

# Destin Church of Christ

April 23, 2023

## Lesson 7: The Battle Begins

Timeless Truth: Faith is the victory.

Joshua 1 – 2; 6; 8; 10 – 11; 23 – 24

Timeline: 1400-1000 B.C.

The Book of Deuteronomy ends with Moses climbing Mount Nebo, seeing Canaan, the promised land, then dying.

When the story of Joshua opens, the Israelites are outside of the Promised Land while the Canaanites are inside the Promised Land. In order for God's divine plan to move forward, the Israelites need to take up residence in the land while the Canaanite inhabitants must be removed from the land.

### Lesson Breakdown:

- Jericho Falls (Joshua 1-2, 6)
- Achan and Ai (Joshua 8)
- Troublesome Alliances (Joshua 10-11)
- Whom Will You Serve (Joshua 23-24)

### Plot Points:

- Israel is given a second chance to do what they failed to do the first time they stood at the border of the Promised Land – trust the Lord to bring victory as they walk in faithful obedience.
- God brings ethnic outsiders who demonstrate faith in the God of Israel into his covenant community.
- Israel is called to bring God's judgment on Canaan by completely cleansing the land of its former occupants.
- Israel is called to be a people led and directed by God's revelation, through the Book of the Law and regular prayer.

As you watch the video for Session 7 of The Story, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ The Upper Story plan of God must advance.
- ✓ Key Point: They needed to be people of the Word.
- ✓ Key Point: They needed to be people of prayer.
- ✓ Key Point: They needed to be people identified with God.
- ✓ In the Upper Story, God is bigger than the giants.

## UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

### Joshua 1:

- God tells Joshua to cross the Jordan and lead the people of Israel into the land that He would give them. God would be with Joshua just as he had been with Moses. (pg. 89) [Joshua 1:1-3]
- God describes the area he will give the Israelites. (pg. 89) [Joshua 1:4-5]

1. What were the conditions of the promise of victory? (pg. 89) [Joshua 1:6-7, 9]

- Joshua commands the leaders of the people prepare provisions and be ready to cross over the Jordan in three days. (pg. 90) [Joshua 1:11]
- Joshua speaks to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh. They said they would do what he said to do and go where he said to go. (pg. 90) [Joshua 1:16-18]

### Joshua 2:

- Joshua secretly sends two men as spies to view the land and especially Jericho. (pg. 90) [Joshua 2:1]

2. They had to stay where? (pg. 90) [Joshua 2:1]

3. Rahab hides and protects the spies, but word gets to the king of Jericho that there are some Israelites in town, and Rahab is questioned about it. (pg. 90) [Joshua 2:2]  
Why would Rahab have been questioned?

- Rahab tells a blatant lie. (pg. 90) [Joshua 2:4-5]
- The spies were hiding on Rahab's roof, covered with stalks of flax. (pg. 90) [Joshua 2:6]
- Rahab goes up on the roof and tells the spies she knows the LORD has given them the land and her people were afraid and living in terror, and asks the spies to show mercy and to spare her and her family when they come to take the land. (pg. 90-91) [Joshua 2:9-13]

4. The spies promise Rahab that they would be merciful and faithful to her, but there are three conditions she must meet. What were these conditions? (pg. 91) [Joshua 2:17-21]

- Rahab lets them down by a rope through the window. She tells them to hide in the hill country for three days before heading home. (pg. 91) [Joshua 2:15-16]

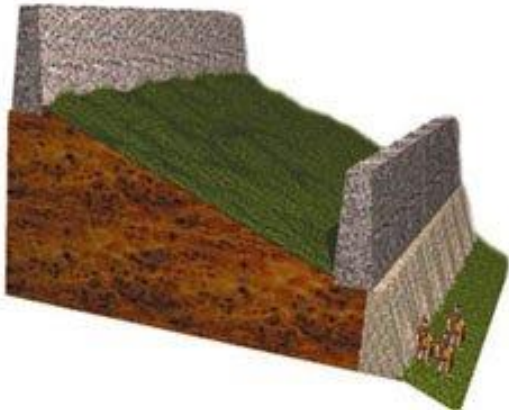
5. After three days, the spies returned to Joshua. What did the spies report to Joshua when they returned from Rahab's city? (pg. 91) [Joshua 2:23-24]

Joshua 6:

- The gates of Jericho were tightly shut, and no one went in or out. (pg. 92) [Joshua 6:1-2]
- The Lord tells Joshua to have all the armed men and seven priests walk around the walls of Jericho once per day for six days. (pg. 92) [Joshua 6:3]

6. What did God tell the men to do on the seventh day? (pg. 92) [Joshua 6:5]

7. What did Joshua command the people not to do until the seventh day? (pg. 92) [Joshua 6:10]



- The retaining wall was some 12–15 ft high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall 6 ft thick and about 20–26 ft high.
- At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 46 ft above the ground level outside the retaining wall.

- Joshua told the people to let Rahab and all in her house live because she had hidden the spies. (pg. 92) [Joshua 6:17]
- Joshua tells the people to only keep for themselves the things designated for destruction, but things made of silver, gold, iron and bronze must be brought to the treasury. (pg. 92) [Joshua 6:18-19]
- The walls come down and everything in the city is destroyed. (pg. 93) [Joshua 6:21]

- The two spies go into Rahab’s house and bring her and all who were with her out, as they had promised. (pg. 93) [Joshua 6:22]

#### Joshua 8:

- God tells Joshua, in order to take the city of Ai, to take all the people of war and set an ambush behind the city. (pg. 94) [Joshua 8:1-2]

#### 8. What were the people to do with the plunder from Ai? (pg. 94) [Joshua 8:2]

- Verses 3-8 give us the plans for an ambush upon Ai. (pg. 94)
- Verses 11-29 describes the victory at Ai. (pgs. 94-95)
- Joshua and his army destroy all of the people of Ai. (pg. 95) [Joshua 8:26]

#### 9. How many is “all”? (pg. 95) [Joshua 8:25]

- Joshua hanged the king of Ai on a tree and then threw his body in front of the city gates. [Joshua 8:29]

#### Joshua 10:

- Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it. The people of Jerusalem were afraid because Gibeon was a large city, larger than Ai, and all its men were mighty warriors. (pg. 96) [Joshua 10:1-2]
- The king of Jerusalem asked the other kings to help him attack Gibeon. So they joined forces and attacked Gibeon. (pg. 96) [Joshua 10:3-5]
- When the people of Gibeon saw all the kings and their armies, they sent a message to Joshua to come and save them. (pg. 96) [Joshua 10:6]

#### 10. What did God say to Joshua? (pg. 96) [Joshua 10:8]

- Joshua marches all night from Gilgal. (pg. 96) [Joshua 10:9]
- God sends giant hailstones to defeat the Canaanites. (pg. 97) [Joshua 10:10-11]

#### 11. Seeing God’s miraculous hand in action gave Joshua the boldness to ask for an even more remarkable miracle in verses 12-13. What was that request? (pg. 97) What was the reason?

- The five kings hid in the cave of Makkedah. (pg. 97) [Joshua 10:16] Most of the armies were slaughtered by the Israelites, with only a few survivors escaping. [Joshua 10:20]
- The Canaanite kings were found and brought to Joshua, attacked and killed, hung on five trees until sunset, and then thrown into the cave. (pg. 98) [Joshua 10:26-27]
- Joshua and the army of Israel conquered all of the Southern Canaanite Kingdoms, leaving not one survivor, because God fought for Israel. (pg. 98) [Joshua 10:40, 42]

#### Joshua 11:

- Jabin, king of Hazor, when he heard about the victory of the Israelites at Gibeon, sent a message to many kings from the region. All of their armies met at the appointed time and they camped at the waters of Merom to wage war with Israel. (pg. 98) [Joshua 11:1-5]
- Their number seemed like the sand of the seashore. (pg. 98) [Joshua 11:4]
- God encourages Joshua, and tells him not to be afraid. (pgs. 98-99) [Joshua 11:6]
- Joshua attacks and defeats the northern armies at the waters of Merom. (pg. 99) [Joshua 11:7-9]
- Joshua burned Hazor and killed its king. (pg. 99) [Joshua 11:10-11]
- Joshua does all that Moses had commanded him to do. (pg. 99) [Joshua 11:15]
- Chapter 11 ends with the statement: “the land was at rest from war.” (pg. 99) [Joshua 11:23]

#### Joshua 23:

- After God had given rest to Israel from all their enemies and Joshua was advanced in age, Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, their heads, their judges, and their officers. (pg. 100) [Joshua 23:1-2]
- Joshua reminded the people that God had fought for them. (pg. 100) [Joshua 11:3]
- He tells them to: “... *do everything that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses.*” [Joshua 23:6]

- If they broke the covenant of God, His anger would burn against them and they would perish quickly from the good land He had given them. (pg. 100) [Joshua 23:16]

#### Joshua 24:

- Joshua gathers all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and spoke to the elders of Israel, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. (pg. 100) [Joshua 24:1]
- Joshua reminds them of God's faithfulness. (pg. 101) [Joshua 24:2-13]
- Joshua said that he and his house would worship God. (pg. 101) [Joshua 24:15]

#### 12. What did the people of Israel tell Joshua? (pg. 101) [Joshua 24:18]

- Joshua wrote these words in the book of the Law of God and set a large stone beneath the oak tree beside God's sanctuary. He said the stone would be a witness against the Israelites because it had heard all the words said by God and the people of Israel. (pg. 101-102) [Joshua 24:26-27]

#### 13. How old was Joshua when he died? (pg. 102) [Joshua 24:29]

- The burial of Joseph's bones. [Joshua 24:32]
- The death and burial of Eleazar. [Joshua 24:33]

This might surprise you, but following God involves engaging in an ongoing series of battles to live in His will and walk in His ways ... this will always be part of our story.

Homework: This week, take time to read chapter 8 of The Story.  
Judges 2 – 4; 6 – 8; 13 – 16