

The Book of Joshua

Lesson 3

Study Notes

Reminders, Removal, Rewards

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Text: Joshua Chapters 4, 5 & 6.

Introduction: We hope to highlight some of the most important themes in each of these three chapters. As we have previously discussed that Canaan cannot be a type of Heaven, because we learn that Joshua and the people of Israel would need to fight and conquest the land in order to obtain that which God had promised to them.

When God had the priest to carry the ark into the midst of the river Jordan; he would _____ Himself and _____ His servant, Joshua. God told Joshua what to say, the priest what to do, and where the water must go, He told the people how they were to act and what they were to remember about this day.

Chapter 4

Joshua 4:1-3 & Joshua 4:9

These two memorials made of stones were to be reminders to Israel of their _____ passage through the Jordan River. First, the stones in the Jordan speak of the Israelites having _____ to the past. Second, the stones on the shore speak of Israel's _____ on the other side of Jordan - a resurrection life.

The river Jordan was between the wilderness and Canaan, and stands in type for our death with Christ; or separation from _____ to a life of victory.

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The land of Canaan stands for victory, death to self on a daily basis, and the presenting of our bodies as living sacrifices unto the Lord.

Let's now consider these twelve men:

1. They were _____ men. One man was chosen out of each of the twelve tribes and pointed to the fact that Canaan was for all of God's people. Remember two and one-half tribes chose to live on the wilderness side of Jordan but God intends for all of His people to live in victory.
2. They were _____ men. God commands obedience to His Word and often that means the sacrifice of our will to do His will.
3. They were _____ men. They were commanded to pick up a large stone and bare it on their shoulders to the place they would come to rest.

4. They were _____ men. It is one thing to hear the command of God; it is quite another to carry out what is expected of us.

Verse 6 clearly states that this monument of stones was designed as a "sign" unto Israel. It was to be a message for their _____ through their eyes rather than their _____. It was to be a lasting sermon in stone. It spoke of the goodness and power of God exercised on their behalf at the Jordan River. But this monument was also designed as a "memorial" that Israel had passed through the river of death, and they were now (typically) on resurrection ground. (Lamoyne Sharpe)

Joshua 4:9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

With the ark in the midst of the Jordan river Joshua would leave a memorial of twelve stones in the river's bed. In type we are buried with Christ in his death but we leave that old man behind and go on to the life of victory in Canaan.

What will you leave behind?

Joshua 4:6

The stone monument was erected at Gilgal for a testimony. It remained as a witness to future generations both saved and lost. It depicts for us the characteristics of a _____ testimony. There is one thing we can all leave to our spouse, children and society, a Godly testimony! What will you leave behind? I fear that if we do not live in victory as God would have us to, we are not going to leave much behind for the next generation to follow.

Joshua 4:20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal.

We are told where the Children of Israel first made camp in Canaan. The name "Gilgal" means "the reproach has been rolled away." For the Israelites this meant that the reproach of the wilderness _____ had been rolled away. Their self-centered, carnal life had been left behind. Gilgal was located about midway between _____ and _____. It is interesting that Gilgal became the base of Israel's operations for the conquest of Canaan (9:6 ; 10:6, 15, 43 ; 14 :6) . When they went out against their enemies in war, they eventually returned to Gilgal. Thus, Gilgal became their _____ camp, the place for readjustment and _____ encouragement. (Sharpe)

Chapter 5

A. The removal of the reproach of Egypt. (Circumcision)

Joshua 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.

B. The Passover would be observed.

The Passover had been observed only twice before: once, when the Israelites went out of Egypt and the other time at Mount Sinai. Since then, there had been no Passover. This feast of worship, remembrance, and fellowship had been abandoned altogether. It had not been abandoned by choice but by God's _____. He had commanded that no uncircumcised person should ever partake of the feast of the Passover (Exodus 12 :48). They were not allowed to enjoy its feasting and the remembrance

of God's victory on that Passover night. They had forfeited their right to it and surrendered their privileges by living in disobedience and _____. Because of that there was no Passover. (Alan Redpath)

C. *Joshua meets the captain.*

Joshua 5:13-15

Standing now in front of Joshua was the captain of the Lord's host; he was not there to take sides; he was there to take _____. The battle of Canaan was a holy one. It could not be fought merely on the human level. These wicked nations were controlled by _____ powers.

Chapter 6

The Reward of Obedience.

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

As the children of Israel marches around the walls of Jericho, the success of battle was not immediate. It would take seven days of marching in silence before they were allowed to shout.

We are given more in the New Testament as to why they had a victory on the seventh day.

Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

A. *They are rewarded for their test of _____.*

Notice how the Israelites' faith was tested. Thirteen times they walked around the city, though no reason had been given them why they should. The whole situation had been explained in detail to Joshua, and he knew exactly what God was doing, but the people did not; he gave them instructions only for that day. To live by faith often means just keep doing what we are told from the Lord and wait and see Him work. I'm sure that as they march around each day, they are going to be reminded that they are not going to be able to conquer Jericho by their power and might. Our faith in God makes the things that seem impossible a reality in the power of God.

B. *They are rewarded for their _____.*

Another one of the biggest tests in Christian experience is the test of silence. How we long to talk about our difficulties to others, to get Christians to help us through in prayer, to share our burdens with a friend. What a moment in the Christian life it is when the soul comes to realize that our expectation is from God, when the truth begins to dawn on us that it is not what I achieve, but the victory that I take from God in Christ Jesus, who died and rose again that He might give it to me! (Alan Redpath)

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

The Bible notes that the walls fell down flat, I believe simply that God pulled the foundations out from under the walls and they went to the ground flat, and every person went straight forward from where he was.

C. The reward of the faith of Rahab for her faith.

Joshua 6:22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.

Joshua 6:25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Conclusion: We can rest assured that what God starts He certainly will finish.

Joshua 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Notice in verse 4 that the emphasis is on the number seven: seven priests, seven trumpets, seven days of marching, and seven circuits of the city on the seventh day. In biblical numerology the number seven speaks of completeness or perfection. The number seven here speaks of God's ability to finish whatever He starts. Philippians 1 :6 states: ***"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ ."***

There is no such thing as a partial salvation deliverance nor is there such a thing as a part-time Christian life; to go with God is to go all the way to victory.