

A WALK THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT
TIME FRAME #4– THE CONQUEST OF THE LAND and LIFE UNDER THE JUDGES
1406 BC TO 1050 BC

CLASS NOTES

MAJOR EVENTS

EVENT # 34 – THE JEWS CROSS OVER INTO THE LAND (JOSHUA 1-3)

Before God sends Joshua into action He meets with Joshua to make a promise. He will be with Joshua just as He had been with Moses all of those years. In return, Joshua is to be a man of the Word and a man of courage. With that encouragement, Joshua passes on God's instructions for getting across the Jordan. The miracle will closely resemble the crossing of the Red Sea 40 years earlier. One key difference is this new generation is given a faith step to take – into the Jordan at flood stage. After hearing back from the two spies sent to Jericho, they do, and God holds back the river until the whole nation crosses.

EVENT # 35 – THE ISRAELITES TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND (JOSHUA 6-8; 10-11)

The first city taken will be Jericho, as God causes the great walls of the city to collapse. Then they experience their first defeat at Ai, where they learn lessons on obedience and trusting God and not self. After leading the people in renewing their commitment to the LORD, Joshua leads the people in a series of battles that slowly incorporate areas of Canaan/Palestine under their control.

EVENT #36 – JOSHUA'S FINAL CHALLENGE TO THE PEOPLE (JOSHUA 23-24)

Joshua begins by reminding the people that God had promised to give them every foot of land they, in faith, stepped on. There was still more land to claim! However they will leave large segments of the land in Canaanite hands. Within a generation these Pagans will have become a snare to Israel. Joshua also exhorts the people to make a clear decision on whether they will faithfully follow God. They affirm their commitment. However, while the generation that had walked with Joshua will live this out, the next generation will begin to slip into idolatry.

EVENT # 37 – AN OVERVIEW OF THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (JUDGES 1-2)

These 12 men and women are raised up by God at specific times to meet specific circumstances. The prevailing cycle that is repeated time and again is idolatry that leads to being disciplined by God through a neighboring nation that leads the people to cry out to God which leads to God raising up a Judge. The people resist idolatry as long as that Judge lives, but return to it later and start yet another cycle. The consequences of Joshua's generation's failure to eradicate the Land of Canaanites last for generations.

EVENT # 38 - DELIVERANCE BY DEBORAH AND BARAK (JUDGES 4)

Deborah stands out as the godliest of all the Judges. She teams up with Barak, for she would not have been followed as a military leader. Together they lead Israel to victory over Sisera and his army.

EVENT # 39 – DELIVERANCE BY GIDEON (JUDGES 6-8)

This time it is the Midianites who are used by God to discipline His people. God appears to Gideon and commissions him to lead Israel against them. The first step is for Gideon to start a spiritual renewal by destroying an altar to Baal and worship pole to the goddess Asherah. Then God shrinks Gideon's fighting force to 300. With the subsequent victory, God's hand cannot be missed nor His name honored.

KEY CHARACTER – JOSHUA

SPIRITUAL LIFE LESSON – FAITH THAT LEADS TO ACTION

JOSHUA STANDS AS AN EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE MENTORING

1. From the beginning of the Exodus, Joshua was under the watchful eye and influence of Moses.
 - Joshua led the People of Israel in their first major battle. **Exodus 17:8-15.**
 - Moses provides prayer while Joshua leads the battle. This is a great picture of being a mentor!
 - Moses is instructed to record this battle and read it to Joshua.
 - God will not forget this battle. Centuries later He will bring judgement on Amalek through King Saul.
 - Joshua accompanies Moses partially up Mt. Sinai. **Exodus 24:13; 32:17**
 - Joshua is designated Moses' assistant. **Exodus 33:11**
 - Joshua is sent as one of the 12 spies into Canaan. He and Caleb are the only ones who believe God can give them victory. **Numbers 14:6-9**
 - Joshua is chosen by God and commissioned by Moses to be Moses' successor. **Numbers 27:18-19**
2. Upon the death of Moses, God commissions Joshua to lead. **Joshua 1:1-5**

NOTE: *Not only did Joshua spend years with Moses, he also developed the faith and character of Moses. True mentoring goes beyond teaching another what to do and seeks to help them develop godly character as well. It is this character that will make Joshua an effective leader. **Duet.34:9***

THE FIRST CALL ON JOSHUA'S LIFE IS TO BE A MAN OF THE WORD AND COURAGEOUS. JOSHUA 1:6-9

1. God begins by giving Joshua a promise – To be with Joshua and to give him success in the task God had given to him. **1:5-6**
2. God then calls Joshua to be a man of The Word, walking in obedience without moving off its path. Part of this involves quiet reflection and prayer on it. Then we are to walk faithfully in it. **1:7-8**
3. Repeatedly Joshua is called to be strong (not giving in to fear, uncertainty or confusion) and courageous (doing what one knows needs to be done despite the odds). **1:6, 7, 9**

NOTE: *When God commissions us to a role or task, His presence and enablement is promised. Sometimes this will be a 'special assignment', though many times it is living out the roles we already have as children of God, spouses, employees/employers parents, children and members of the church. This begins by meeting God in His Word and in our prayer closets. Then, armed with deepened faith, we can stand firm and act courageously.*

JOSHUA IS ALSO CALLED TO BE A MAN OF ACTION, LEADING THE PEOPLE AS GOD PROVIDES DIRECTION.

1. Joshua is told to lead the people across the Jordan River. **Joshua 3-4**
2. Joshua is told to lead the people against Jericho. **Joshua 6**
3. Joshua is told to lead the People in securing the land promised them by God. It is important to note that God had told them He would give them ‘Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon’ **1:3**. This is an excellent example of how our faith (trusting God) leads to action (taking that step). Joshua is faithful for as long as his strength holds up. God then gives him permission to stop. **13:1-7**

NOTE: *The only recorded time Joshua steps out to action before God directs him is at the city of Ai, where Israel suffers defeat. **Joshua 7**. Joshua’s walk with God and sensitivity to His Word and guidance enables him to be an effective man of action.*

JOSHUA RUNS THE RACE WELL, ALL THE WAY TO THE FINISH. IN THE PROCESS, HE TAKES A GENERATION OF HIS PEOPLE WITH HIM. JOSHUA 23-24

1. Joshua exhorts the People of Israel to be strong in keeping God’s Word faithfully. **23:6**
2. Joshua exhorts the people to remain spiritually pure, avoiding compromising with the sin around them. **23:7**
3. Joshua exhorts the people to love the LORD their God. **23:11**
4. Joshua reminds the people to remember all of the blessings and kept promises of God. **23:14**
5. Joshua exhorts the people to follow him in making a clear choice to know and serve the LORD. **24:14-15**
6. Joshua leaves a solid legacy behind him. **24:31**

NOTE: This list gives us some great principles to live by. It is important to note that as Joshua exhorts the people, he is not calling them to do anything he himself had not lived out. We are not responsible for the spiritual decisions of others, not even our children. However, if we faithfully follow after God and finish our life well spiritually, by the grace of God we will leave a spiritual legacy.