:25 And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight ...

Jos 10:30 And the LORD delivered Libnah also, and the king thereof, into the hand of Israel; and he smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein; he let none remain in it; but did unto the king thereof as he did unto the king of Jericho ...

Jos 10:32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah ...

Jos 10:42 And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

Jos 11:6 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for tomorrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel: thou shalt hack their horses, and burn their chariots with fire.

Jos 11:7 So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly; and they fell upon them.

Jos 11:8 And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon, and unto Misrephothmaim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining.

Jos 11:9 And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he hacked their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.

Jos 11:15 As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.

21. He subdued the country as a whole and secured it sufficiently to enable each tribe to enter and claim its allotted inheritance.

21.1 Israelite settlement and city building followed gradually during the time from the judges to David.

End Lesson