

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD
**FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD, HE IS GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE,
AND IN EARTH BENEATH**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.
SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 14, 2022
SCRIPTURE READING: **JOSHUA 2:11-24**

Joshua 2:11, *And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Joshua is a book that speaks of Israel in conflict and conquest.
- b. Joshua is the author of this book; however, some of the elders who outlived Joshua added portions to the book after his death. This is found in **Joshua 24:31, *And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the Lord, that he had done for Israel.***
- c. It is widely believed among Bible scholars that Joshua's son, Phinehas, finished the last five verses of this book.
- d. **Joshua** was written between 1410 and 1350 B.C. It was written primarily to the Israelites, but there is also application for the Church.
- e. The **Book of Joshua** completes the redemption of Israel that began in the **Book of Exodus**.
- f. **Exodus** is the book of redemption out of Egypt. **Joshua** is the book of redemption into the Promised Land.
- g. A key word in the **Book of Joshua** is possession.
- h. God had given the land to Israel in an unconditional covenant. He said to Abraham in **Genesis 17:8, *And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.***
- i. The land was given unconditionally, but the possession of the land was conditional. **Leviticus 20:24, *But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people.*** **Deuteronomy 7:7-8, *The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.***
- j. There was conflict and conquest in Israel's fight to lay hold of their possession of the land God had given them.
- k. Joshua reminds us of something very key in his final message before his death. This key was their obedience to the word of God would determine their continued possession of the Promised Land. This gives us some insight into the reason why there are so many problems in Israel today.
- l. Joshua was the successor to Moses. His commission was given to him by God in **Joshua 1:1-7** and it says, ***Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2: Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3: Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4: From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the***

river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. **5: There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6: Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. 7: Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest. With this charge, Joshua became a great General.**

- m. Joshua's background shows he was born a slave in Egypt. He was about forty years old at the time of the Exodus from Egypt.
- n. He was eighty when he received the commission as Moses' successor. He was one hundred ten years old at his death.
- o. Joshua had gained prominence during the wilderness wandering. He was one of two spies sent to check out the land that was promised to Israel. It was Joshua and Caleb who came back with a positive report. **Numbers 13:27, And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Numbers 13:30, And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.**
- p. As a result of their positive report, they were the only two who were allowed to enter the Promised Land. The rest of that generation passed away before they could see the Promised Land.
- q. Joshua was "a type" of the Lord Jesus Christ. His name means "Jehovah Saves." He was a man of courage. His dependence was upon God. His faith, leadership, enthusiasm, and fidelity emanated from the very Throne of God.
- r. Joshua shows us that a man of average ability can become a great leader for God. **1 Corinthians 1:26, For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:**
- s. He also shows us that age is no barrier. As we get older, we should have more wisdom to do things in a more practical way. Retirement is not a part of God's program. **Psalm 92:14, They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;**
- t. Since we hear so much about the Promised Land, I want to give you a few facts.
 - 1. The Promised Land cannot be a type of Heaven since Heaven is not a place of conflict and conquest.
 - 2. Heaven is received as a gift by the grace of God. **Romans 3:22, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**
 - 3. Our Promise Land represents the place to which believers are brought into this world after salvation. **Psalms 23:1-6, The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**
- u. The **Book of Joshua** corresponds to the **Epistle to the Ephesians** in the New Testament where the believer is blessed with spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 1:3, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**
- v. **A complete yielded life will minimize conflict and conquest.** When we have a complete yielded life to the Holy Spirit and not attempt to do things in the flesh, God will provide a positive Promised Land experience for every believer today. **Romans 8:8, So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**
- w. Some key themes in the **Book of Joshua** are:
 - 1. Our greatest asset is not our physical ability or cleverness; it is our faith in God's ability to overcome on our behalf.
 - 2. Victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His Word.
 - 3. **Sin must be dealt with at once, because it brings severe consequences.**
 - 4. God is always true to His promises.

5. All things are possible if we have faith in God who made all things.
6. It is our responsibility to be obedient and faithful to the covenant of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
7. God punishes sinful nations as well as sinful individuals.
- x. With this Background, let's see what God wants to teach us from the **Book of Joshua**.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the August 14, 2022 Morning Message for the Introduction.

3. SIX POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

h. For the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

1. **Joshua 2:11, And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**
2. I truly believe this is Rahab's conversion.
3. She now recognizes the fact God is the God of Heaven and Earth.
4. When we come to know God is in Heaven and Earth, and controls everything, and we are willing to turn to Him, and put our faith and trust in Him for salvation, we can truly be saved. **1 Thessalonians 1:9, For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; Hebrews 11:6, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
5. There are many people who know historical facts about the Lord Jesus, but they have fallen short of believing that the death, burial and the resurrection is for them. They fail to realize that their sins must be covered by the blood of Christ.
6. Not everyone will be saved; there will be a lot of good people who will lift up their eyes in hell. **Matthew 7:21-23, Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**
7. You and I know there is a plan of salvation that God has devised and by trusting in Him as our personal Saviour, just as this harlot Rahab, places us in a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**
8. She indicates that the climate and temperature of the community was their hearts did melt.
9. Notice she says **"for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."**
10. What a statement from Rahab who had once been a harlot.
11. At this point, all of her sins past, present and future have been forgiven and she prays to spare the life of her and her family. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

i. I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord.

1. **Joshua 2:12, Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:**
2. This woman is beginning to ask for favour now that she knows Christ as her Saviour.
3. She wants them to give her a true token.
4. When we start looking at this true token, I believe it is provided for her in **Joshua 2:18, Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.**
5. Her prayers are answered, providing she obeys and follows instructions.
6. In order to get answers to our prayers we must be specific and obedient. **1 John 5:14-15, And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

- j. **And that ye will save alive my father and my mother and my brethren and my sisters.**
1. **Joshua 2:13, And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.**
 2. The request that is put forth by Rahab is plain and clear as to what she expects.
 3. She is looking for an answer; this is the reason why she put her life in jeopardy to protect the spies.
 4. Notice the order: she heard, she believed and then she acted upon her belief. **Hebrews 11:13, These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**
 5. There is no question that this is salvation in its greatest terms.
 6. My friend, when you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you must believe the historical facts about Jesus and turn to Him and trust Him as personal Saviour. We must remember this is a personal salvation. **John 1:12, But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**
 7. **When this happens our faith will save us. Romans 14:23, And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**
 8. The Bible says in **Romans 10:17, So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
 9. It is not by the law; God is very emphatic that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. **Romans 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**
 10. Not only is He the end of the law, but if we are saved by the law then Christ is dead in vain. **Galatians 2:21, I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**
 11. This woman knew the Living Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father.
- k. **And the men answered her, Our life for yours.**
1. **Joshua 2:14, And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.**
 2. This woman has received the assurance from the spies that they would spare her family.
 3. It reminds me of the children of Israel as they were coming out Egypt and the last plague was the death of the firstborn.
 4. The instruction was to place the blood on their door post and lintels. **Exodus 12:22, And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.**
 5. God said when He saw the blood, He would pass over them. **Exodus 12:13, And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.**
 6. Rahab, having the assurance of her salvation and the true token she asked for notice the specific instructions.
- l. **Thou shalt bind this line of thread in the window which thou didst let us down by.**
1. **Joshua 2:18, Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by; and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.**
 2. There was only one home that was going to be protected.
 3. Had not her father, mother, brothers and sisters come unto her home they would have not been spared.
 4. Failure to trust Christ as personal Saviour in this life, one will not go to Heaven although they possess good moral character. **Titus 3:5, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**
 5. Rahab lived on the wall; letting the guards down, she was to use the same scarlet thread she used before.
 6. **This thread represents Jesus Christ and our salvation.**

7. **It is a prefigure of what Christ has done for us on the cross in shedding His blood.**
8. The whole city could have been spared if they had just turned and believed God.
9. My friend, we must believe God and follow His specific instructions.
10. We must have the Preserved Word of God; we must find out what He says and do what He says.
11. We have no authority to change one jot nor tittle from His Word. **Matthew 5:18, For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Deuteronomy 4:2, Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.**
12. **Joshua 2:23, So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them:**
13. I believe this was an accurate report as to how God had led them to the house of Rahab, how she had kindly taken care of them, how all of the country was upset because Israel was on the way.
14. These men did follow the instructions of this woman when she told them to hide for three days in the mount until the pursuers had returned.
15. Now Joshua is getting a detailed report of everything that had happened.

m. Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land.

1. **Joshua 2:24, And they said unto Joshua, Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.**
2. Notice they had not even crossed the Jordan yet.
3. When God wills something to be done it's already done. **Romans 4:17, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**
4. Seven hundred years before the prophet Isaiah predicted the Lord Jesus Christ would be born of a virgin; indeed, He was born of a virgin. **Isaiah 7:14, Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**
5. What God had told us will actually come to pass.
6. God is not slack concerning his promise. **2 Peter 3:9, The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**
7. We praise the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; we also praise God for saving us.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, do you know Christ as your personal Saviour?
- b. Regardless of the type of business you have been in before or how your business practices were, when you come to know Christ as Saviour, past sins, present sins and future sins are totally under the blood of Christ.
- c. Remember, God does not regulate the lives of unbelievers.
- d. **Matthew 11:28-29, Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**
- e. **Revelation 3:20, Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**
- f. The Bible places sin in its proper perspective.
- g. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- h. **Romans 3:12, They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**
- i. We must be clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- j. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- k. This is a remarkable testimony of a lady in the business of prostitution to the genealogy of Jesus Christ and will be at the marriage supper of the Lamb as Jesus sits on the throne to rule and reign for

a thousand years.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God
You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here,
It's because we're a family and these are so near;
When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.
From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King,
No longer an outcast,
a new song I sing;
From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong,
I'm not worthy to be here, but PRAISE GOD! I belong!

- l. What an awesome God we serve!
- m. Please stand.

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