

God's Grand Story pt 6 – Joshua: Trust & Obey there is no other way

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

Church-Wide Prayer: Israel & Persecuted Church (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”

- Bill C367 was tabled in Nov/23 – would remove freedom of religion as a reason to stand for truth. Poll showed 66% of Canadians thought this was good. Has not been accepted. Pray that the bill gets discarded. Pray that our politicians would see the danger and be vocal against it.
- Pray for the Canadian Church to “stay awake” → to not wait but to choose today to live completely for Jesus and His mission.
- Pray for wisdom for Church leaders, MPL's, Teachers, Parents, as we navigate a changing culture. Pray that they would be Bold in their witness, choose Faith over Fear, loving in our speech & conduct those whom Jesus desires to save!
- Israel: Pray for the release of hostages and for their families. Protection, freedom, strength.
- Israel: Pray for God's purposes to be completed in the Middle East. For all Israel to be saved!
- Israel: Pray against the growing antisemitism in the world & Church
- Pray for Jesus to return and establish his kingdom on the earth! MARANATHA

INTRO: why would you follow a God who is genocidal? Misogynistic? Angry? & racist? Says the skeptic! What does God want from my life? Says the Christian! We will attempt to answer BOTH today.

TODAY: we are going to head back into the Grand Story – and guess where we are???? Just entering the Land of Canaan or the Promised Land!

Why the Grand Story matters: God reveals himself through His Word! KNOW GOD! It also gives us a biblical worldview – lens through which we can LIVE life and make sense of the world around us; and the Word answers the questions the world is asking! We must dive into for OURSELVES!

- **Bible RECAP: many are doing it! I invite you to join! Check us out on YouVersion**

REMINDER: Biblical Worldview QUESTIONS: See how many answers you can find! 1) origin, 2) Identity, 3) problem, 4) solution, 5) purpose, 6) destiny & 7) God

Recap: 4 Chapters, 5 Main Promises, 1 HERO – Jesus and is moving towards the most EPIC finale ever and the FINAL happily ever after! This is a love story – a story of redemption!

Intro: Joshua – Understanding the Canaanite Conquest & Promises Land

A. Why God chose Israel & made Promises with them

- 1. To reveal Yahweh's existence to the Nations**
- 2. To reveal Yahweh's nature to the Nations – what God was like**
- 3. The nations received the Scriptures through Israel**
- 4. The nations received the Church from Israel**
- 5. The Nations received SALVATION → their SAVIOR through Israel**

This will help you make sense of WHY there is so much WAR & TENSION over Israel – even today!

B. Moses: the rebellion that made an 11 day journey take 40 years

Historical context: 1377 BC. They have come from Egypt, wandered in the wilderness 40 years,

Moses sent 12 spies – they gave a bad report which cost them the promised land! Then Moses' sin with striking the rock instead of speaking to it, cost him the promised land!

Numbers 20:2-12 *Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, ... Then Moses and Aaron went.. to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces... and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. ... Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, ...And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."*

Key lessons we learn from Moses:

1. Trust + Obedience = LOVING GOD
2. Moses' actions cost him and those who followed him
3. God is JUST ☑ he dealt with Israel in the same way as the nations
4. God PROVIDES ☑ even when Moses & Israel rebelled! God is MERCIFUL! GOD gives what we DON'T DESERVE!!!

C. Moses → Joshua: God raises up a new leader

Joshua 1:1-9 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."

Key points to remember from Joshua's calling:

- No leader/person is irreplaceable. God can always raise up someone else!
- Nothing can stop God from fulfilling His Promises. Promise Maker. Promise Keeper.
- God gave Joshua the secret to have strength & courage → HIS PRESENCE
- This is TRUE for us today as well! Heb 13:5 ... I will never leave you nor forsake you!

D. Joshua leads the people into the Promised Land

First: Joshua 1 → God calls Joshua, the people commit to obey and follow him as their new leader.

SECOND: Joshua 2 → Joshua sends 2 spies into Canaan – there we meet Rahab

Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

- **Rahab takes the spies in and hides them! She is a Canaanite! Who fears the Lord!**
- **James 2:25** And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?
- **God ALWAYS gives people a chance to turn from sin**
- **God USED Rahab, a Canaanite woman & prostitute!**
- **God ADOPTED Rahab into his family**
- **God INCLUDED Rahab in the lineage of the Serpent Crusher!**

DELETE: God is a: killing everyone, racist & misogynistic Deity in the OT → **KNOW GOD AS HE ACUTALLY IS → loving, holy, just, merciful, slow to anger, loves ALL people**

THIRD: Joshua 3 → Israel crosses the Jordan on dry land!

Joshua 3:5-10 Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” ...And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, “When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.” And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

- Then the Priests walk into the Jordan and stand there... and in the high time for the river... the river dried up and ALL of Israel crossed on dry land!

FOURTH: Joshua 5 → Joshua meets the Angel of the Lord

- **Joshua 5:13-15** When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” And he said, “No; but I am the commander

of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

- **The Angel accepts worship – most likely he encounters JESUS!**
- **“whose side am I on?” is a great question to ask ourselves!**
- **God doesn't join OUR side. He invites us to join HIS side.**
- **The battle was not between Israel & Jericho. It was between God & Jericho.**

FIFTH: Joshua 6-8 → The victory at Jericho! And the defeat at Ai! Lesson: trust & obey is the ONLY way

Joshua 6:3-5 You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.”

- **Jericho had 6 days to repent, turn from their sin & serve Yahweh. They refused God's mercy.**
- **God doesn't need our strength, skill, personality & position to accomplish His will!**
- **God only requires us to “trust & obey”**

Joshua 6:18, 7:1-4 *But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it... 7:1-4 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel. Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, ...and said to them, “Go up and spy out the land.” And the men went up and spied out Ai. And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few.” So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai.*

- **The defeat at Ai shows human strength counts for nothing. “Trust & obey” is the ONLY WAY**

SIXTH: Conquest of the Land took 6 years! After it was done, Joshua split up the land between the 12 tribes.

E. The Canaanite conquest was NOT genocide.

1. **Genocide is the intentional destruction of a people in whole or in part.** In 1948, the United Nations Genocide Convention defined genocide as any of five "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group". Wikipedia quote

- **Rahab – was saved** – ended up being the great, great, great, grandmother of David! The same lineage the Serpent Crusher would come from! God honored her.
 - **The Gibeonites surrendered** and were not destroyed and lived among the Israelites
2. **What about the instructions: “ALL” “NONE LEFT” “COMPLETE DESTRUCTION”** is this literal?
- **Joshua 10:36-37** Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron. And they fought against it and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it. He left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and devoted it to destruction and every person in it.
 - **MARCHING ORDERS → Deuteronomy 7:1-2** When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, and when the Lord your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction.
 - **Seems the Lord did command “ALL”**
 - **Deuteronomy 7:3-5** You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.
 - **How can they be there to marry? Or to keep worshipping their gods?** If they are completely destroyed. **ITS HYPERBOLIC LANGUAGE.** And was common language to use for military conquest – it means – TOTAL VICTORY!
 - i. **ALL war is tragic. ALL loss of life is tragic. God does not delight in the death of ANYONE – even the wicked.** SOME wars are necessary. Some wars are JUST. The Canaanite Conquest was a just war.
3. **The Canaanites were wicked people**
- They were known for child sacrifice. Infants to a few years old. Some even say as old as 6-15! They were burned alive. AND sexual immorality was rampant!
 - **Genesis 15:16** And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
 - **GOD GAVE THEM 400 YEARS TO REPENT!! 400 YEARS!!**
4. **The Canaanite Conquest was a unique situation in the Bible.** God was birthing a nation, giving them land, making them great, so that he could bring the Serpent Crusher to bear and UNDO THE CURSE!

F. APPLICATION FOR TODAY:

- **WHO IS GOD:** God is just – merciful – abounding in steadfast love! He seeks to forgive and show mercy rather than to judge! He is kind! He loves ALL people! he loves women! He loves men! He loves SINNERS! He is SLOW TO ANGER, desires MERCY over JUDGEMENT.
- **WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE?** “Trust & Obedience!” this is what it means to LOVE GOD!

i. And it's NOT for HIS BENEFIT! He works despite us! It's for OUR BENEFIT!

1. **Perhaps you feel like Rahab → stuck in sin, outsider and outcast**
 - a. God wants your heart! He wants to FORGIVE, ADOPT, USE & INCLUDE YOU.
 - b. Will you give him your, "YES"? will you "Trust & Obey"?
2. **Perhaps you relate to Joshua → called to a task bigger than you can accomplish, facing impossible enemies, being completely unable to do what God is asking.**
 - a. God wants you to be "Strong & Courageous"! Not in your own strength! But by TRUSTING HIM & following him in OBEDIENCE.
 - b. Your strength source? Is NOT you! It's His PRESENCE with you! Hev 13:5
 - c. Will you give him your, "YES"? will you "Trust & Obey"?
3. **Perhaps you relate to the enemies of God → you haven't been following him at all! You don't know him! You may even be afraid of Him!**
 - a. God wants to SAVE YOU! But you MUST turn from your sin and receive that gift of grace through faith!
 - b. Will you give him your, "YES"? will you "Trust & Obey"?

God had to tell Joshua THREE X! Be strong & Courageous! Why? And he didn't expect Joshua to muster that up for himself! He offered the SOURCE of Strength & Courage!

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom "to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel"
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers