

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

03-19-2023 // WEEK 11 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Joshua 5 - Judges 2**. Here are a few highlights:

- **Joshua Chapter 5:** The new generation of faith-filled Jews, who were not infected by the unbelief of the 10 spies and the others, are circumcised. Remember: this **circumcision is an outward sign of the inward covenant of God's call on them**.
- **Chapter 6:** The fall of Jericho. Notice how many "sevens" there are in the chapter. It's the **biblical number of perfection and completion**. As they obeyed, they supernaturally had God's power.
- **Chapter 7:** Ai is attacked. Note that God never commanded them to attack Ai. And they lost. Plus, **Achan stole booty in direct disobedience to God's commands**. When he was discovered, this unholiness was uprooted from the community of faith – both he and his family. Sin in Israel was much more communal. **One sin infected the entire community, thus needing to be excised**.
- **Chapter 8:** Ai is conquered as God commanded. Notice the military strategy. God often conquers through common sense and strategic thinking. *Plus faith!*
- **Chapter 9:** The **Gibeonite deception**. A covenant was promised to them, even though they lied. God takes covenants **very** seriously. Later in the Bible, you will see them absorbed into the community of faith of Israel. **A precursor of God's love for Gentiles** (like Rahab).
- **Chapter 10:** **God makes the sun stand still for Joshua** to have more time to defeat his enemies. All things are possible with God.
- **Chapters 11 - 14:** God calls the Israelites to go northward and conquer the land. Hazor, a major, strong, fortified city is conquered. More lands conquered.
- **Chapters 15 - 19:** The **allotments of the land** to the different tribes are outlined here.
- **Chapter 20:** Another chapter devoted to the **cities of refuge**. God wanted to make sure that **in HIS land there would always be justice**, no revenge killing and innocent blood shed. These six cities sprinkled throughout the land assures this from happening.

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- **Chapter 21:** The cities and pasturelands are guaranteed to **the Levites, from the tribe of Levi, whose purpose was to oversee the worship of Israel.** They had no land allotted to them, just cities and outlying pasturelands for them.
- **Chapter 22:** The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh that stayed on the eastern side of the Jordan (*what's called today the Transjordan*), are given their allotment.
- **Chapter 23:** Joshua charges all of Israel's leaders to love and serve God with a whole heart or there would be judgment. It's a reminder of **the blessings and curses of obedience and disobedience in Deuteronomy 28-29.**
- **Chapter 24:** Joshua renews the covenant with God. He is older, approaching death. **Verse 15** is one of the most famous verses in the Bible. Joshua tells all that they must individually decide whom they will serve. But as for him and his house, "**we will serve the Lord.**" I hope all of you can say the same about you and your families. It's your choice. Please choose wisely.

Joshua is buried. He lived to be 110 years of age. Joseph's bones are buried in the Promised Land, as he asked. Eleazar the high priest dies, passing on the baton to Phineas as he died. A new chapter begins in Israel.

Finally, note that **Joshua didn't raise up a leader. Intentional?** I don't know. But as you now move into the book of **Judges**, you will see a cycle of degradation that begins in Israel and God raises up different judges/leaders to deal with it. **It's the last act in God's story until a king is chosen in 1 Samuel.**

Judges

Throughout **Judges**, you will see the phrase, "*there was no king in the land and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.*" There was no moral authority (a king) and you see the demise of a culture. They went through the cycle of **ABHOR sin, then ENDURE sin, then finally EMBRACE sin**, calling good/evil and evil/good (see **Isaiah 5:20**). **Where do you think we are as a nation in this spiral downward?** Most great nations of the world are destroyed from within, not without.

When the Israelites would fall into the hands of an enemy, they'd cry out to God and he'd raise up a judge.

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There were **12 in this book, with Samuel being the 13th and last one.** The historical timeline continues in God's Word.

- **Chapter 1:** The **conquest of Canaan continues**, but is not fully successful. The Canaanite culture still exists around them, one they will eventually start to borrow from and emulate.
- **Chapter 2:** Israel's demise starts to occur. Joshua dies without a successor. **God raises up judges to address the problems and deliver his people from different Canaanite enemies.**

Begin to see the biblical narrative unfold before you. The Bible is a story of salvation history. From Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Joseph to Moses to Joshua and now to the judges (with Samuel being the last judge). I hope you are enjoying the story. It keeps moving toward Jesus!! That's what the Bible is all about. It's a book about salvation through Jesus.