

Sermon Follow-up | November 10, 2019

12 Books of History — Entering the Promised Land

Focus Passage: Joshua 1:1–11

Additional Context: Joshua 1–5

Corollary Scripture: Exodus 14:21-25, 2 Kings 2:6-8

Other Passages Referenced: John 4:6

Sermon Recap: In the 12 books of History, God forms His people into a nation. The plot moves from the Promised Land to God’s faithfulness in a foreign land of exile. Along the way, the LORD uses judges, prophets, kings, and the temple to move His plan forward. It begins with God inviting His people to “go over” in a courageous crossing of the Jordan River. Joshua is now the successor to Moses, so the people are learning to trust his leadership. Yet, when a man or woman of God dies, God’s mission and plan does not. The LORD stopped the waters of the Jordan, 25 miles north of the point where the people were to cross over. The people had to steadfastly “stand still” and wait in faith for the waters of the river to stop flowing where they were at the point of crossing. They could not immediately see the waters part as people at the Red Sea had. Yet, God’s people had reason for courage because of God’s calling (1:6a), His covenant (1:6b), His commands (1:7–8), and His commitment to them (1:9). The challenge for us is to figuratively or literally cross over to where God is leading. That requires courage, “getting into the river,” and steadfastly standing as we trust God to intervene, even when we can’t see His immediate activity. In addition to the causes for courage noted above, as followers of Jesus, we have reason for courage because Jesus got in the river (literally in His baptism) and crossed over from death to life on our behalf, securing a place for us in our eternal “Promised Land.”

- Good Bible interpretation (hermeneutics) involves discerning if a promise from God was for a certain person/situation or for a larger group. For example, was the promise just for Joshua, was it for the Israelites, or was it for everyone who trusts in the LORD? The same discernment is needed when we consider commandments in Scripture. Joshua 1 provides an opportunity to practice this discerning process. Are all of the promises God makes to Joshua specific to Joshua or are some of them for us as well. Do any or all of the commands God gave Joshua pertain to us as well as to Joshua?

Group Gathering

Connect: *Making Honest Connections with One Another*

*How was your experience with **living by** God’s word this past week?*

*How were you able to **let others know** about what God’s word says this past week?*

Grow: *Listening to and Learning from God’s Word – READ Joshua 1:1–11*

1. What commands does the LORD give Joshua? Which commands are limited to Joshua and the Israelites for that time? Which commands should we be intentional about obeying today?
2. What promises does the LORD make to Joshua? Are any of those promises guaranteed for us today?
3. What does it mean in Joshua 1:5 that “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life”?

4. How are we to interpret and apply Joshua 1:8 as followers of Jesus who have been saved by grace?

Serve: Serving King Jesus and Others By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word

1. As you consider the courage needed to cross the Jordan and the reasons the LORD had given His people to have courage, what next step is God calling you to take that requires courage?
2. Can you think of some "memory stones," experiences the LORD has given you in the past, that are causes for courage in the present?
3. How does the gospel of Jesus give you courage?
4. As you rely on the Holy Spirit, what step will you take in the coming week to follow God's leading? "I will _____."
5. With whom will you share one of your memory stones? _____

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org
- The Bible Project 9-minute video overview of the Book of Joshua <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=8>
- The Cutting Room Floor — www.wcchapel.org/thecuttingroomfloor