

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

This morning we are starting a new book, we are going to begin the book of Joshua.

Now, there are many churches today that don't bother to teach from the Old Testament –

**Their argument is that these books have no relevancy to the church today.**

Turn with me to 1 Cor 10, I believe that the scriptures are clear about this,

**[1Co 10:1-6, 11 NKJV] 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual**

Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for [their bodies] were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ... 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Paul also tells us in Timothy that All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

So yes the Old Testament is very relevant to the Christian walk.

Remember, the early church – the church of the book of Acts, all they had was the Old Testament.

My obligation as a pastor/teacher is to be able to proclaim to you like Paul did to the elders of Ephesus, in the book of Acts, that I have not shunned to declare to you the whole council of God.

We saw how relevant the book of Ruth was as we concluded it this past Wednesday night and my prayer is that the same thing will happen as we go through the Book of Joshua.

Let's pray...

**[Jos 1:1-9 NKJV] 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them--the children of Israel. 3 "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all**

the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 "No man shall [be able to] stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, [so] I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of

**good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God [is] with you wherever you go."**

Fourteen –

I want you to remember that number.

You see, fourteen in the number of days that it would normally take someone making the trek from Egypt into the Promised Land.

Fourteen days to move two million people into the Promised Land – that is how long it would have taken the Children of Israel - if they had placed their trust in the Almighty God who had just delivered them from the bondage of slavery down in Egypt.

They clearly saw the miracles of God as He sent the different plagues into Egypt.

Even during the Exodus, they saw the waters of the Red Sea rise up on either side as God cleared a path for them and they saw the same water come crashing down upon the entire Egyptian army.

They saw the manna rain down from heaven as God provided for them, just as He said He would.

And when they finally get to the edge of the Promised Land, the people decide to place their trust on the bad report of 10 of the 12 spies and they failed to enter the Promised Land.

There are giants in the land!!! – that is what they reported striking fear in the hearts of the people.

But God had already told them that He was giving them the land. All they had to do was take it.

**The consequences of their disobedience...**

The 14 days journey became a 40 year death march as an entire generation perished in the wilderness.

Every day, the Israelites buried their dead. An estimated 2 million people died in the wilderness.

14 days became 14,600 days.

They would average about 137 funerals every day for 40 years.

Only Joshua and Caleb emerged from that generation because they were the two spies that urged the people that they should indeed take the land.

So that is where we find ourselves here at the start of the book of Joshua.

Joshua is leading a new generation of Israelites and these Israelites have the same decision to make as the previous one – do we enter the Promised Land and possess the promises of God or do we continue to wander in the wilderness as a result of our disobedience.

Now, there are a lot of types or pictures in the book of Joshua.

The first one I want to talk about this morning is The Promised Land.

Some of us might have heard someone preach a message and say that that The Promised Land is a type of heaven.

Or maybe you heard it in a song.

One example is Swing Low Sweet Chariot

*I looked over Jordan, and what did I see*

*Coming for to carry me home?*

*A band of angels coming after me,*

*Coming for to carry me home.*

The problem with that is that The Promised Land is not a type of heaven.

Because we will see in the book of Joshua that as they enter the Promised Land, there are battles that have to be fought.

And the scriptures tell us that there will be **no battle or wars in heaven** (Isaiah 2:4)

The Promised Land is a type of the abundant life that Jesus has promised the believers.

**[Jhn 10:9-10 NKJV] 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that **they may have [it] more abundantly.****

### **What is an abundant life???**

- Abundant life isn't an especially long life.
- Abundant life isn't an easy, comfortable life.
- **Abundant life is a life of satisfaction and contentment in Jesus.**

It's the Spirit-filled life of walking in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Because as believers, Jesus Christ has delivered us from the bondage of sin – just like the Israelites were delivered from the bondage of slavery.

However, not every believer has made the decision to enter the Promised Land.

Some of us will make the 14 day trip and others will wander the wilderness for some time.

That is what the book of Joshua is all about.

It gives us example after example on how to obtain the abundant life that God intended us to have.

**[Jos 1:1-2 NKJV] 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this**

people, to the land which **I am giving to them**--the children of Israel.

So I defined one type already in the book of Joshua – that was the Promised Land.

Here are two more types in verse 1.

**Moses** – is a type of the law. And the law could only take the Children of Israel to the edge of the Jordan River.

Why? Because in Numbers 20, Moses disqualifies himself as he misrepresents God by striking the rock in front of the Children of Israel instead of speaking to it like God had instructed him to.

And because Moses did not reflect the heart and character of God before the people, because of his unbelief, God was going to raise someone else to finish the job. Joshua.

**Joshua** – is a type or a picture/shadow of Jesus. Joshua is the one who is going to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land in the same way that it is Jesus that leads us into the abundant life.

In fact, it is important to point out that Joshua wasn't even his given name.

**His given name was Hoshea** (Num 13:6) and it means "salvation".

And Moses changes his name to Joshua 10 verse later (Num 13:16) which means "Jehovah is salvation".

So Joshua and Jesus are the same name "Jehovah is Salvation".

Joshua, being the translation from Hebrew to English and Jesus, being the translation from Greek to English.

**Now, let's talk about the Death of Moses**

**[Deu 34:1-6 NKJV] 1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across**

from Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, 2 all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, 3 the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. 4 Then the LORD said to him, "This [is] the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see [it] with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." 5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. 6 And **He buried him** in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

Notice that God is the one that buried Moses when he died. And the reason is that God wanted to make sure that the children of Israel didn't start to worship Moses upon his death.

That is why it says that no one knows where his grave is...

So in verse 2, God commands Joshua to arise, to cross over and take possession of the land that He has already designated for them.

God is calling Joshua to action.

Notice that God says “I am giving” and not “I will give” everything has already been set aside for them to take possession of.

**[Jos 1:3 NKJV] 3 “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.**

We see the same promise made in verse three as we saw in verse two.

The promises are there for the taking.

You see church, to conquer the Promised Land, we need to walk it.

Learning to mature as a Christian, learning to obtain God's

promises - all of that requires a little footwork.

- We don't become a mature Christian without walking down some difficult roads. Trials and tribulations.
- We don't become a mature Christian without facing some enemies.
- We don't go to bed an immature Christian, and wake up the next morning having learned all the lessons we need to learn in life.

God doesn't just want us lying in bed dreaming of the Promised Land, He wants us to take it. He wants us to own it.

And this is only accomplished by walking in faith in God's will.

**[Jos 1:4-5 NKJV] 4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 "No man shall [be able to] stand**

**before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, [so] I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.**

In verse 4, God encourages Joshua by revealing to him the extents of the land that God has promised to the children of Israel.

All they have to do is take possession of it.

“I have given you the land already guys”

“It’s a done deal – now, it’s just a matter of how much of it you want.”

Even during the reign of King David and King Solomon, when they possessed the greatest amount of land, it was only a fraction to what God had promised them.

In verse 5, God encourages Joshua by telling him that no one is going to be able to stand against them.

Church, God makes the same promises to us.

**[Rom 8:31-39 NKJV] 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? [It is] God who justifies. 34 Who [is] he who condemns? [It is] Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any**

**other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

One of the things that Joshua is going to have to deal with is the unbelief of the people. That is what happened last time they were here on the shores of the Jordan River.

God wants to make sure that Joshua is aware the not only has the land already been given to them.

God wants to make sure that Joshua knows that as they take possession of the land, He is going to be right there every step of the way.

God does not abandon us – He is faithful. We are the ones who abandon Him.

**[Jos 1:6-7 NKJV] 6 "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very**

**courageous**, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

We see God command Joshua to be strong and of good courage.

We need to understand that this boldness that God is calling Joshua to have – is boldness in God, not in self.

Self-confidence will only lead us to ruins.

But a genuine God-confidence, will lead us in being obedient to His will.

That is why sometimes you hear me pray for God to give us the boldness to be able to share the gospel with nonbelievers.

This is not some sort of spiritual spinach that we are going to be given; the boldness is confidence in God that He will guide us through the process.

Not only is Joshua to have God-confidence, he is to make sure that he observes the law. He has to make a commitment to the word of God.

And we will see it throughout the book of Joshua, when Joshua and the children of Israel follow God's command, they are victorious.

However, when they stray from the commands of God, they encounter defeat. In fact, the only defeat that they suffer in the Promised Land is because they failed to adhere to the commands that God gives them.

And the same can be said about our Christian walk, our triumphs will be proportional on how we adhere to the Word of God.

**[Jos 1:8 NKJV] 8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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.**

Not only does God command Joshua to adhere to the Word of God, he is also supposed to meditate on it.

Notice, day and night – it doesn't say to meditate only on Sunday morning or Wed nights. Day and night.

Listen church, we cannot adhere to the word of God if we don't meditate on the Word of God.

Notice also that it says to do according to **all** that is written in it.

Not just the parts you like or the parts that you agree with. **All that is written in it.**

I've heard it say before that the Word of God is not like a buffet, we can't pick and choose what parts we want.

**[Jos 1:9 NKJV] 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God [is] with you wherever you go."**

God once again is encouraging Joshua. However, in verse 9, God is reminding Joshua that his success is not only going to be based solely on how much he adheres to the Word of God but more importantly on the presence of God in his life.

So how do we live a spirit filled life, a life of contentment in Christ.

- By taking the necessary steps of faith
- By having God-confidence / not confidence in self.
- By adhering and meditating on His word
- By allowing the presence of God in our daily lives

Each one of these four things, the previous generation failed to do.

And next week, we will start to see the Children of Israel take the first steps toward the Promised Land.

## Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that

You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins

and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my

personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

