



My Drift

Title: Bible – The Book of Joshua

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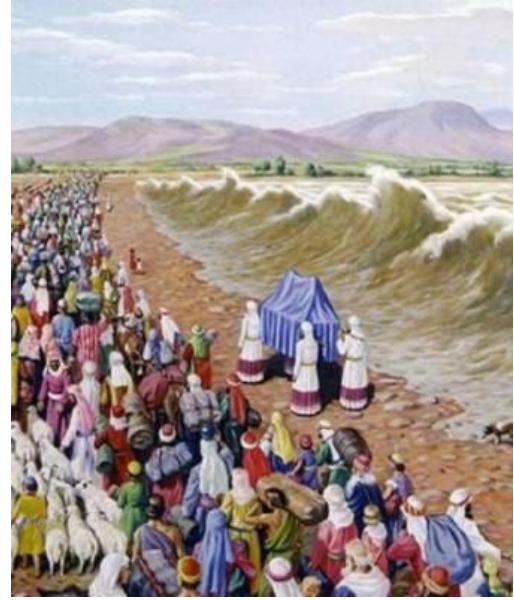
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Book of Joshua Summary

After the death of Moses, God calls on Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River and take possession of the promised land. God guarantees victory in the military campaign and vows never to leave the Israelites so long as they obey his laws. The people swear their allegiance to Joshua, and he sends two spies across the river to investigate the territory. The men enter Jericho, where a prostitute named Rahab hides them in her home and lies to the city officials regarding the spies' presence. Rahab tells the spies that the Canaanites are afraid of Israel and its miraculous successes. Professing belief in the God of the Israelites, she asks for protection for her family when the Israelites destroy Jericho. The spies pledge to preserve Rahab and return to Joshua, telling him of the weakened condition of Israel's enemies.

The Israelites cross the Jordan River, led by a team of priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. As the priests enter the water, reminiscent of the Red Sea some forty years earlier, the Jordan River miraculously parts and they are able to cross over on dry ground. Arriving on the other side, the Israelites commemorate the miracle with an altar of twelve stones from the riverbed (representing the twelve tribes of Israel).



Priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant enter the Jordan River and the flow stops for the Israelites to cross on dry land.



Altar of Twelve Stones

The people begin to eat the produce of the new land—thus halting the daily supply of manna—and the Israelite men perform the ritual of circumcision in preparation for battle.

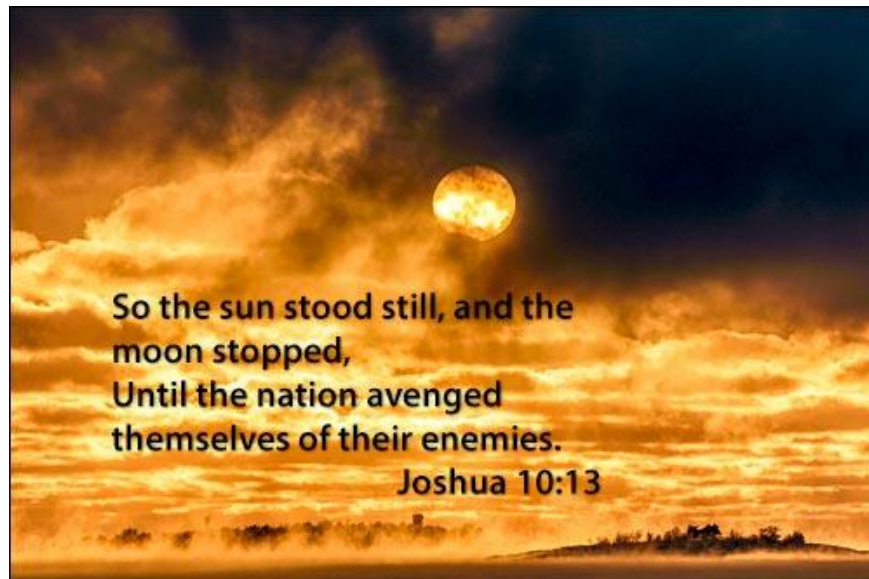
Approaching Jericho, Joshua encounters a mysterious man who explains that he is the commander of God's army but that he is neither for nor against Israel. Joshua pays homage to the man and passes on. Following divine instructions, Joshua leads the Israelites in carrying the Ark around Jericho for six days. On the seventh day, the Israelites march around the city seven times. Joshua rallies them to conquer the city and kill everyone except for Rahab. They are to refrain

from taking any of the city's religious items. At the sound of the Israelite war cry, the walls of Jericho collapse, and the Israelites destroy the city and its inhabitants.



The Walls of Jericho Fall

Joshua's fame spreads throughout the land, but the Israelites are humiliated in their attempts to take the next city, Ai. God attributes the disaster to the disobedience of Achan, an Israelite who has stolen religious items from Jericho. After the people stone Achan, the renewed attempt against Ai is successful as Joshua masterminds an elaborate ambush against the city's forces. The Israelites celebrate by erecting an altar to God and publicly reaffirming their commitment to God's law.



Fearful of the marauding Israelites, the people of Gibeon visit the Israelite camp in disguise, claiming to be travelers in the land and requesting peace with Israel. Joshua does not inquire with God and makes a hasty treaty with the men, only to discover later that the Gibeonites are natives of the land to be conquered. The Israelites refrain from attacking the city, but five other local kings attack Gibeon for making peace with Israel. The Israelites come to Gibeon's aid and destroy the five armies. Joshua helps by commanding God to make the sun stand still during the fight. God listens and stops the sun's movement—the only time in history, we are told, when God obeys a human.

The Israelites continue to destroy the southern and northern cities of Canaan, killing all living inhabitants, as God has stipulated. While much of the promised land still remained to be conquered, the people of Israel begin to settle in the land, dividing it amongst the twelve tribes. After God gives Israel rest from its enemies for many years, an ailing Joshua makes a farewell pronouncement to the nation of Israel. Joshua goads the Israelites to be strong and to obey all of God's laws, throwing away any idols and refraining from intermarriage with the native people. The people assure Joshua they will be faithful to the covenant, but Joshua reluctantly accepts this assurance, worried that obedience for Israel will prove quite difficult.

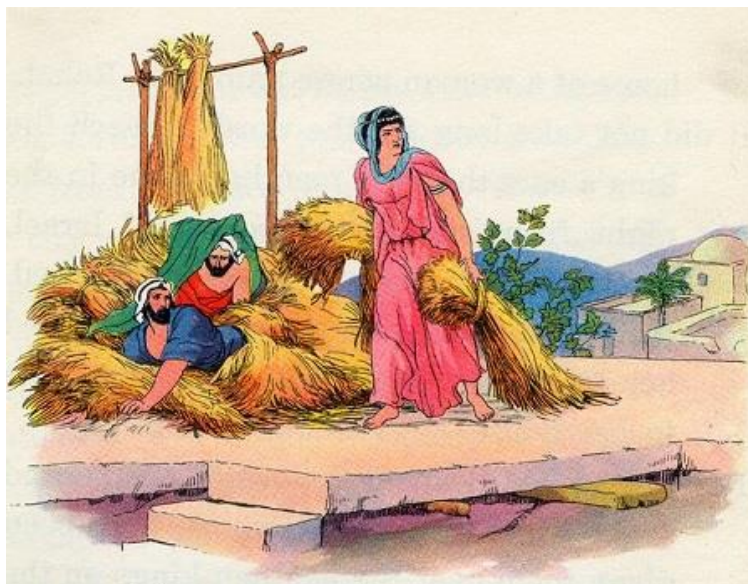


Chapter-by-Chapter Summary of Joshua

The book of Joshua has 24 chapters. Chapters 1-12 recount the conquest of the land, chapters 13-21 recount the partition of the land, chapter 22 describes a near-civil war, and chapters 23-24 describe Joshua's final days.

Joshua 1: God orders Joshua to cross the Jordan River in order to conquer the land. Joshua informs the people and reminds the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Half Manasseh about their commitment to cross over with the rest of the nation.

Joshua 2: Joshua sends scouts to Jericho and Rahab saves them from the king. The scouts vow to save Rahab and her family when they return to conquer the land.



Rahab hides the two spies in a pile of straw.

Joshua 3: God promises to exalt Joshua in the eyes of the people. The Jordan River is halted, and the people cross on dry land.

Joshua 4: Twelve stones from the Jordan are set up at Gilgal as a remembrance for the miraculous crossing of the Jordan. Joshua also sets up twelve stones within the Jordan itself.

Joshua 5: The Israelites are circumcised at the hill of foreskins, which is renamed Gilgal. The people celebrate Passover and Joshua is approached by the general of God's army.

Joshua 6: Joshua carries out God's plan and destroys the city of Jericho.

Joshua 7: The Israelites are defeated at Ai because the herem (God's rules) of Jericho is violated. Achan admits his guilt and he and his entire family are stoned to death.



Achan Stoning

Joshua 8: The Israelites ambush Ai and kill its 12,000 inhabitants. Joshua recites Moses' teaching of blessings and curses upon Mount Ebal.

Joshua 9: The Gibeonites dress in costume and trick the Israelites into a peace treaty. The Israelites consequently force the Gibeonites to do degrading labor.

Joshua 10: Joshua protects Gibeon from the Amorites, stops the sun and moon, and conquers the land.

Joshua 11: Joshua defeats the local kings who rally against him and conquers the land.

Joshua 12: The kingdoms that Moses conquered east of the Jordan and that Joshua conquered west of the Jordan are listed.

Joshua 13: God tells Joshua, who has grown old, to apportion the land west of the Jordan to the Israelite tribes. The land that Moses apportioned east of the Jordan is described.

Joshua 14: Joshua grants Caleb the city of Hebron, just as Moses promised.

Joshua 15: The boundaries and cities of Judah's territory are enumerated. Caleb conquers his land and gives his daughter Achsah in marriage to Othniel.

Joshua 16: Ephraim is allotted its portion but is unable to dispossess the Canaanites from Gezer.

Joshua 17: The sons and daughters of Manasseh are given their portion but cannot dispossess the Canaanites. When they ask for more land, Joshua tells them to clear the forests and conquer the Canaanites in the valleys.

Joshua 18: Joshua sends scouts to explore and divide the land into seven portions for the remaining seven tribes. Benjamin is allotted its portion of land.

Joshua 19: Joshua allots territories of land to Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan. Joshua is given the town (Timnath-serah) he requests in the territory of Ephraim.

Joshua 20: In accordance with God's command, the people designate six cities of refuge for those who kill by mistake.

Joshua 21: The Levites are given forty-eight cities from the territories of the twelve tribes. The conquest and settlement of the land comes to an end.

Joshua 22: Joshua sends the Transjordanian tribes home and they make an altar along the way. This enrages the Cisjordanian tribes. War is averted when the Transjordanians explain that their "altar" is actually a memorial that is not meant for sacrifice.

Joshua 23: Joshua gathers the people in his old age, praises God for conquering the land, and warns that intermarriage and idolatry will cause calamity.

Joshua 24: Joshua recounts the history of Israel, convinces the people to commit to God, and sets up a stone as a witness. Joshua dies and is buried in Ephraim.



Death of Joshua

God's three biggest miracles in the Book of Joshua – Bible verses

Joshua 3:1–17

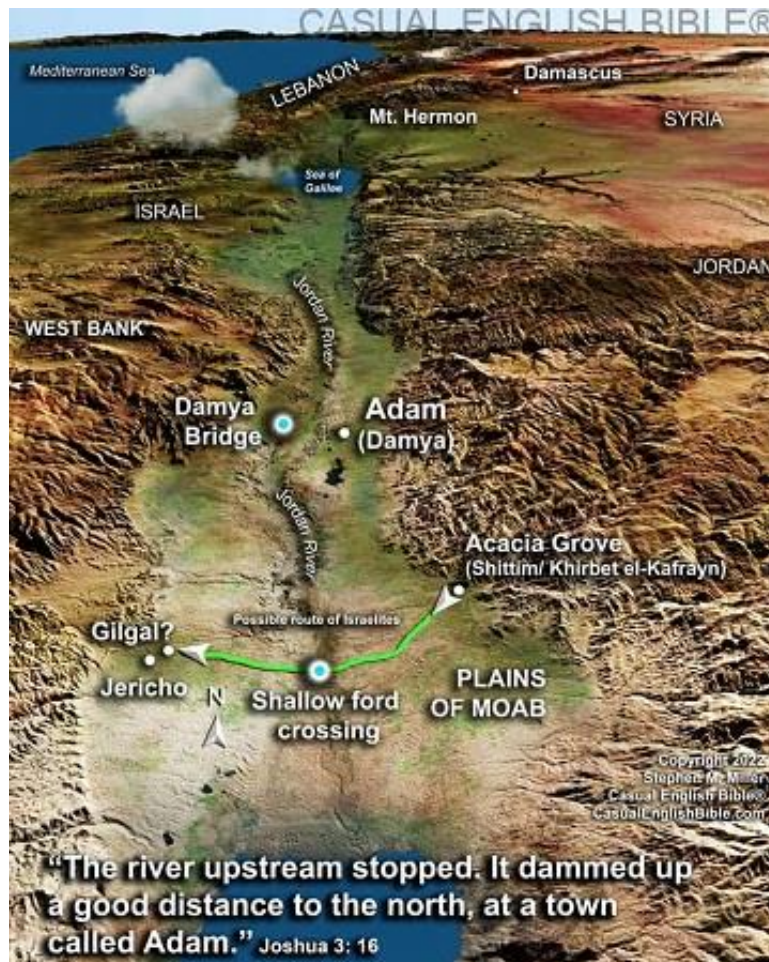
Israel Crosses the Jordan

3 Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. **2** At the end of three days the officers went through the camp **3** and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. **4** Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.” **5** Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” **6** And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So, they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

7 The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **8** And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’ ” **9** And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” **10** And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. **11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. **12** Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe a man. **13** And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”

14 So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, **15** and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water, **16** the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah,

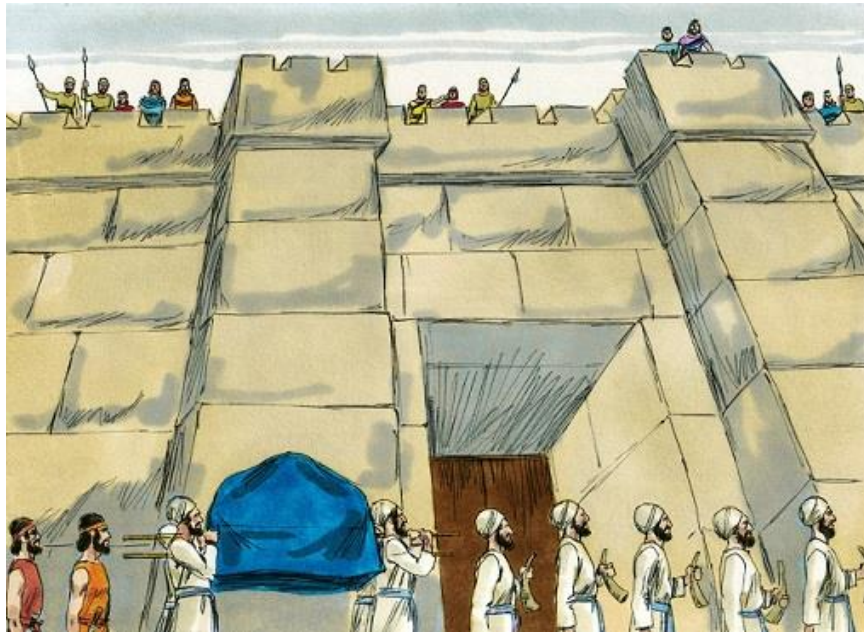
the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.



Joshua 6:1–27 The Fall of Jericho

6 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. **2** And the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. **3** You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus, shall you do for six days. **4** Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. **5** And when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the

people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat,¹ and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.” ⁶ So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord.” ⁷ And he said to the people, “Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord.”



The Battle of Jericho

⁸ And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the Lord went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. ⁹ The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. ¹⁰ But Joshua commanded the people, “You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.” ¹¹ So he caused the ark of the Lord to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

¹² Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. ¹³ And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets blew continually. ¹⁴ And the

second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So, they did for six days.

15 On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. **16** And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. **17** And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live because she hid the messengers whom we sent. **18** But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them, you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. **19** But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.” **20** So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. **21** Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

22 But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.” **23** So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. **24** And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. **25** But Rahab the prostitute and her father’s household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

26 Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, “Cursed before the Lord be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. “At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates.”

27 So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Joshua 10:1–15
The Sun Stands Still

10 Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed[a] it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. **2** He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters. **3** So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. **4** “Come up and help me attack Gibeon,” he said, “because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.”

5 Then the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it.

6 The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.”

7 So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. **8** The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.”



Joshua tells God to make the Sun Stand Still

9 After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. 10 The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. 11 As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

12 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

**“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”**

**13 So the sun stood still,
and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies,
as it is written in the Book of Jashar.**

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. 14 There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!

15 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

Violence in the Book of Joshua

Did God command Joshua to ‘utterly destroy’ the Canaanites?

How could a good God command someone to “utterly destroy” every person?

The problem of violence in the Old Testament doesn’t involve what we’d call mere criminality. The real problem is divinely sanctioned, divinely commanded violence, and particularly, the commands to annihilate the inhabitants of Canaan. These sound to our modern ears like ethnic cleansing and genocide.

For example, in the fall of Jericho, God’s will is acted through Joshua’s army, where men are tasked to kill all men, women, children and animals.

Many people reading the Bible (like me) wonder why God commanded Joshua to commit these violence acts. It is certainly worth asking, why did God not only allow, but sanction, command, and participate in this warfare?

The following information might help explain:



The Book of Joshua is the story of how God brought the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the land God promised to them way back in the time of their ancestor Abraham. However, in order for the Israelites to inhabit the Promised Land, they needed to first conquer the people who lived there (the Canaanites) in battle. So, the Book of Joshua is mostly about war and violence.

Joshua is even different from most of the other books of the Old Testament that contain violence because so much of the violence in those books are merely accounts of the Israelites defending themselves in war. But here, in Joshua, it looks like God is indeed the Commander and Chief behind the violence.

Here are a few reasons why we see the existence of so much violence in Joshua:

THE JUSTICE OF GOD HAS FINALLY COME ON THE CANAANITES

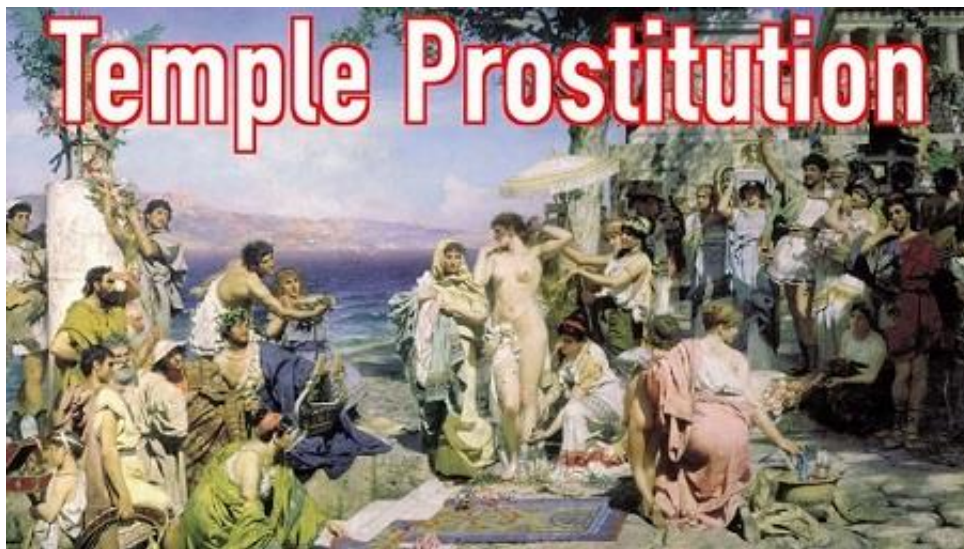
But first remember the culture and time period you are living in affects how you interpret the violence in the bible. Even today, not everybody around the world thinks like us 21st century Americans. We all bring our own cultural assumptions and presuppositions to the Bible.

It's fairly easy to question God...because our culture loves love, and we strongly dislike any talk of "judgment for sin". However, the Bible says that God is a just judge, and that there are consequences for sin. It makes sense when you think about it... If God were a god that simply looked upon the great evils of this world and did nothing about it, that's not a God you would respect or want to worship.

So, at times, God does bring his justice upon us...even while we still live on earth!

And before you dismiss God for bringing justice to the Canaanites, you need to know that the Canaanites, which is the broad name for the tribes who lived in the Promised Land (or the land of Canaan), were not like the sweet grandma that lives next door to you.

God tells the Israelites that the Canaanites are so evil, so depraved, that they were currently engaging in all sorts of sexual sin. Incest, bestiality, child abuse, child sacrifice, temple prostitution. On top of that they were incredibly barbaric and cruel.



And so, the justice of God, came down onto the Canaanites for their outrageous sin.

Also, remember, “God’s justice and forgiveness always go together”. It was not God’s desire to destroy the Canaanites. He would of course rather they turn from their sin and worship Him. And not only was there a way out for them, but God was also unbelievably patient in bringing his justice.

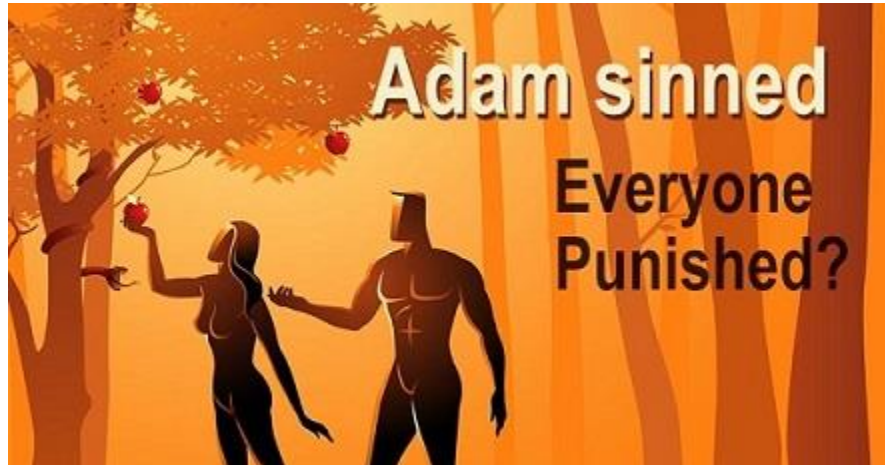
Remember 400 years earlier when God made the original promise to Abraham about his future descendants (the Israelites) living in the Promised Land. The Canaanites had more than 400 years to get it together and repent.

God was patient in bringing his justice...for hundreds and hundreds of years. “No, the question is not Why was God so violent?” but “Why was God so patient? So slow to bring justice?”

NO ONE IS INNOCENT AND WE ALL DIE

Part of the reason we bristle so much at the violence done in Joshua is because we want to say, “What about the innocent people?”

The Bible teaches that we are all born sinners with sinful, selfish natures. Unless we are born again by the Spirit of God, we will never see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). And so, there are no “innocent people.” Not even the Israelites.



Since the fall of Adam and Eve on the opening pages of the Bible, we’ve all been sinful. And part of the curse (or result) of that sin, is that we will all die. The Bible tells us that God gives life and He takes it away. And as our Creator, He has the right to do that.

God, in His infinite wisdom, has ordained a time and place for everyone on earth to die. And whether it’s when you’re 30 or 90, God is still within His right (as your Creator) to take your life.

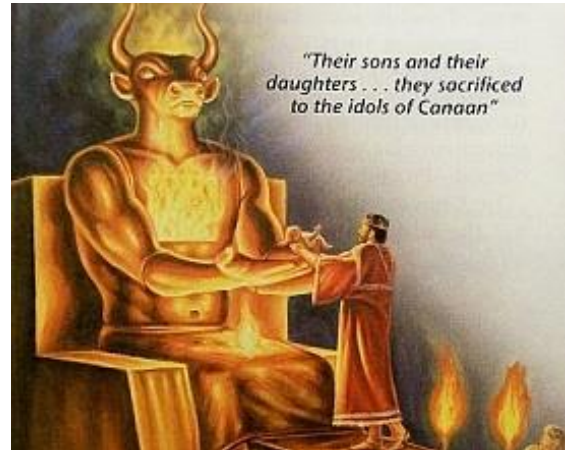
Remember, biblically, yes, your body will die, but you, as a soul and spirit, will not die. You will just transition to either hell or heaven.

IF JUSTICE DOESN’T COME, THE CANAANITES WILL CORRUPT THE ISRAELITES

This is a major reason God had decided to finally bring justice on the Canaanites. God was very concerned that if their culture remained, it would spread to Israel, corrupt it, and the Israelites would turn away from God.

He warns them of that even! You must not worship the Lord your God in their way, because in worshipping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

And so, the conquering of the Canaanites, in many ways, was more about ending their religious and cultural practices than it was about ending the people.

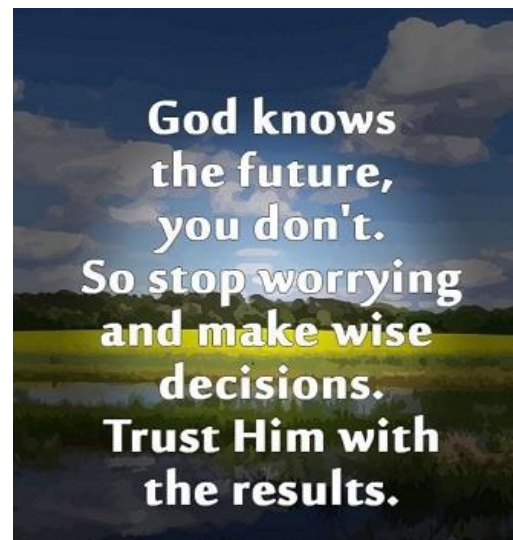


And in truth, the Israelites only completely conquer a select number of cities; the rest of the Canaanites are driven out of the land.

GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE

God knew exactly what the results would be for the future if the Israelites didn't begin to drive out the Canaanites from the Promised Land. Who knows what might have happened to that region over time if the vile wickedness of the Canaanites would have spread even further?

But even if we can accept judgement for the sins of these Canaanite adults, I think one of our main obstacles that causes us to ask today's question is: "But what about the children though? Children were killed!"



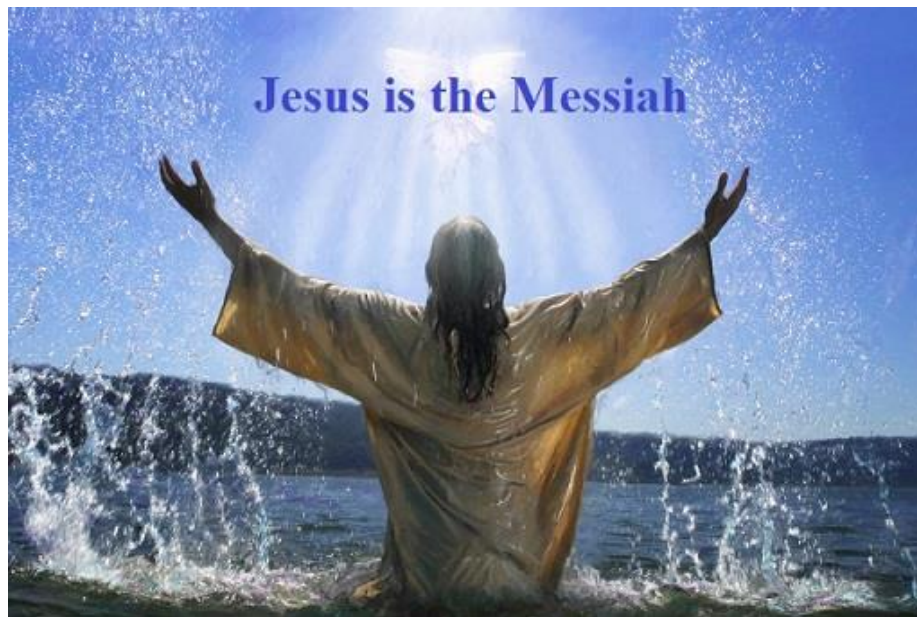
First of all, we know that many of the Canaanites fled and were not killed. This is particularly true of their children, and we know that in part because in the next book of the Bible (Judges), those Canaanite children who escaped have now grown up and are literally killing the Israelites.

And we also know that many of these places the Israelites were attacking were military outposts where there either were not children living, and if there were women and children there, they probably would have fled anyway. Remember, in war, civilians usually just don't wait around to be killed (think of how many fled Ukraine as Russian began the invasion).

But certainly some children were killed. Why?? Keep in mind that God is outside of time. So, God knows what these children will be when they grow up. We see a child, but God sees their entire hypothetical future.

FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD, IT'S CRITICAL THAT THE JEWS BE PRESERVED IN THE PROMISED LAND

He has already promised this land to Abraham and his descendants...the Israelites ("specifically, a subset of them, what we know today as the Jews).



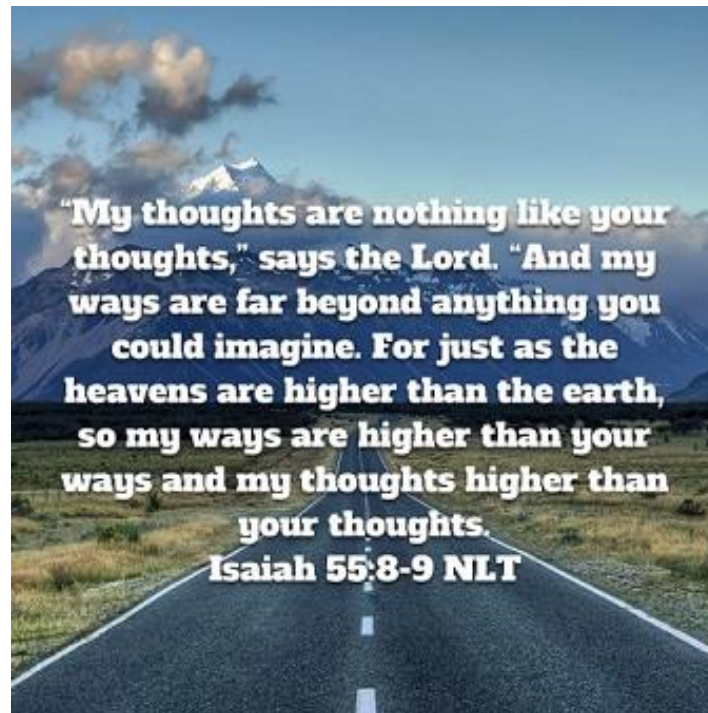
Messiah comes from the Hebrew word, Mashiach, meaning "the anointed one," or "the chosen one."

God has already made promises that the Messiah will come from this specific bloodline, and so God must, over a period of 1,400 years from Joshua to Jesus, preserve this group of people.

Which is actually even more remarkable than you may think. It is one of the main reasons that the Jews still exist today. Do you know any Canaanites? Hittites? Amorites? Philistines? You don't. Because distinct ancient people groups don't last for thousands of years.

And yet, here we have a group of people, with the same beliefs, still in the same land because God had to preserve them for the coming of Jesus.

GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER



God's infinite thoughts are far greater than our limited ability to comprehend them.

There will be many times in life that we won't understand what God is doing. That's true both as individuals and societies. Whenever tragedies occur, inevitably, people begin to ask, "Why didn't God stop September 11th? Where was God in the last mass shooting?" And society is quick to accuse God for, what we presume, is His inaction.

But think about this. What are people saying they want? For God to stop it!

But how would He stop a mass shooting? End the life of a mass shooter early before he does anything bad?

Or how about stop 9/11? He would find a way to take the life and kill the terrorists?

But God didn't do that in those situations, so people accuse God of being immoral for not stepping in! But think about it: When God does step in (like

taking out one of the most wicked cultures to ever exist...the Canaanites) ...we then accuse God of being too violent!

At some point, we just have to trust that God knows better. Whether He chooses to intervene, or not to intervene, we have to trust that He knows better. His ways, and His wisdom is so much higher than ours.

Comment: Well, I'm surely not going to argue with God but from my reading and research, I cannot find any good reason for God to order Joshua (Josh 6:21) to kill the animals. Can you? I hope the animals or at least most of them were saved.

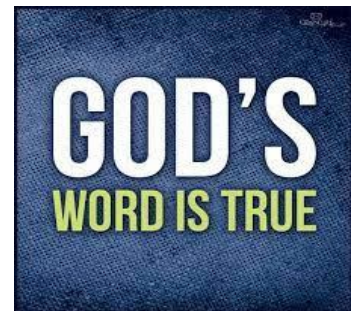


What Lessons did we Learn?

The Book of Joshua teaches us many things. Here are some of the main ones:

1. God is faithful to His promises

God is faithful to His promises. He will fulfill them however long it may take. In chapter 1 we read God's command to Joshua to go and take the land that He had promised to their ancestors, and He also promises that He will be with Joshua wherever he goes.



2. God is merciful

God is merciful to all who turn to him for help. Chapter 2 covers the story of a prostitute named Rahab who hid and protected two Israelite spies. Rahab had heard of the God of Israel and His power and asked that God would show mercy to her and her family. God honored her faith and she and her family were saved.

3. God is our commander and leader

God is our commander and leader. In chapter 5, Joshua met with the commander of the LORD's army, (God Himself in the form of a soldier). He told Joshua that He would lead them into victory. He is also the one who leads us, guides, and protects us. We must obey him just as soldiers in an army obey their commanding officers.

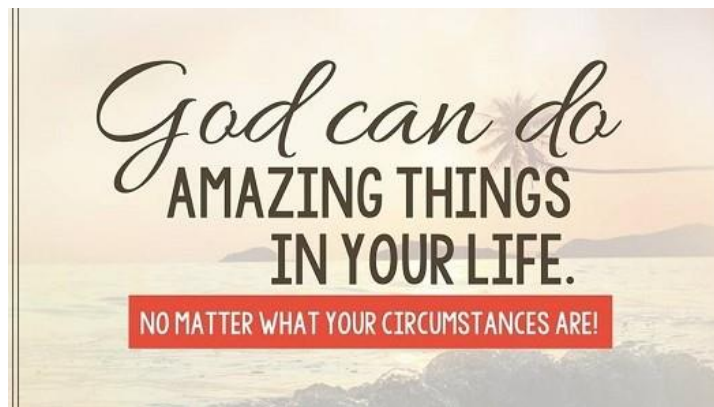
4. Disobedience will be punished

Disobedience to God's laws will be punished. Chapter 6 covers the account of Israel defeating Jericho. God told them that all of the plunder from Jericho was to be given to God. Achan disobeyed God and kept some things for himself and

hid them. As a result, Israel was defeated in next battle they fought. God exposed Achan's sin and he and his family were stoned to death.

We must remember that God is constantly watching over us, to protect us and to keep us close to Him. When we sin, He will expose our sin and deal with it. Sometimes we may be the only one who suffers for our sin, but on occasions others may suffer too, just as Israel and Achan's family suffered. God will not ignore the sins of His people.

5. God does amazing things



Throughout the book of Joshua God did some amazing things for His people. He is our God too and is still able to do amazing things for us.

6. We have to obey God

Near the end of his life, Joshua reminds the people of Israel of all that God has done for them and warns them to continue to obey God, not to follow the example of the nations around them or compromise their worship of God in any way. If they did, they would begin to fall away from God and they would be punished, and God would bring many disasters upon them. This is exactly what happened. We must obey all that God has said in His word. The result of Israel's faithlessness is proof that God fulfills His threats to punish. But also, when Israel was faithful, God fulfilled His promises to bless. The Lord desires to bless His people when they live in obedience to him.

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