

CROSSINGS

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

LESSON 6

Land Still

Days One and Two – Getting Settled

We will complete Part II of the Book of Joshua in one lesson. Part 1, chapters 1 – 12, covered the conquests to obtain the Promised Land. Part II, chapters 13 – 24, cover the allotment and settlement of the land. For our *Crossings* study, the entry, victories, defeats and battle strategies are most pertinent to personal application. This final lesson puts us in the driver's seat toward victory. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to stop and make sure I have a few key points from my study of Joshua in place.

1. If you had to say, what would be the one lesson you most need to put into place in your personal life in order to move toward victorious living?

Read Joshua 13: 1 and skim the rest of the chapter. Joshua had led a seven-year campaign and is believed to be close to ninety years old. And there is still land to be won. However, God now intends for each tribe to spread out into allotted locations and win the remaining battles in their own territory with their own men.

2. Where were the tribes of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh to be located?

3. **Read Numbers 32.** What led to this allotment?

4. Which tribe was given no land allotment?

5. What was the inheritance of the tribe of Levi and what is the significance of the Levite inheritance (Joshua 13; 33, 14: 4-5)?

1995 was the hardest year in my life. I had two teenage sons and two pre-teen daughters. The year was beset with deaths close to me, beginning with a favored cousin and ending in the fall with both of my parents only six weeks apart. I grieved over the loss of my parents, I grieved over the loss of my childhood home, and I grieved the sudden and permanent status of orphan. I was drowning in a sea of grief.

'Inheritance' became a very hard word for me. As much as I hate to admit this, I grieved because I had no inheritance – at least no financial inheritance to speak of. My parents had been through a devastating bankruptcy and a loss of a family business leaving me and my two siblings with strained relationships and a complicated, financial, emotional mess. Slowly, as the Lord carried me, I began to see that I had an inheritance beyond monetary worth from my parents. Tears are running down my cheeks now just thinking of all they gave me. (*I sure hope my husband does not choose this moment to walk into my study!*) Then, as God tenderly does, He began to direct my knowledge to my inheritance in His Son. And I began to build an inheritance for my children on things that are not kept in a bank. Psalm 16: 6 became a promise just for me. Now, 'inheritance' is one of my favorite words in the Bible.

Spend a little time here and list some eternal gifts you have inherited from your parents. Today, if they are still alive, will you call or write and let them know? They will be blessed and so will you!

6. The word 'inheritance' in Joshua comes from the Hebrew root word, 'nachal' meaning 'to occupy, bequeath, divide, take as a heritage, an heirloom, possession'. From these Scripture references how does Israel's inheritance of the land relate to your inheritance in Christ and your inheritance as you cross and possess new land?

- Psalm 16: 6 _____
- Psalm 74: 2 _____
- Proverbs 13: 22 _____
- Isaiah 49: 8 _____
- Obadiah 1: 17 _____
- Acts 20: 32 _____

7. From **Joshua 14: 2**, how was the land divided and given to each tribe?

Skim **Joshua 15 – 19**. Get your map out and as you read over each tribe's allotment, mark your map.

- 8. Which tribe was given Jerusalem?
- 9. Which tribe was given land inside Judah's territory?
- 10. Which tribe was given Bethlehem?
- 11. What was the land given to Joshua?
- 12. From **Joshua 15:63, 16:10, and 17:12**, what did the tribes fail to do? Based on our previous study, what are your thoughts?

13. Take a look at two passages that give us another look at Joshua's incredible leadership skills. Read **Joshua 17: 12 – 18 and 18: 1 – 10**. Which of Joshua's leadership qualities mean the most to you today and why?

14. From **Joshua 18: 1** where was the Ark of the Covenant now located?

Day Three – A Constant Companion

How can we close our study of Joshua without taking one day to have a last look at the man, Caleb? Dr. Boice calls him, ‘that magnificent old man’. He had to have been Joshua’s oldest and closest friend, maybe more like brothers. They had both been on Moses’ original mission to gather information about Canaan, and they were the only two who believed God. They watched as every other man, woman, and child, including Aaron, Miriam and Moses, died in the desert. They crossed the Jordan together, fought battles together and now would separate to take their families and settle in their assigned land. On your map find the town of Hebron and the hill country of Ephraim.

1. Caleb is first mentioned in the Bible in **Numbers 13: 6**. Compare the Numbers verse with **Joshua 14: 6, 14** and **Genesis 15: 18 – 21**. Who was Caleb’s father?

2. What is significant about the Kenizzite tribe?

3. Caleb was not an Israelite. He was a foreigner. We don’t know how he became joined with the Israelites, but we do know something about his heart for God.

Read **Numbers 13: 21 - 14: 9, 29-30**.

What is significant about the city, Hebron in these passages?

4. What was Caleb’s role in the exploration debriefing?

5. What was Caleb's reaction to the people's rebellion?

Read **Deuteronomy 1: 36 and Joshua 14: 6 – 15.**

What was Caleb's request?

6. Do you recall anything particular about Hebron? (See **Genesis 13:18, 23:19 and 37:14.**)

7. Why do you think Caleb wanted Hebron?

8. What word did Moses use to describe Caleb, and is used 3 times in the Joshua passage?

'Wholeheartedly' derives from the same Hebrew root word, 'mala' in each of these passages. It means 'to wholly follow, fill, be full of, accomplish, confirm, consecrate, replenish, satisfy, set'. This is the word used four times in Scripture to describe Caleb.

9. Using the definitions, describe the character of the man, Caleb.

10. We can't miss one more facet to Caleb's character. Read again **Numbers 13: 31-33** with **Joshua 14: 12-15 and 15: 13-14.** Here are those pesky giants again. Remember Anak? Anak, an ancestor of Arba, descended from and sired a race of legendary, but very real, giants. Where did they live?

11. Yep, right in Caleb's land. What did Caleb do?

12. Caleb drove out the Anakites so he could settle in the land God had shown him and put in his heart over forty years earlier. Do you think Caleb was tenacious? Yes, and a few other things! Name a few.

13. Lastly, we can't leave this lesson without identifying the giants in our land. Some may be totally overwhelming to us, some may have been occupying our land for a very long time, and some just aggravate the stew out of us that they are still around. In your life, who are they; what are they?

14. What will you do to drive them out once and for all?

Day Four –Cities of Refuge

Read Joshua 20 with Numbers 35.

1. How many cities were given to the Levites?
2. Why did the Levites need pastureland surrounding each of their cities?
3. Of the Levite's cities, how many were designated as cities of refuge?
4. How many were on the east side of the Jordan and how many were on the west side?

5. Names the cities of refuge and circle each on your map.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

6. Why did God command there to be cities of refuge?

7. Who could seek shelter and protection in a city of refuge?

8. List at least three requirements for justice within the city of refuge.

9. What comparisons do you see to our justice system today?

10. Read **Joshua 21: 43 – 45**. Your thoughts?

Day Five –Farewell, Dear Friend

We come to the last two chapters of the book. Joshua's life is drawing to a close, as is our study. I don't know about you, but as for me, I've got to have some 'process time'. There are lessons I took in weeks ago, but they have not been hammered out on the anvil of my life. I want to read a book on Rahab, revisit my lifeline, sharpen up my

battle skills. I also want to memorize a few verses from Joshua and I think they will come from the final chapters.

Get comfy and read **Joshua 23 and 24** straight through.

1. To whom is Joshua speaking in chapter 23?

2. And to whom is he speaking in chapter 24?

3. How much time do you think has passed since the land was allotted to each tribe?

4. Beginning in **Joshua 23: 6**, the remainder of the chapter is a list of blessings that God will abundantly give if the people are obedient, and dire consequences if the people disobey. List each:

Obediences:

If the people...

the Lord will...

Disobediences:

If the people...

the Lord will...

5. Many times the Lord has told Joshua to be strong and obedient, and many times Joshua has relayed the same command to his leaders. Again here, at their last gathering, Joshua repeats the same words. Compare **Joshua 23: 6 with 23: 11**. What does he add in verse 11?

6. How does this speak to your heart?

7. What did Joshua point out would surely cause the enemy to become 'snares, traps, whips and thorns' to Israel?

8. Describe the differences between each of the four kinds of curses and give a modern-day example of each.

snares	_____

traps	_____

whips	_____

thorns	_____

9. Where did the assembly in **Joshua 24** take place?

10. Recount Israel's history:

vs. 2 – 4	_____
vs. 5 – 10	_____
vs. 11 – 13	_____

11. At what point did Joshua become an eyewitness?

12. What is interesting to you in Joshua's historical timeline?

13. Joshua makes sure the people know they have to make a choice as to whom they will follow. What does Joshua say are their three worship choices?

14. What are your thoughts on **Joshua 24: 19**?

15. How was the covenant ratified?

16. How old was Joshua when he died and where did he take his last breath?

17. At his death, how was Joshua described?

18. Where were Joseph's bones buried?

19. Shechem was significant for three reasons. Give each.

1) **Genesis 33: 19** _____

2) **Genesis 50: 25** _____

3) **Joshua 15: 1-4** _____

Nothing was left undone. Obedient to the end. A true servant of God.

20. Add your final thoughts regarding Joshua.