

Joshua 1-2 – 1 July 2021

“The Beginnings Of True Faith”

Introduction

*The English is Joshua, the Hebrew is Yehoshua, the Greek is Jesus – The Lord is our salvation

*Joshua is a type of Jesus – a foreshadow/picture

*Joshua leads his people by faith into the Promised Land as Jesus leads us by faith into the victorious Christian life

*Land God is giving them is inhabited by Canaanites.

*Their evil lifestyle is best depicted in the Ras Shamra Tablets

*Prostitution of both sexes, infant sacrifice, & syncretism or merging many religions into one

*God has been warning them for >400 years to repent since the days of Abraham (Gen 15:16)

*Will Israel have faith and believe God?

*The prosperity Israel's future life will be directly proportional to how well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*B/c Joshua is a type of Jesus, we as Christians will gain many lessons by learning from their conquest of the Promised Land

*How to root out evil

*How to take possession of all God has for you

*How to walk in faith

*It's all about believing God that His way is best

***Today let's look at 3 attributes of true faith by on Joshua, the Israelites and Rahab the (former) harlot**

1st Attribute of true faith is that it's founded in God's presence, power & promises (Chap 1:1-9)

Read Chap 1:1-2

1. Here's the commissioning of Joshua
2. Moses wasn't essential to bring them into the promises of God, faith in God is!
3. God is simply looking for someone to follow His lead...by faith
4. The Lord is doing the giving
 - a. God is the initiator of all good things to us
 - b. Israel & we just have to believe and receive

Read Chap 1:3-4

1. Israel never did fully take the land...by faith
 - a. To the Euphrates was told to Abe (Gen 15)
 - b. They will during Millennium (Eze 47-48)
2. As with us, ownership of victory is ours but possession of it is conditional upon taking it
 - a. Don't be the one who stays in an unlocked dungeon

Read Chap 1:5

1. The substance of faith matters.
 - a. Confidence come from believing in a powerful God
2. Their faith & ours needs to be in God's declared promises
3. People say, "I believe in the power of prayer"
 - a. That's not enough to do ANYTHING
 - b. It's the God the prayers go to that matters
 - c. Someone called me distraught asking me to "do that thing I do". (Pray)
 - i. That "thing I do" is only effective b/c of the relationship I have w/ whom I'm talking to
 - d. "I have faith" (faith in what)
 - e. "I believe in the power of prayer" (Prayer to whom)
4. Don't put out a general call for 'prayer', put out a specific call to Jesus to help, save & prosper you

Read Chap 1:6

1. An element of faith is to be strong/courageous
2. God wouldn't have told Caleb this had he not needed courage
3. Faith to obey takes courage
4. *Faith is following God into His unseen promises* – Dan Shunk

Read Chap 1:7-9

1. For the 1st time that have God's written Word!
 - a. This is the true light that we all need
 - b. Winston Churchill quote – *“We reject w/ scorn all those learned & labored myths that Moses was but a legendary figure upon whom the priesthood & the people hung their essential social, moral & religious ordinances. We believe that the most scientific view, the most up-to-date & rational conception, will find its fullest satisfaction in taking the Bible story literally. We may be sure that all these things happened just as they are set out according to*

Holy Writ. We may believe that they happened to people not so very different from ourselves, & that the impressions those people received were faithfully recorded & have been transmitted across the centuries w/ far more accuracy than many of the telegraphed accounts we read of goings on of today. In the words of a forgotten work of Mr. Gladstone, we rest w/ assurance upon ‘The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture.’ Let men of science & learning expand their knowledge & probe w/ their researches, every detail of the records which have been preserved to us from those dim ages. All they will do is to fortify the grand simplicity & essential accuracy of these recorded truths which have so far lighted the pilgrimage of man.”

- c. Strength of faith is proportional to how well we know God from His Word
2. Israel now has the unchanging Law of God written down to be blessed by
 - a. This is the way to true prosperity

2nd Attribute of true faith is that it's grounded in God's character (Chap 1:10-18)

Read Chap 1:10-11

1. This is Joshua's commissioning of the people
2. Victuals is now vittles in West Virginia
3. Time has come to prepare to enter the land

Read Chap 1:12-15

1. This goes back to these tribes asking Moses and God to stay on the east side of Jordan
2. Their trust in God has prompted them to obey
3. Be like God and keep your promises

Read Chap 1:16-18

1. Believers will follow anyone assuming that that person is following the Lord
 - a. You don't have to be the most charismatic person in the room to share Christ w/ a friend
 - b. Our faith in God is what we want people to emulate – not our personality.

3rd Attribute of true faith is that it saves and brings new life (Chap 2)

Read Chap 2:1

1. Joshua sent 2 spies not 12 like Moses did
 - a. Evidently learning from the previous 12, 10 of which had not faith
 - b. I have a hunch that these 2 spies are the sons of Joshua & Caleb who were the only 2 faithful spies the first time around
 - c. Rahab will marry Salmon (Matt 1:5) & we know that Caleb has a son Salmon (I Chr 2:51)
2. 1st person to receive God's plan, by faith, was a harlot, a desperate sinful person.
 - a. I was a desperate sinful person when God found me.
 - b. She may have had a sinful past, but she'll have a life of faith in God in the future

Read Chap 2:2-3

1. These people have long heard of Israel coming and what God has been doing.
 - a. They've been under judgement for 400 yrs since Abraham
 - b. They clearly are given knowledge of God & a change to repent now w/ Israel at the door

Read Chap 2:4-7

1. Rahab lied. It's not complimented or excused.
2. What we know: She chose a path of serving and believing God, His people and His mission
 - a. Read Heb 11:31 – her faith is commended
 - b. D. Bonhoeffer – lied about hiding Jews
3. Could she have told the truth and trusted God to do a miracle? Yes
4. What's the intention of the commandments?
 - a. We mistakenly put evil with terms that are too broad (Jealousy – God is jealous)
 - b. Exp of murder, not killing, is to not hate

- c. Exp of Adultery, not sex, is to not lust after women that aren't yours
 - d. Exp of bearing false witness, not deception, is to not move contrary to God's plan or mission
5. When the laws of the state conflict w/ the revealed will of God, then we have no choice but to obey the command of God
- a. This isn't pragmatism
 - b. When faced w/ a world that's coming after God & His people to wipe them out, THEN, do extraordinary things to promote the knowledge of Jesus to the world
6. Is the Bible teaching that it's ok for her to lie?
- a. It's ok for her to deceive IN THIS SITUATION
 - i. Just as it is ok for a man to lust after HIS OWN WIFE
 - ii. Just as it's ok for the doctor to perform a lethal injection for a person on death row
7. Knowing there's an element of sin in all things, her faith in God's clearly revealed will was leading her way.

Read Chap 2:8-11

1. Here's the proof of Rahab's faith in God
2. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God
3. All Jericho heard the Word of the Lord, but only a small few believed
 - a. Don't tell me that God was evil for taking them out...they had time to repent & turn
 - b. Read James 2:25 – The proof of her faith in God's revealed Word is in her actions & new lifestyle

Read Chap 2:12-14

1. You're on God's side or the wrong side
 - a. Rahab is choosing God's side

Read Chap 2:15-22

1. You're either inside the door or you're out
 - a. Like Noah and the Ark
 - b. Like the Passover blood
 - c. There's no third option
2. The scarlet thread symbolized the blood

3. Like us, she pleads w/ others to come inside and be covered by the blood of Jesus
 - a. There's no other way to be saved

Read Chap 2:23-24

1. The power of God's Word – yet hardly any Canaanites repented and believed but Rahab
2. Rahab will go on and have quite a genealogy
3. Was one of these men her future husband Salmon, Caleb's son of the tribe of Judah?
 - a. We know she married a Salmon of the tribe of Judah and has a son named Boaz the rich
4. She may have started as a prostitute, but she becomes a part of an amazing inheritance
 - a. Not b/c her new family is rich
 - b. B/c her great grandson thru Boaz & Ruth is King David by which comes the Messiah Jesus
 - c. What a blessed woman...all b/c of her faith in Jehovah God!

Conclusion

So, we can learn from Joshua, Israel and Rahab's faith

1. True faith is founded in God's presence, power and promises

- a. There is a source of truth & righteousness & THAT is what we need to place our faith & trust in
- b. God had revealed His clear will to them, it's their job to trust and follow it

2. True faith is grounded in God's character

- a. Be like God and be trustworthy
- b. You become seen as trustworthy as you're seen following after God

3. True faith saves and brings new life

- a. Rahab didn't speak belief only, she helped God's people and God's plan
- b. True faith is effective and put in action