

LESSON 8: JOSHUA, AND JUDGES

GROW University - Old Testament 101

–JOSHUA–

Context

Historical Context:

Redemptive Historical Context:

Theme

Yahweh is planting His people in His land, so that they can have “rest” (as He had promised) in a relationship with Him.

Prominent themes in Joshua:

- Yahweh's faithfulness in giving Israel the land
- What it means that they will enjoy the “rest” in the land.

Outline W/ Pivotal Texts

- I. Yahweh has been faithful.
 - A. Joshua 1-4 –Entering the Land
 - B. Joshua 5-12 – Taking the Land
 - C. Joshua 13-21 – Possessing the Land
- II. Will Israel be faithful?
 - Joshua 22-24 – Retaining the Land

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OR,
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The Promises of God and:

- I. Joshua 1-2 – the Encouragement of God
- II. Joshua 3-4 – the Power fo God
- III. Joshua 5-8 – the People of God
- IV. Joshua 9-12 – the Enemies of God
- V. Joshua 13-21 – the Gift of God
- VI. Joshua 22-24 – the Covenant of God

*Joshua 21:43-45 is the climax to all redemptive-history so far (Joshua 11:23 also climactic)

Theme Texts

Chapter 1:13-15 & 21:43-45

_Read **Joshua 1:13-15**

_Read **Joshua 21:43-45.**

Genesis 2:2-3, *"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."*

Genesis 3:17-19, *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed [is] the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat [of] it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are], And to dust you shall return."*

_Read **Joshua 11:23.**

_Read **Joshua 21:44.**

_Read **Joshua 23:1.**

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

–**C.S. Lewis**, "A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other... human history [is the long terrible story of man] - [through] money...ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empire, slavery – ...trying to find something other than God which will make them happy."¹

– Augustine, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in [God]."²

-God's people, in God's land enjoying God's rest.

–JUDGES–

Context

Historical Context:

Redemptive Historical Context:

¹ *Mere Christianity*, II, 3.

² *The Confessions*, I. 1.

Theme

The people of God learn that they need a righteous, covenant-keeping king if they are to be a faithful people. Yet, regardless of their failings, Yahweh is still faithful, sending many saviors to deliver them from their enemies.

Outline W/ Pivotal Texts

- I. Judges 1:1-2:9 – Transition after the death of Joshua
- II. Judges 2:10-23 – Paradigmatic summary of Israel's sin and Yahweh's deliverance.
- III. Judges 3-16 – Seven stories of Israel's sin and Yahweh's deliverance
- IV. Judges 7-21 – Two stories exemplifying Israel's need for a covenant-keeping king.

Theme Texts

Chapter 2:10-2:23

There are 7 parts to this cycle:

1. Israel forgets Yahweh (**2:10**).
2. Israel serves other gods (**2:11-12**).
3. Yahweh grows angry (end of verse 12).
4. Yahweh responds with wrath through foreign invaders (2:14-15)
5. Israel cries out.
6. Yahweh has pity on His people (2:16,18b)
7. Yahweh delivers His people through a judge (2:18a).

Israel has done nothing to deserve this deliverance. Yahweh is simply gracious.

1' Israel forgets Yahweh again, and acts more corruptly than before (2:19).
And the cycle starts all over again.

Chapters 3-16

Chapters 17-21

_Read **Judges 17:6**.

_Read **Judges 21:25**.

Conclusion: The people need a king.

Application:

1.) Understand

2.) Apply

3.) Teach