

- I. Goal of Christian Living (Joshua 1:1-9)
  - A. Introduction
    1. Popular Interpretation
      - a. Jordan=death; Canaan=heaven
      - b. Reasons
        - (i) Battles and enemy still to fight
    2. New Testament clues in Ephesians and Hebrews
      - a. Hebrews 3 & 4
        - (i) Canaan picture of spiritual rest and victory
      - b. Ephesians
        - (i) Life in the heavenly places – not heaven, but experience with risen Christ.
    3. As we go through this study then, we want to make the analogy between the land of Canaan and the land of full salvation which is the portion of EVERY believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - B. Canaan was the goal toward which God was leading His people.
    1. Ex 3:7,8 He brought them out to bring them in
    2. Gen 13:14-17 Promise to Abraham
    3. In a similar way, much of the NT is for the perfection and edification of the saint.
    4. We become too content in the wilderness
  - C. Law could not do it – Moses my servant is dead. Joshua (Jesus) is to lead
    1. Law given by Moses but grace and truth from Jesus Christ John 1:17
    2. Law is gives sin its power. I Cor 15:56
    3. Christian does not work way up to victory but down from it.
  - D. Entrance into Canaan entrusted to a representative
    1. Canaan promises given to and then through Joshua.
    2. Christian's blessings given to and then through Jesus Christ
    3. It is held in trust for our claiming. Joshua 1 – Every place that the sole of your foot treads on, that I have given to you.
  - E. Those who wholly followed the Lord entered in.
    1. The same is true today. Heb 4:11 let us be diligent to enter that rest.
    2. Lay hold of that for which Christ laid hold of us Phil 3:12
  - F. Question – Do you find yourself meandering around the wilderness or victoriously laying hold of the ground Christ has won for you?
- II. The Man God Uses
  - A. One who is weak in himself
    1. God said, “Be Strong” because Joshua felt weak.
      - a. He was about 80 years old when all this happened.
    2. God gives power to the faint. Isaiah 40:29
    3. Note the beatitudes Matthew 5
    4. I Cor 1:18ff
  - B. Joshua was a faithful man
    1. Joshua was Moses' minister (servant)
    2. Christ also – worked and submitted for 30 years
    3. Sometimes we murmur about the daily little things

- a. Luke 19:17 He who is faithful in little things will be given much
- C. Distinct Call (Joshua 1:5-6)
  - 1. Make sure we have the call of God on our lives
  - 2. Jesus had the call of God and everything He did was in the will of God
- D. Indwelling Word (Joshua 1:8) (Ps 1:1-3)
  - 1. Meditate day and night produces success
  - 2. Words that I speak are spirit and life Jesus said.
- III. Counting the Cost (Joshua 1:10-11)
  - A. God has a great purpose in every waiting time.
    - 1. There was a soul to be saved
      - a. Rahab – in the hall of faith Heb 11:31
      - b. James – her faith was evidenced by works
      - c. Until that soul saved, judgment held back
        - (i) Same thing in Sodom
        - (ii) Several of those on Jesus’ path to the cross also
        - (iii) Until every ransomed soul for whom God in His sovereign grace has a purpose of salvation is delivered, the judgment is delayed
          - (a) 2 Peter 3:9 not willing
          - (b) Romans 12:25 Fulness of Gentiles comes in
      - d. Where did she get her faith?
        - (i) Supernatural evidence of the presence of God in the Israelites (Joshua 2:9)
        - (ii) What evidences do souls see in us?
    - 2. Separation to be confirmed
      - a. Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh on the other side but didn’t want to go in.
      - b. They had to take part and they had to lead the army
      - c. After they had seen the victory Joshua would confirm that they still wanted to go back.
      - d. Everyone from the weakest to the strongest believer has the same position of victory in Christ. But where will we spend our experience.
        - (i) Consequences of that choice I Chron 5:25 First to be captured by Assyrians
        - (ii) For Reuben great searchings of heart Judges 5:16
          - (a) On which side will you spend your experiences?
    - 3. Sanctification Completed
      - a. Sanctify yourselves (Joshua 3:5)
      - b. Sanctified by God (I Thess 5:23)
      - c. We are called to make real in our experience what is true of us as a gift.
        - (i) Col 3:9 You have put off
        - (ii) Eph 4:22 Put off command
        - (iii) Gal 5:24 those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh
        - (iv) Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members
    - 4. PREPARE YOUR PROVISIONS (Joshua 1:11)
- IV. The Road to Blessing (3:11)
  - A. People to keep their eyes on the ark – follow it
    - 1. Keep your distance – the Lord is holy

2. Ability to see the ark because they are going along a new path
    - a. Don't run ahead of God. Let Him lead.
  3. Sanctify yourselves for you are the Lord's people
- B. Battles Ahead (3:10)
1. There is the promise of conflict AND victory
    - a. There will be battles
    - b. Wait on God's timing
    - c. Patience with God's timing in other people's lives.
  2. The nations need to be destroyed – their iniquity is full (Gen 15:16)
    - a. Gal 4:4; romans 5:6 fullness of time
  3. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12)
- C. Purpose Ahead
1. Bethlehem, Calvary, Pentecost
  2. God has purpose in our lives as well
    - a. Christ born in us – new birth
    - b. Christ dying for our sins & our death with Him
      - (i) Gal 2:20, rom 6:3-11, eph 2, Romans 8
    - c. A life with the spirit in control
  3. Between God's purpose and its fulfillment is the Jordan
    - a. What is the Jordan in your life – those things that keep you from being all you should be or would want to be for the Lord
- D. Key – Lord is crossing over before you. (3:11)
1. He has led the way. God went first and secured victory for us.
    - a. Isaiah 43:2 Flood will not overflow thee.
  2. He was tempted in all points as we but apart from sin Heb 4:15
  3. This one spoiled principalities and powers Col 2:15
  4. He went through death, burial resurrection and ascension for us and ahead of us. Heb 6:13ff
- E. Passed through on dry ground
1. As the priests stood firm on dry ground, the people passed by. Vs 17
    - a. The people's gaze could be on the ark.
  2. His victory holds back the flood of temptation and circumstances.
    - a. No temptation except common (I Cor 10:13)

It's not the victory we need but the victor. Our focus is usually wrong. Between us and victorious living lies the Jordan river – all of the impossible circumstances, temptations and failures. Christ has gone through them all before us.

V. The Cross and the Christian –Waiting at Gilgal (Joshua 4:1-24)

Gilgal was a bridgehead established on victory side.

The battles were ahead. The greatest blessing was in the battles. A standoff with the enemy is not an option.

A. Remembrance – 12 stones (x 2)

1. Everything was finished 4:10 Priests stood in the middle until all was finished.

- a. Christ did the same thing. He stayed until it was finished. The sin question has been dealt with. See 2 Cor 5:19;
  - b. In addition we died with Christ there. (The people went down through the bottom.) When Jesus went to the cross we all went there with Him.
    - (i) Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 5:14; Romans 6:4
  - 2. We need to remember and by faith accept what God has done for us in Christ. Have you reckoned this true in your life? John 12:24 as a corn of wheat. Look at 2 Cor 5:15 that those who live should not henceforth live unto themselves.
- B. Resurrection
- 1. Came up out of the river on the 10<sup>th</sup> day 1<sup>st</sup> mo just like the Passover (4:19)
  - 2. Reproach rolled away – carnality, defeat and reproach Josh 5:9
    - a. We are raised with Christ and are on victory ground Eph 2:5,6
    - b. But we wait for the redemption of the body Romans 8:23 Right now we face the stark reality of the corruption of sin, lust, etc.
    - c. We are presented a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, but now our actual practice is less than that.
      - (i) We live in a body that is plagued by the results of the fall
      - (ii) Within our flesh we suffer the presence of sin, temptation, the effects of world, flesh and devil
      - (iii) The question is – Which is going to control my life, my body or my spirit? Am I going through my Christian life bound as a victim to this body of sin and temptation and lust?
      - (iv) Importance of reckoning death to 3 things
        - (a) Dead to sin Romans 6:11
        - (b) Dead to law Romans 7:1-6
        - (c) Dead to world Galatians 6:14
      - (v) Romans 7:5-6 summary of what follows
        - 1. Law arouses sinful passions. They’re there before, but the law empowers them.
        - 2. Law is holy, just and good
        - 3. Sin is the culprit
        - 4. The fact that I will to do the right means I agree with god’s law, in fact I delight in it (vs 22)
        - 5. It is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells in me.
        - 6. There is a warring between the two.
      - (vi) Delivery (Romans 8)
        - 1. No condemnation vs 1
        - 2. Free from law of sin and death
        - 3. Sin has been condemned in the flesh
        - 4. Law is fulfilled in us who walk according to the spirit. Vs 4
        - 5. Set mind on Spirit vs 5
        - 6. Those who have Christ are “in the spirit” vs 9
          - a. Galatians 5:25 if in the spirit then walk in the spirit
        - 7. Even though body is dead, spirit is life and body will be raised vs 10, 11
        - 8. Because of that, we owe the flesh nothing vs 12

- 9. By spirit put to death the deeds of the body
- 10. We are sons of God vs 16
- 11. Even though we groan we have first fruits of spirit vs 23
- 12. Spirit makes intercession for us. Vs 26

- 3. Stones in the river remind all who would go back that they are rejecting the victory and redemption God has promised to all of His people.
  - a. Satan can't do anything but cast doubts on the truth. We often in all practicality believe his lies. It doesn't change the truth but it does cut off the victorious life of faith.
  - b. All the people crossed over (Joshua 4:11) but some went back. Going back crosses back over the place of the cross, the focal point of victory and regards it as unimportant and an empty thing. Heb 10:19-31
  - c. It's important to take our reminders – communion and accountability seriously

#### C. Renunciation (Joshua 5)

- 1. Everyone came over en masse but there had been disobedience of God's command regarding circumcision.
- 2. In order to reclaim the allegiance to God's covenant, each male had to be circumcised. This was a personal and individual thing.
  - a. Col 2:10, 11 NT refers to it as the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh.
  - b. Through the obedience of Christ there is no condemnation of the law of God. This is my position
  - c. BUT I must personally consent to God's dealing with those sins and nail them to the cross and be separated from them. It's the pruning of John 15:2
  - d. This is a very personal thing, between us as an individual and God. Will I hold on to or will I let go of the sins for which Christ died?
    - (i) Eph 5:6 wrath comes upon the children of disobedience
    - (ii) Col 3:6
    - (iii) Do we believe God and respond in faith? So many times we act like we don't believe these things are true. We need to decide personally before God – are we going to bring these sins that He died to save us from, under the knife?

#### D. Restoration Josh 5:10 They kept the Passover

- 1. There had only been two passovers previously
- 2. Their disobedience had prevented the celebration of the Passover.
- 3. Cannot be effective for God unless you feast on Him which depends on obedience
- 4. They kept the Passover right under the nose of the devil (Jericho)
  - a. Prepares a table before me in presence of enemies Psalm 23
  - b. Feast on Christ in thick of fight under nose of devil and prove that Jesus is Conqueror – This is Gilgal.

- c. Worship, communion, fellowship with God, remembrance, thanksgiving, deliverance, salvation
  - 5. This followed the obedience of circumcision
- E. Reward of Reality
  - 1. Ate the corn of the land Joshua 5:11,12
    - a. On the day of resurrection
    - b. Not only look back at calvary
    - c. But draw on power of the risen Christ
      - (i) He is the resurrection and life. Even though the body is dead because of sin, spirit is life because of righteousness
  - 2. No gap – God’s provision continued one day after another
    - a. However it was a change. They had to move from the old to the new
    - b. God is at work moving us along, changing us and working in us.
  - 3. Jesus is our nourishment
    - a. Bread of life John 6:35
    - b. Living water, John 4
    - c. He satisfies the longing soul Ps 107:8.9
    - d. Satisfies mouth, youth is renewed Ps 103: 5
    - e. Need to move from milk of word to meat
      - (i) I peter 2:23; Heb 5:12-14; Heb 6:1
      - (ii) Leave the foundation of elementary principles. Notice what some of those principles are and think through how many times we focus on those things.
      - (iii) We should not be constantly laying the same foundation. Move on!
- F. Place of Revelation – Joshua meets Christ. Joshua 5:13
  - 1. Joshua’s great courage – man’s sword was drawn
  - 2. Are you for us or against us? NO
    - a. What kind of answer is that?
    - b. He had not come to take sides. He had come to be the commander. We are to take His side.
    - c. Many times we arrange the agenda and then ask God to be on our side.
  - 3. This was the same one who spoke to Moses in the burning bush
    - a. Wrestled with Jacob; 4<sup>th</sup> man in the fiery furnace
    - b. Image of the invisible God, firstborn over all creation
    - c. By him all things created, in Him everything holds together
    - d. In Him all fullness of God dwells
    - e. Heir of all things, express image of God
    - f. He is the one whom all angels are to worship
    - g. He is unchanging, all things have been subjected to Him
    - h. He is the captain of our salvation made perfect through sufferings
    - i. He is not ashamed to be called our brother
    - j. He has become our High Priest, holy, harmless, undefiled separate from sinners yet tempted in every way like we are
    - k. He entered the most holy place with his own blood once for all
    - l. For by one offering he has perfected for ever those who are being sanctified

- m. For by him and through Him and to Him are all things
- 4. Captain of the host – what is this host?
  - a. Horses and chariots in 2 Kings 6:17
  - b. 12 legions that Christ could have called
  - c. Psalm 46:5-7
  - d. Isaiah 8:12-15 don't be on the wrong side – you'll get crushed!
- 5. The spiritual battle
  - a. Some references
    - (i) Zech 4:6 Not by might but by my spirit
    - (ii) 1 John 4:4 Great is He who is in you
    - (iii) 2 Cor 10:4 Weapons are not fleshly
    - (iv) Eph 6:4 We do not wrestle against flesh and blood
  - b. Our battle is serious and invisible
  - c. God of the age is behind is 2 Cor 4:4
  - d. He is behind unbelief and resistance to Gospel; discord in the church and family and turmoil in nations
  - e. The way to resolve and attack situations is spiritual. Scripture gives us all that is needed 2 Peter 1:3
  - f. So often we try to grow the church or change lives by human means.
  - g. We try to use psychology to solve personal and family problems
  - h. Requirements as seen by Joshua's encounter
    - (i) Christ claims the authority
    - (ii) Our response is to submit and worship.
    - (iii) Ask – what is your word to us? Follow up with obedience
    - (iv) Acknowledge holiness of God and obey Him

## VI. Jericho

- A. We have seen all of the promises of our victory in Christ, but now Jericho looms.
- B. God often wants us to see that the battle is impossible humanly speaking.
  - 1. As they marched around the walls, they saw how huge and impregnable they were.
  - 2. Our Jerichos are similar
    - a. Impossible to change how other people think
    - b. Impossible to change many of our circumstances.
- C. Jericho didn't fall by doing nothing. They had to be obedient to God's method.
  - 1. Colossians 1:9 and I Timothy 6:12
  - 2. God's weapons are mighty and powerful 2 Corinthians 10:4
  - 3. What are some strongholds that you need to pull down?
    - a. Resist the urge to use human methods.
    - b. Scripture gives us everything we need
- D. Purpose of victory is God's glory
  - 1. Our goals, aspirations and dreams must be secondary
  - 2. See 1 Cor 6:20
  - 3. It comes down to trust and obey
    - a. All of the struggles and all of the battles always funnel down to our response to what God is doing in our lives and whether we will do these two things. We want to focus on others or the circumstances. God wants to

focus on us and our trust and obedience. Everything focuses on the faith and obedience at the crucial point where God is working.

(i) John 21:21 “What about that man?”

4. Do we trust God
  - a. God’s ways and ours differ Isaiah 55:9
  - b. Nothing can stand against Him Deut 7:24; Deut 11:25
  - c. God motivates and moves people Prov 21:1
  - d. He accomplishes all He desires to do Daniel 4:34
  - e. God’s wisdom is unsearchable and perfect Romans 11:37
  - f. What did God tell Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 – My grace is sufficient for you. Are you ok with that?

## VII. Ai

### A. Disobedience to God’s command

1. God’s command in Joshua 6:17-19
2. Achan’s disobedience
  - a. Charged to the whole nation
    - (i) Our sin affects everyone 1 Cor 12:26
    - (ii) No such thing as it doesn’t hurt anybody else
    - (iii) When found out, often brings disgrace to cause of Christ

### B. Response

1. Repentance, humility, concern for God’s name
2. Repentance and sorrow weren’t enough. Action had to be taken
3. What was his sin?
  - a. Stolen and deceived
  - b. Achan explains the sequence – saw, coveted, took and hid
    - (i) When did the sin start?

### C. Wages of sin is death

1. Achan and family all put to death
2. God is serious about sin
  - a. Romans 1:28-32 through Romans 2
  - b. Heb 10:31 Fearful thing to fall into hands of angry God
3. Refer back to I Sam 15:22, 23
  - a. Rebellion is as sin of witchcraft
  - b. Stubbornness as idolatry
4. Isaiah 59:2 Your iniquities have separated you from God and he will not hear

### D. Good news

1. He was made sin for us 2 Cor 5:21
2. He was cursed for us Gal 3:10 ff
3. He bore our sins I Peter 2:24

Sin had left a crimson stain – he washed it white as snow!