

Joshua 17-21 – 12 August 2021

“The Victorious Life Of Faith”

Introduction

*The theme of the Book of Joshua could be “*Will Israel have faith and believe God?*”

*The prosperity of Israel’s future life will be directly proportional to:

*How well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*How well they act on implementing God’s ways

*They’re here to “conquer the Promised Land” – We use this as an example of a Christian conquering all that God has for them...by faith.

*In Book of Joshua we’ve already seen the 2.5 tribes settle east of the Jordan (Reuben, Gad & ½ Manasseh) & Judah & Ephraim have settled in the land, but there are yet 7 tribes to settle

*As Israel finishes expanding through the whole Promised Land, we'll see the final principles of what God wants for their life to be victorious in faith!

***5 characteristics of the victorious believing life**

Chap 17 we see the other half of Manasseh settle

1st Principle of the victorious believing life is that it's available to all (Chap 17:1-11)

Read Chap 17:1

1. This was the part of Manasseh east of Jordan

Read Chap 17:2

1. These are the families of Manasseh settling west of the Jordan River in the Promised Land

Read Chap 17:3-4

1. This is the glorious reminder that everyone is welcomed into God's inheritance
 - a. They just have to take it by faith!

2. Zelophehad's daughters receive inheritance in their father's name
3. This is all detailed in Numbers 27...they simply have to married within their tribe so the land & inheritance stays puts
4. This is God's provision so that everyone can inherit, not just a male descendant
5. God's promises are yes and amen & are free for the taking...by faith believing
6. Go back & listen to our message from Num 27 for a special note about how this applies to Mary the mother of Jesus

(Don't Read) Chap 17:5-11

1. These verses describe the division of the land to Manasseh
2. Remember this is a blueprint in paragraphs
 - a. It's not meant to be *read like a story*, but to be *used like a map*

2nd Principle of the victorious believing life is that it satisfies the soul (Chap 17:12-18)

Read Chap 17:12-13

1. Now again we have the problem of not completing the job here
 - a. The heart of the problem isn't just disobedience but it's a lack of faith to believe!
2. Even when they got stronger & courageous, they didn't dispel Canaanites but just taxed them
 - a. Where is the heart to please God?

Read Chap 17:14-18

1. So Manasseh was discontent with their territory
 - a. What was wrong with the land? Nothing!
 - b. What was wrong with them? Lack of faith
2. Our obedience to God is a protection and provision for us, it's not a hinderance or burden
 - a. Keeping sexual union for marriage isn't a hinderance it's a protection & provision
 - b. If we'd simply obey God, we'd find a full, rich, satisfying life with all the land we need!!

3rd Principle of the victorious believing life is that it brings opportunities to mentor (Chap 18:1-19:51)

Read Chap 18:1-2

1. The Tabernacle
 - a. It's set up in Shiloh for 400 yrs til Samuel
 - b. Short time in Nob & Kirjath-Jearim, then David took it to Jerusalem
2. Reuben, Gad, Manasseh, Judah & Ephraim have settled their land
 - a. The remaining 7 tribes are here at Shiloh which is within the land of Ephraim
 - b. Joshua is of the tribe of Ephraim
 - c. There's a problem developing...the 7 Tribes are content to stay there!
3. Joshua is ready to settle into his own new house, but he has some mentoring to do first....

Read Chap 18:3-10

1. The remaining 7 tribes were happy to just dwell in Shiloh & Joshua had to kick them out
 - a. A bit like kicking out a 20-something-year-old son that you raised, that just wants to stay!
2. Notice he's not kicking them out cold turkey
 - a. They had time to prepare & expect this
 - b. Then Joshua worked w/ them to determine how and where to go
3. The goal is to raise up people that will become dependent on God, not stay dependent on us!
4. Remember the charge God gave Joshua in opening up this adventure (Read Jos 1:6-7)
 - a. Now Joshua is passing on the things he's learned to those that need to hear it.
5. Now for the rest of chapter 18 & 19 we see the map in paragraph form proving they were obedience to Joshua's mentorship

(Don't Read) 18:11-28

1. Benjamin inherits including Jericho & Bethel
2. Each one of these 7 will list the borders and then the cities within the borders

(Don't Read) 19:1-9 – Simeon inherits land including Beer-Sheba within Judah's territory

(Don't Read) 19:10-16 – Zebulun inherits including Megiddo

(Don't Read) 19:17-23 – Issachar inherits south of Sea of Galilee

(Don't Read) 19:24-31 – Asher inherits including Modern Haifa up to Tyre along the coast

(Don't Read) 19:32-39 – Naphtali inherits including Capernaum & Sea of Galilee

(Don't Read) 19:40-46

1. Dan inherits including the Philistine territory
2. Samson's father Manoah is from Zorah (vs 41) of the tribe of Dan (recorded in Jug 13)
3. Dan has a problem with the land God's giving

Read Chap 19:47-48

1. It was too little b/c they refused to take it from the Philistines
2. This rebellious move of the tribe of Dan to the far north is recorded in Jug 18 even after Samson
3. This is where the expression “from Dan to Beer-Sheva” comes from meaning from the north to the south
4. The Jordan River will get its name around 1000BC after the Danite move to the north
 - a. Jordan meaning ‘*descending from Dan*’

Read Chap 19:49-51

1. Joshua is now given a city in Ephraim
2. The leader is done mentoring and gets his land and settles it at last
3. A mentor is always pouring into others before taking for themselves
 - a. What a role-model Joshua is

4th Principle of the victorious believing life is that it brings justice and peace (Chap 20:1-9)

Read Chap 20:1-6

1. We dealt with this fully when God prescribes these cities in the Law of Moses in Numbers 35
2. Not a murderer, but a manslaughterer could flee to here & next of kin (avenger) could kill them until a trial is held
 - a. If Murderer – executed
 - b. If Innocent – can go home
 - c. If Manslaughterer – can stay to protection
3. Brought calm to chaos & brought ability to think it thru – let tempers calm down before acting
4. Brought justice & fairness to a hard situation – must have 2 or 3 witnesses at trial
 - a. Witnesses must agree b/c God is not the author of confusion but of peace

Read Chap 20:7-9

1. 6 cities by name (3 on east & 3 in west)

5th Principle of the victorious believing life is that it continues to grow (Chap 21:1-45)

Read Chap 21:1-3

1. Interesting that these 48 cities were first given to the tribes so they could give back to the Lord thru the Levities
2. What's the point of giving to the tribe if they're just going to give it away?
 - a. Principle of tithing 1/10 of what we receive
 - b. What do we have that we've not 1st been given?
3. We'll always have new chances to grow in faithfulness and dedication to God

(Don't Read) Chap 21:4-40

1. 48 cities given to the Levites from all over

Read Chap 21:41-42

1. Thus the work of settling the land is complete
2. Now there are teachers of the Law, the Levites all over the land to help them grow & learn

Read Chap 21:43-45

1. God had fulfilled His part & plan, but it's still up to them to continue to take it until it's ALL theirs
2. All that God has offered is there for the taking, but we have to play the role of faith & obedience

Conclusion

So in the conquest of the Promised Land, we see the principles of a victorious believing life

1. It's available to all

- a. No one is beyond receiving God's blessings if they would only come to Him in belief

2. It satisfies the soul

- a. A life dedicated to God will have its needs met and its purposes full

3. It brings opportunities to mentor

- a. There's always someone around us that needs a good example from us, a hand up & a kick in the pants to get right

4. It brings justice and peace

- a. What doth the Lord require of us, but to do justly, love mercy and to walk humbly w/ God

5. It continues to grow

- a. There's always more to learn & experience about our gracious Heavenly Father