

READ The BIBLE Together



JOSHUA

Chapters 1 to 24

11th March – 11th August 2018

SHALOM CHURCH, SINGAPORE
(Upholding the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith)

JOSHUA

Week 1

[11th – 17th March 2018]

Read the Introduction to the Book of Joshua:

Introduction to the Book of Joshua:

In the Jewish canon, the book of Joshua is the first book in the second division after the five books of Moses (Torah) in the section known as Neviim, "the Prophets." This division includes the "historical books" Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings (but not Ruth) as well as the books that were written by prophets (Isaiah through Malachi but not Daniel). Jewish scholars also call this second section the "Former Prophets," distinguishing them from the third section known as "Latter Prophets," or Ketuvim (Writings), which comprised the remaining books of the Jewish canon.

In the Christian Old Testament, the book of Joshua is also placed immediately after the five books of Moses which Christians call the Pentateuch, in the section of the historical books that include: Joshua, Judges, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Although the book of Joshua is considered the first of the historical books, it cannot be studied in isolation from the events that began with God's covenant promises to Abraham in Genesis, the events of the Exodus deliverance and covenant formation at Mt. Sinai, and the events of the forty years of wilderness wandering that came to an end in the book of Deuteronomy as the Israelites encamped on the east side of the Jordan River and prepared to invade Canaan.

Authorship and Date:

Scripture and tradition identify the inspired writer of the Pentateuch as Moses. However, the name of the inspired writer of the book of Joshua is not revealed in the text. The book is named after its principal character and records his leadership of the Israelites from Moses' death until his own death at the end of the narrative. Joshua was Moses' personal minister and successor who was originally named Hoshea. Moses renamed him Yahshua/Yehoshua, a Hebrew theophoric name meaning "Yahweh is salvation" or "Yahweh saves". In the Greek translation of the book of Joshua, his name is rendered Iesous (pronounced as ee-ay-sooce') which is the same name as the Savior, in English "Jesus". According to the Jewish Talmud (a central text of mainstream Judaism), the book of Joshua was written by Joshua with the last parts of the book completed by the High Priest Eleazar, and the conclusion was written by Eleazar's son and successor, the High Priest Phinehas (Joshua 24:32-33). This is a tradition challenged by some modern scholars who date the book of Joshua to the late 7th century BC and the final edition to the 6th century BC, many centuries after the events took place. However, scholars who prefer a much earlier date point to such evidence as the lists of Canaanite towns and city-states, battle tactics and cultural motifs that are found in ancient documents and recorded traditions of ancient Near Eastern cultures (including the 14th century BC Egyptian Amarna tablets) that are closer to the actual events described in the book, between 1400 and 1370 BC. In addition, the book lists twelve personal names of non-Israelites that are well attested in ancient Near Eastern documents dating from or before the period of the conquest. Such information strengthens the traditional view of the authorship of the book of Joshua.

Purpose of Writing:

The book of Joshua provides an overview of the military campaigns to conquer the land area that God had promised Abraham. Following the exodus from Egypt and the subsequent forty years of the wilderness wanderings, the newly-formed nation is now poised to enter the Promised Land, conquer the inhabitants, and occupy the territory. The overview that we have here gives

abbreviated and selective details of many of the battles and the manner in which the land was not only conquered, but how it was divided into tribal areas.

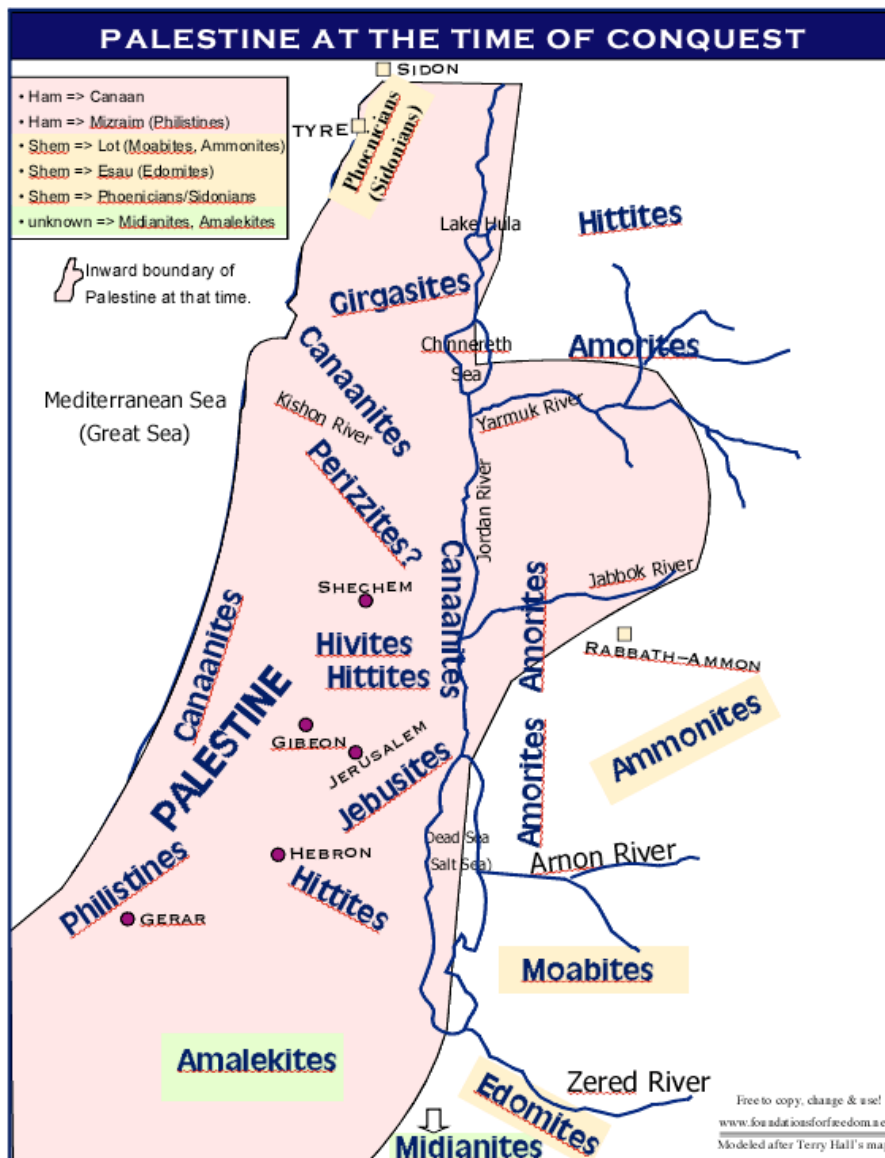
The Structure of the book of Joshua:

The book of Joshua can be divided into three main parts:

- 1 - Conquest of the Promised Land (1:1-12:24)
- 2 - Allotment of the Tribal Lands (13:1-22:34)
- 3 - Israel's future in the Promised Land (23:1-24:33)

Outline of book of Joshua:

Biblical Period	The Conquest of Canaan			
Covenant	The Sinai Covenant			
Focus	Taking possession of the Promised Land and the covenant blessings			
Scripture	1:1-----13:1-----23:1-----24:33			
Division of Text	Conquest of the Promised Land		Allotment of Tribal Lands	Israel's Future in the Promised Land
Topic	Intro. and invasion plan	Holy war of domination	God's command to distribute the land	Joshua's farewell address: 3 calls to covenant obedience
			Review of distribution of tribes to the East of the Jordan River (the Transjordan)	
	12 tribes preparing for holy war	The 3 campaigns against the native population	Distribution of land to tribes West of the Jordan River and reproaches against the eastern tribes	Covenant renewal and Epilogue
Location	East side of the Jordan River	West side of the Jordan River (Canaan)	Settlement in the Transjordan = 2 1/2 Tribes Settlement in Canaan = 9 1/2 Tribes	Shechem in Canaan
Time	≈ 1 month	≈ 7 years	≈ 25 years	



Let us consider the following background questions before we embark on the study of Joshua:

Question 1: What did God promise Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3**?

Question 2: God sealed His covenant with Abram/Abraham in a blood ritual in **Genesis 15:1-21**. What conditions were to take place before the promise concerning the gift of the land could be fulfilled?

Question 3: What was the extent of this land geographically and who were the occupants at the time when God made the covenant with Abram/Abraham?

Question 4: What right did God have to drive out the people from these lands they were occupying?

Question 5: In driving out the people from the lands they were occupying, what were the orders for the armies of Israel in engaging their enemies that Moses had outlined in **Numbers 33:50-56** and **Deuteronomy 20:1-18**?

Question 6: Why was such a harsh judgment executed against the people of these lands?

Question 7: Write down at least 5 things you know (or remember) about Joshua prior to the conquest of Canaan.

Question 8: Why, out of all the peoples of the earth, did God choose the twelve tribes of Israel to be His holy covenant people?

Question 9: The land of Canaan today appears to be mostly arid desert of limited resources. Why did God select this land as His covenant gift to the descendants of Abraham?

Week 2: Joshua Chapter 1

[18th – 24th March 2018]

Question 1: There are a number of repeated words used in this chapter. Give some examples of such words.

Question 2: Before Moses died, Joshua had been appointed by God to take Moses' place. Can you cite references to support this statement?

Question 3: Describe the extent of the land that God has promised to give to the children of Israel.

Question 4: Do you think the whole of the Promised Land was controlled by Israel during the life-time of Joshua?

Question 5: (a) What did God charge Joshua to do in **verses 5-6**, and how many times did God repeat this charge?

(b) Do you think Joshua was able to fulfill this charge? Provide reason(s) for your answer.

Question 6: Do you think God's charge to Joshua is still applicable to us today?

Question 7: (a) God set a goal for Joshua to achieve in **verse 6**. What was this goal?

(b) God gave instructions in **verses 7-8** as to how this goal could be achieved. What were these instructions?

(c) Explain how these instructions could be applied in Joshua's situation where he was involved in physical warfare.

Question 8: What instructions were given to Israel's officers to give to the people in **verse 10**?

Question 9: Which tribes had already inherited east of Jordan? Where does the Bible record this?

Question 10: What special command had these tribes received? Why?

Question 11: What commitment did the people make to Joshua in **verses 16-17**?

Question 12: What would happen to anyone who rebelled against Joshua?

Question 13: What have you learnt from Joshua as a person?

Question 14: What truths have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 1**?

Week 3: Joshua Chapter 2

[25th – 31st March 2018]

Question 1: Why did Joshua send out spies to Jericho? Did not the failure of the twelve spies Moses sent out (Joshua himself being one of them) teach him a bitter lesson not to trust in spies?

Question 2: Do you consider Joshua's sending out of spies an act of lack of trust in God's promises? Elaborate your answer.

Question 3: Why did the Israelite spies visit the house of Rahab the prostitute?

Question 4: What does the name Rahab originally mean?

Note: (1) The ancient city of Jericho is located west of the Jordan River in the wide plain of the Jordan River Valley. It is about 16 km northwest of the north shore of the Dead Sea and just to the east of the Judean Mountains. There are in fact two cities of Jericho. The site of ancient Jericho is situated on a mound about 2 km northwest of the oasis of Jericho that dates to New Testament times. Human occupation on the ancient site dates to as early as 9,000 BC. Some scholars believe the name Jericho, Yareah in Hebrew, means "moon city," perhaps suggesting that Sin, the moon goddess, was worshiped there.

(2) The Israelite spies seek refuge at the house or inn of a prostitute named Rahab. Ritual prostitution was common in Canaanite cities and it is uncertain if Rahab was a temple prostitute or if her home was a brothel. Attempts by certain Bible translators to redeem Rahab by making her an "innkeeper" is an abuse of the text. In the Hebrew text she is identified as zona, a word that may refer to either secular or cultic prostitution, and in the Greek New Testament passages of **Hebrews 11:31** and **James 2:25**, she is identified in the Greek text as a porne meaning, a prostitute.

Question 5: What message did the king of Jericho send to Rahab and what was her response?

Question 6: Was Rahab's response justified? What do **Hebrews 11:31** and **James 2:25** say about her response? Discuss your answer in your RTBT group.

Question 7: In view of what Rahab said in **verses 9-11**, do you think it is a surprise that she had heard of such things?

Question 8: Are there any evidence(s) to show that Rahab believed in God?

Question 9: In **verses 12-14**, Rahab offered an agreement with the spies. What did each party promise to do?

(a) Rahab –

(b) The spies -

Question 10: Does the promise made by the spies to Rahab constitute a violation of God's command to slay all the inhabitants of the land of Canaan?

Question 11: What advice did Rahab give the Israelite spies and why was her advice wise?

Question 12: What advice did the spies give Rahab in return?

Question 13: What was the conclusion of the spies' report to Joshua?

Question 14: What should we learn from the life of Rahab?

Question 15: How can we see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 2**?

Week 4: Joshua Chapter 3

[1st – 7th April 2018]

Question 1: Three days after leaving the old camp in Acacia Grove, the people were given the instructions for crossing the Jordan. This is the fourth time the term "three days" (**verse 2**) is mentioned since **Chapter 1**. Where does this term appear in other chapters?

Question 2: From your answer to Question 1, do you think Joshua was correct when he told the officers (in **Joshua 1:11**) to have provision prepared for within three days they would cross over the Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD their God had given them?

Question 3: Joshua was the leader of the people, but why was he not bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord and leading the people in front with it?

Question 4: Why were the people commanded to keep a distance of 2000 cubits (about 1 km or half a mile) from the Ark? Was there danger associated with coming in contact with the Ark?

Note: The distance of 2000 cubits was later cited by the Pharisees as the distance one was allowed to travel on the Sabbath (Acts 1:12).

Question 5: Joshua began the invasion plan by ordering the people in **verse 5** to sanctify themselves before crossing the Jordan. Why did they need to be sanctified for a military invasion?

Question 6: How many ethnic groups of people are mentioned in verse 10? How many groups are mentioned in **Genesis 15:19-21** (refer to Day 2, Question 3, page 5)? Why is there a difference, if any?

Question 7: **Verses 14-17** describe in detail the crossing of the Jordan. Provide a summary of the crossing in your own words.

Question 8: How could the phenomenon depicted in **verse 16a** be satisfactorily explained?

Question 9: What similarities and differences do you see between the miracle crossing of the Red Sea in the **Exodus 14:15-31** and the miracle crossing of the Jordan River into Canaan?

Similarities:

Differences:

Question 10: What is the significance of the crossing of the Jordan to Joshua as a leader?

Question 11: What can we learn about God, and how can we see the gospel, in **Joshua Chapter 3**?

Week 5: Joshua Chapter 4

[8th – 14th April 2018]

Question 1: What is the reason given for setting up the twelve stones on the west side of the river?

Question 2: In addition to the twelve memorial stones from the middle of the river placed in the Israelite camp on the west bank, what other memorial did Joshua set up and why?

- Question 3:** How many times is the Ark mentioned in **chapter 4**? What title is employed each time it is mentioned? Describe the function of the Ark according to the title it is used.
- Question 4:** Describe when the water of Jordan stopped flowing and when it started flowing again.
- Question 5:** Who led the Israelites across the Jordan River? Why do you think they took the lead?
- Question 6:** Verse 13 says that the number of armed soldiers who crossed over before the Lord for battle is 40,000. What does this number refer to?
- Question 7:** Is there a difference between the 40,000 men in **verse 13** and those counted in **Numbers 26**? How do you explain the difference, if any?
- Question 8:** What is the comparison between the people's reaction to Moses after the Red Sea crossing (**Exodus 14:31**) and to Joshua after the Jordan crossing?
- Question 9:** On what day did Israel come up from the Jordan? Is there any significance in this day?
- Question 10:** Why did the writer of Joshua make a deliberate comparison between the miracle of crossing of the Jordan and the miracle at the Red Sea/Sea of Reeds?
- Question 11:** When we read of Israel's crossing the Jordan on dry ground, what should our proper response be?

Question 12: What can we learn about God, and how can we see the gospel, in **Joshua Chapter 4**?

Week 6: Joshua Chapter 5

[15th – 21st April 2018]

Question 1: When Israel had approached Canaan the first time forty years earlier, they had refused to enter because they feared the people of the land. But this time we are told that the people of the land feared Israel. What do you think are the reasons for this change?

Question 2: **Verse 6** says that “the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness”. What does this sentence mean?

Question 3: After crossing the Jordan River, the Israelites encamped at Gilgal near Jericho. What was the first command God gave Joshua after settling in the new camp and why was such command given?

Question 4: Who were the people affected by this command?

Question 5: When did this command first become an obligation and what was the penalty for those who refused to observe the command? (See **Genesis 17:14-19**)

Question 6: Bearing in mind that the Israelites were near their enemies at this time and were basically defenceless for several days, why did God wait till this time to have this command obeyed?

Note: In **verse 9**, God told Joshua that He had “rolled away the reproach of Egypt” from them. What does “reproach of Egypt” refer to?

Being uncircumcised was surely a reproach, especially for the descendants of Abraham (cf. **Gen. 34:14**). And this reproach was removed when they were circumcised. They were about to eat the Passover in a few days’ time, and the males had to be circumcised in order to eat it (**Ex. 12:43-48**). But what has this to do with Egypt?

The "reproach" or shame mentioned in verse 9 may be associated with the fact that the Israelites did not practice the correct form of circumcision while living in Egypt but adopted Egyptian practices. It may also be associated with the fact that the people had neglected this most important sign of the covenant God made with their forefathers during the past forty years. Evidence suggests that the Egyptians did not remove the entire foreskin whereas the Israelites were supposed to excise the whole foreskin. Bible scholars have suggested that while living in Egypt the Israelites may have adopted the Egyptian practice and so they needed to have it done a second time, removing all the foreskin as a sign of complete compliance to the covenant code of Sinai and the Abrahamic covenant.

Question 7: What did the children of Israel do on the fourteenth day of the month? What is so special about this?

Question 8: God had faithfully provided Israel manna for 40 years without fail. When and why did the provision of manna cease? What lesson can we learn from this?

Question 9: Who is the Commander of the army of the LORD? Show evidence(s) to support your answer.

Question 10: When Joshua asked in **verse 13**, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" The Commander of the army of the LORD answered: "No". What does the "No" mean?

Question 11: What do you think was the purpose of this visit of the Commander of the Lord's army?

Question 12: Can you think of three events/circumstances thus far that confirm Joshua's authority to lead the twelve tribes of Israel had come from God?

Question 13: What can we learn about God in **Joshua Chapter 5**?

Question 14: How can we see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 5**?

Jericho was founded about 8500 BC, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. The site is an oasis blessed by an abundant supply of water from a perennial spring located on the east side of the city and by its tropical climate in the Jordan valley, approximately 1,000 feet below sea level. The Bible calls Jericho "the city of palm trees" (**Deut 34:3; 2 Chr 28:15**), and the numerous palm trees that are watered by the oasis and shade the city are still a welcomed site in the midst of the desert wasteland. Jericho is located about fourteen miles northeast from Jerusalem, about ten miles north of the Dead Sea and about four miles west of the Jordan River near one of the major fords.

Jericho's location near the ford made Jericho a gateway city to west from the Transjordan region and a city on the major east-west trade route that controlled the flow of trade from the Transjordan westward into central Canaan as well as the flow of trade from Phoenicia and Canaan across the Jordan River into the lands to the east. Jericho was also located on an important north-south trade route that connected the city with prosperous Bethshan to the north. Consequently, Jericho was a powerful city and it was also the logical site of the invasion of Canaan by the Israelites. Control of Jericho gave the Israelites numerous benefits: control of the major entrance to western Canaan from the Transjordan, control of the water rights in an arid region, the control of commerce along two important trade routes, and access to the mineral traffic from the Dead Sea area.

Jericho was not a huge city. The majority of the cities of Canaan were relatively small. The excavation of the site believed to be ancient Jericho is about 225 by 80 meters, with a circumference of 600 meters. Nevertheless, one circuit of the city, marching at two miles an hour, must have taken about an hour.

Question 1: What were God's instructions to Joshua concerning the capture of Jericho? Summarize them in your own words.

Question 2: By doing what was instructed in Question 1, would the Israelites not have broken the Sabbath command not to work on the Sabbath day?

Question 3: **Verse 2** provides us the reason why Joshua and the Israelites would achieve victory over the people of Jericho. What is the reason? What can we learn from this that we can apply to our Christian life?

Question 4: According to Joshua's instructions to the people in **verses 6-9**, what was the order of the march?

Question 5: What is the significance of the ark of the Lord in the march?

Question 6: How many times is the Ark mentioned in **verses 4-16**? How many sevens/sevenths are mentioned?

Question 7: Imagine you were living in Jericho at the time Joshua and the Israelites were marching around your city walls. What would your feeling be seeing the parade every morning?

Question 8: In term of the spoils, what was to be destroyed and what was to be saved?

Question 9: What two warnings did Joshua give the Israelites in **verses 17b** and **18**?

Question 10: Explain how the walls of Jericho fell. Why was such a destruction mechanism chosen?

Question 11: **Hebrews 11:30** says that the walls of Jericho fell down by faith. What does this mean?

Question 12: Rahab's house was built on the wall (**Joshua 2:15**). How could the two men in **verse 22** find and rescue Rahab and her family when the walls of Jericho fell down?

Question 13: Why were Rahab and her family placed outside the camp of Israel (**verse 23**) after they had been rescued?

Question 14: Why did Joshua place a curse on the man rebuilding the city of Jericho in **verse 26**?

Question 15: Joshua's curse left the city of Jericho in ruin until 9th century BC when Hiel of Bethel attempted to rebuild it during the reign of King Ahab (see **1 Kings 16:34**). What happened to the family of Hiel?

Note: (1) At the time of the New Testament, there were two Jerichos: the abandoned ruins of the ancient city inhabited by lepers and others deemed to be ritually unclean who were excluded from the community and nearby the new Jericho (the city where Zacchaeus lived).

(2) The archaeological evidence supports that Jericho had massive defenses. The city was surrounded by an earthen embankment that was stabilized by a 15-foot stone retaining wall. On top of the stone wall stood a mud brick wall about 6 feet thick and three to four times higher. A second wall stood atop the embankment. It was discovered that Jericho's mud brick walls fell into a heap at the base of the retaining wall, forming a ramp by which the Israelites easily surmounted the stone retaining wall, just as it was described in **Joshua 6:20**. A 3 foot ash layer verified that there was an intense fire within the city. Ceramic jars full of what had been olive oil and food stuffs were discovered undisturbed in the ruins of the city and confirm the shortness of the siege that occurred at harvest time (**Joshua 2:6; 3:15; 5:10; 6:15**). That the harvested goods of a conquered city would be left to burn is an extraordinary event and supports the biblical narratives' account of a total abstention of taking the accused things (**Joshua 6:18**).

Evidences supporting the biblical account that were discovered by archaeologists are:

- a. Jericho was heavily fortified (**Josh 2:5, 7, 15; 6:5, 20**).
- b. The discovery of multiple large storage jars that had been filled with grain supported the Bible's account that the attack occurred just after the spring harvest (**Josh 2:1; 3:15; 5:16**).
- c. The evidence of intact food jars supports the biblical account that the inhabitants did not flee with their food supplies and the Israelites did not confiscate them (**Josh 6:1**).
- d. The evidence of food destroyed in the siege supports the biblical account that the siege was short since a shortage of foodstuffs would have suggested a long siege (**Josh 6:15**).
- e. The walls fell outward as they would in an earthquake (**Josh 6:17, 18**).
- f. The city was not plundered of its riches (**Josh 6:17, 18**).
- g. The city was destroyed by fire (**Josh 6:24**).

Question 16: Do you think the spread of Joshua's fame throughout all the country was due to the destruction of Jericho?

Question 17: What have you learnt about God, and how can you see the gospel, in **Joshua Chapter 6**?

Question 1: The genealogy of Achan traces his line of descent back to Zerah. Who was Zerah?
(Hint: **See Genesis 38**)

Question 2: It was Achan who took the accursed things, but why was God's anger burned against the children of Israel instead of just Achan?

Question 3: In the battle against Ai, do you think Joshua was responsible for its defeat?

Notes: (1) The Israelite military advance on Canaan was to proceed in three stages:

1. The center campaign (**6:1-9:27**)
2. The southern campaign (**10:1-43**)
3. The northern campaign (**11:1-15**)

The plan for the central campaign included taking two major strategic sites: Jericho and Ai, a Hebrew word which means "the Ruin." The significance of what happens at Ai is stressed by the repetition of the place-name 27 times in the Hebrew text in **chapters 7-8**: 5 times in rapid succession in **7:2-5** and another 22 times in **8:1-29**. Ai had once been a large city that had been destroyed and was now mostly in ruins. Archaeologists have identified that Ai was a major walled city but had been destroyed by fire.

(2) The word aleph/eleph is the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It became the designation for the number one and eventually also came to designate the unit of a "thousand", but it is uncertain if that is the meaning in verse 3 which says: "...let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there ...". Some commentators suggested that the "thousand" here may refer to a "contingency" of men, or perhaps the smallest unit of fighting men. The argument is that losing 36 men out of three thousand in a frontal assault does not seem like a disaster. However, if the Hebrew letter aleph represents the smallest unit of Israelite troops, say three units of 15 soldiers or 20 or even 50 or even 100 men, losing 36 men is indeed a disaster. For example, the initial loss may have been 80 percent for three units of 15 men or 60 percent for three units of 20 men. Hence, the loss of 36 out of 150 or 300 men could be considered a disaster.

Question 4: **Verse 5** says, "... the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them *from* before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent..." Describe the battle scene depicted in this verse.

Question 5: What was the main reason for the defeat at Ai?

Question 6: Why did Joshua tear his clothes in **verse 6**? Is this action similar to that described in **Matthew 26:65** or **Mark 14:63**?

Question 7: Compare and contrast the prayer of Moses in **Exodus 32:11-14** and the prayer of Joshua in **verses 7-9**.

Question 8: What was the main argument Joshua used in his prayer?

Question 9: Why do you think God said to Joshua in **verse 10**: ““Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?””?

Question 10: What was/were Israel’s sins? What commandment did Israel break?

Question 11: How serious was this sin and what was the remedy?

Question 12: Describe how the guilty individual who had committed the sin was identified in the community of Israel depicted in **verse 14**.

Question 13: What method was employed to discover the guilty individual? Cite two other biblical examples where such method was practiced. Do you think we should/should not use such method today?

Question 14: What was Achan’s crime? What motivated him to commit this crime? Do you think the crime was committed in a casual manner?

Question 15: Among the items Achan stole was a fine robe from Shinar. Can you recall a well-known incident related to Shinar?

Question 16: What was the punishment on the guilty ones?

Note: (1) **Verse 25** uses two different Hebrew words for "stoning" – "ragam" in **verse 25a** and "saqal" in **verse 25b**. The word in **verse 25a** is used for the act of stoning as a form of capital punishment while the word in **25b** refers to the casting up of stones upon the grave in which the bodies were placed to build a pile of stones as a memorial (see **verse 26**). The memory of the valley continued in Israel's history and is mentioned in **Hosea 2:17**.

Note: (2) Those family members who perished with Achan were likely to be those who were partners in hiding his crime or those who were aware of his sin but did not stand against him or in some other way God knew they too were worthy of punishment. It may be unlikely that the innocent children perished, consistent with a similar punishment that fell upon the rebel Korah and his family in **Numbers 16:31-35**. Korah's children were spared and his grandsons became the trusted gatekeepers of the Sanctuary and the famous and gifted leaders of Levitical choir that served the Sanctuary and later under the direction of their sons in the Jerusalem Temple (for example, see **Numbers 26:10-11**; **1 Chronicles 6:22/38**; **9:19**; descendants [sons] of Korah mentioned as the choirmasters (directors of music) in the titles of **Psalms 42; 44; 46; 47; 48; 84; 85; 87; 88**). God is merciful to the innocent.

Question 17: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 7**?

Question 18: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 7**?

Week 9: Joshua Chapter 8

[6th – 12th May 2018]

Question 1: Describe the strategy Joshua employed in the battle against Ai.

Question 2: Do you think the setting up of an ambush by Joshua is an act of deception or an act of cowardice?

Question 3: **Verse 3b** says that "Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night." How selective was this group of thirty thousand men in the army of Israel?

Question 4: How many soldiers did Joshua employ in the ambush attack of Ai?

Question 5: What is different in the instructions concerning the capture of Ai compared to the capture of Jericho? Why do you think there is such a difference?

Question 6: Describe the fall of Ai (**verses 18-23**) in your own words.

Question 7: Did the men of Bethel join in the battle against Israel? If so, why do you think they did that?

Question 8: What does **Joshua 8:17** "And there was not a man left in Ai or Bethel..." mean?

Question 9: What did Israel do to the king of Ai?

Note: Nothing more is said about further battles in the central part of Canaan, although there could be other minor ones. Jericho and Ai must have been the major battles. After that whatever opposition Israel faced must have been relatively little, so we are not told anything about them.

Question 10: What did Joshua and Israel do in **verses 30-32**?

Question 11: What is the significance of the place where Israel was at this time?

Question 12: Joshua "read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law." Which parts of the Book of Law do the blessings/cursings refer to?

Question 13: Why did Joshua read all the words of the law to the people?

Question 14: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 8**?

Question 15: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 8**?

Week 10: Joshua Chapter 9

[13th – 19th May 2018]

Question 1: Which side of the Jordan does “this side of the Jordan” in **verse 1** refer to?

Question 2: Who were the Gibeonites and what did they do?

Question 3: Why did the Gibeonites pretend to have come from a faraway country?

Question 4: What did Joshua and the people do to the Gibeonites? Did Joshua and the people deal with the Gibeonites correctly?

Question 5: Provide at least two reasons to explain why Joshua and the people dealt with the Gibeonites that way.

Question 6: How did the Israelites find out and confirm who the Gibeonites were?

Question 7: Having confirmed the true identity of the Gibeonites, what did the rulers of the congregation do with them?

Question 8: Did the Gibeonites agree to Joshua's arrangement (in question 7)? Why do you think they did so?

Question 9: In view of **Exodus 23:31-33**, what would you suggest Joshua and the rulers of the congregation should do to the Gibeonites?

Note: Later information about the Gibeonites:

After Saul became king, in his zeal to destroy Israel's enemies, he had attempted to slay the Gibeonites – **2 Sam. 21:1-9**. Because this was a violation of Israel's oath with the Gibeonites in Joshua's day, Israel suffered later during David's reign. When David inquired of God about this, God explained this was because of Saul's attempt to kill the Gibeonites. Seven of Saul's offspring were then given to the Gibeonites to kill as punishment for Saul's sin. Later references show that, for many generations the tabernacle and/or a place of worship was located at Gibeon (**1 Kings 3:4; 1 Chron. 16:39**). Later, a group called the Nethinim were still working as servants to those who worked in the tabernacle and the temple. It is believed that these were the Gibeonites (see **1 Chron. 9:2; Ezra 2:43, 58; Neh. 10:28**).

The above passages, especially the case of Saul, demonstrate that God enforced the oath Israel had made to the Gibeonites. Even though the Gibeonites had lied and deceived, and even though God had commanded Israel to make no covenants with the people of the land, God upheld this covenant and punished Saul for not keeping it!

Why did God hold the Israelites to the oath they made to the Gibeonites?

The following points may be helpful in answering the question:

- 1) Israel had failed to consult God before making the oath. Perhaps keeping the oath served as a punishment to them for their failure to consult God.
- 2) The Gibeonites did appear to have faith in God. They clearly believed God would empower Israel to defeat them and to destroy them regardless of any effort on their part. And they appeared later to have served faithfully in the tabernacle and temple. God had said to destroy the inhabitants so they would not lead Israel into idolatry. Clearly the Gibeonites did not lead Israel into idolatry. Perhaps their faith made them an exception to the rule that the people of the land should be slain, even as Rahab's faith had made her an exception.
- 3) The oath Israel made was not just to the Gibeonites but also before God. They "have sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel" (**verse 19**). Such an oath was bound, not just by the people but by God Himself. This was the specific reason offered by the rulers of the congregation of Israel why they had to keep the oath. Could it be that, had Israel simply made a promise to the Gibeonites but then found out that the Gibeonites had lied, Israel could have freed themselves from the oath to the Gibeonites? But having made the oath before God, and knowing God was faithful and not deceitful, perhaps that is why they had to keep it and honour it.

Question 10: Having read the note above, do you have to revise your answer to question 9?

Question 11: Discuss in your RTBT group the following:

(a) Lessons you have learnt from the above note

(b) Questions you have concerning the Gibeonite case

Question 12: How could the Gibeonite story be applicable to us in our daily life?

Question 13: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 9**?

Question 14: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 9**?

Week 11: Joshua Chapter 10

[20th – 26th May 2018]

Question 1: In **verse 3**, Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem called upon Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon to help him attack Gibeon. Do you think the making of this alliance is a new strategy formed only after the surrender of Gibeon to Israel?

Note: This is the first time the place “Jerusalem” is found in the Bible. Like the cities in Adoni-Zedek’s alliance there were a mixture of Hivites and Amorites, Jerusalem also apparently had a mixed population of Amorites and Hittites (**Ezekiel 16:3**). Jerusalem did not become an Israelite city until it is conquered by David in 1000 BC, when David made the city his capital. In former times the city was called “Salem,” which means “peace.” The name of the city was changed sometime after Abraham’s test of covenant obedience at Mt. Moriah near Salem where he was to offer up his son Isaac, in **Genesis 22**. Where is Mt Moriah? Though it was a wilderness area in Abraham’s day (2000 BC), a thousand years later (1000 BC) King David established the city of Jerusalem there, and his son Solomon built the First Jewish Temple there.

When Isaac asked his father “where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”, Abraham’s reply in Hebrew was “Yahweh yireh (jireh)” — “Yahweh provides/will provide.” When the angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son, Abraham saw a ram caught up in a thicket and offered it as a substitute sacrifice for Isaac (**Gen 22:11-13**). There is no “j” in Hebrew; in English we use “j” which is the German “y.” Hence, the city of Salem became yireh/jireh-salem = Jerusalem, meaning “will provide peace.” Abraham’s naming of the site “Yahweh will provide” becomes prophetic. The mountain of Moriah is where the Jerusalem Temple was built (**2 Chr 3:1**) and a lower elevation of the same mountain was where Jesus Christ was crucified as the sacrifice Yahweh “will provide” to establish peace with God for mankind.

Question 2: What was the plan of this alliance? Do you think this is a wise plan?

Question 3: How did Joshua get involve in the plan of the alliance? Why did Joshua get involve?

Question 4: Do you think Joshua consulted God before he got involved in the battle against the alliance?

Question 5: What strategy did Joshua employ in the battle against the alliance?

Question 6: Beside Joshua and the Israelite army fighting against Adoni-Zedek’s alliance, who else can you see was involved in the battle and what was the strategy used?

Question 7: What did Joshua request the Lord to do in **verse 12**? Why did he make that request?

Question 8: Explain the phenomenon the Lord employed to answer Joshua’s request. Do you see any implication on what God did for Joshua?

Question 9: What time of the day did this phenomenon take place?

Question 10: Can you cite other Bible references where this phenomenon is confirmed?

Question 11: Discuss in your RTBT group your belief on this phenomenon.

Question 12: What is the Book of Jasher?

Question 13: In the midst of fighting and pursuing the enemies, why did “Joshua return, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal” in **verse 15**?

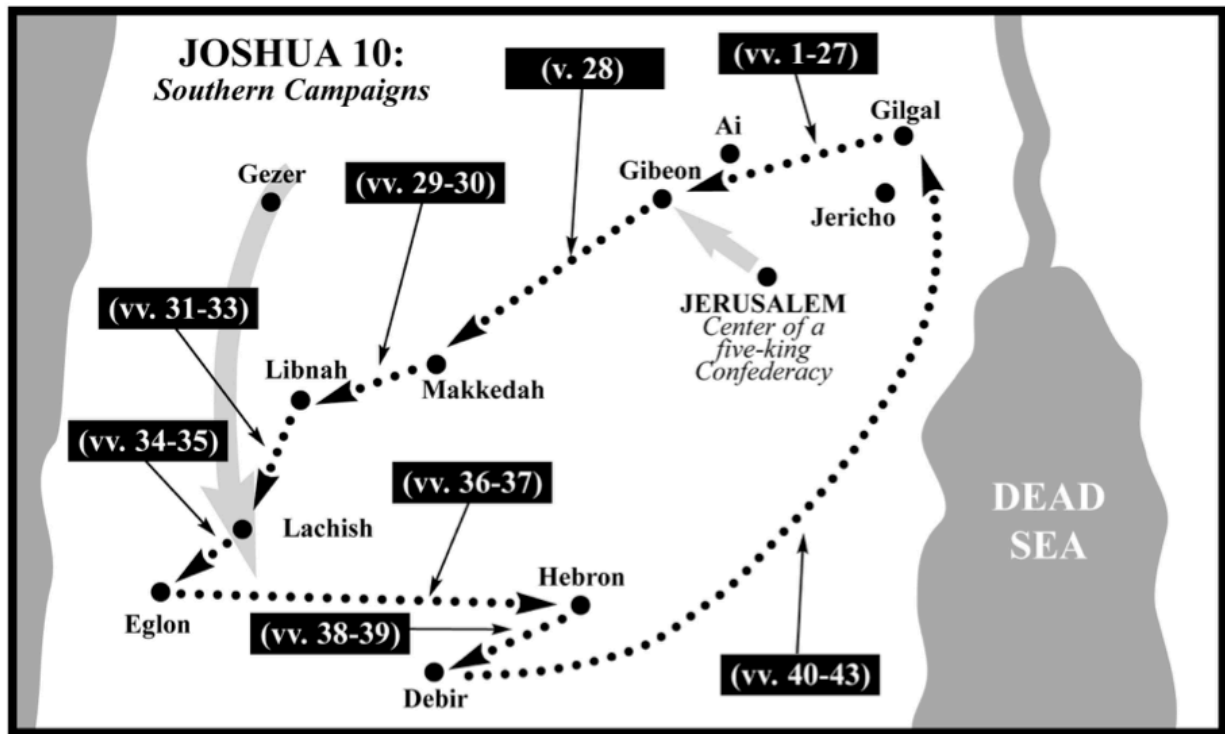
Question 14: Why did Joshua ask the captains of the men of war who went with him to put their feet on the necks of the five kings they have captured before killing them?

Question 15: **Verses 28-43** list the names of the cities of southern Canaan that Israel captured. Do you think the list includes all the cities Israel captured?

Question 16: If Joshua had captured all the cities listed in **verses 28-43**, why did some cities need to be captured again during the time of the Judges (see for example, **Judges 1:10-12**)?

Question 17: Do you think the map (page 26) shows all the routes described in **Joshua 10**?

Question 18: What have you learnt about God, and how can you see the gospel, in **Joshua Chapter 10**?



Week 12: Joshua Chapter 11

[27th May – 2nd June 2018]

Question 1: Another set of allied armies came against Israel in **Joshua 11**. Josephus, the Jewish historian, says that the combined force of the “Canaanites” in this war was 300,000 foot soldiers, 10,000 cavalry and 20,000 chariots. The armies and horses seemed as vast as grains of “sand that is upon the sea shore” (**verse 4**). Who was the leader of this coalition and what was he trying to do?

Question 2: How is the narrative in **Joshua 11:1-9** similar to the narrative in **Joshua 10:1-27**?

Question 3: Although chariots have been used by the Egyptians in the Book of Exodus, this is the first time they were employed in the **Book of Joshua (verse 4)**. What did God tell the Israelites to deal with (a) the horses and (b) the chariots?

Question 4: Why do you think God gave Joshua such instructions regarding the horses and the chariots?

Question 5: How long would the battle at the waters of Merom last?

Question 6: What strategy did Joshua employ in the battle against Jabin king of Hazor and his alliance?

Question 7: In the conquest of the cities of Canaan, it appears that four different degrees of destruction were imposed on the different cities, as follows:

1. The total destruction of everything living (people and animals), everything material in the city (except metals that could withstand fire), the destruction of the city by fire, and a curse on anyone who attempted to rebuild and fortify the city.
2. The total destruction of everything living (people and animals), everything material in the city (except metals that could withstand fire), and the destruction of the city by fire.
3. Destruction of every person in the city and the city is burned, but God gives the animals and goods to the children of Israel.
4. Destruction of every person in the city, but God gives the animals and goods to the children of Israel, and the city was not burned.

The table below lists the degrees of destruction. Provide the name of at least one city that belongs to each degree of destruction and tick the type of destruction applicable to that city.

Degree of destruction	People	Animals	Goods	Burning of the city	Curse	Name of city
1						
2						
3						
4						

Question 8: What does the gift of the livestock and loot from the conquered cities tell the Israelites?

Question 9: What happened to those cities that were conquered but not destroyed by fire?

Note: Archaeological excavations have revealed that the city of Hazor was destroyed by a horrific fire. Amnon Ben-Thor, professor in archaeology at Hebrew University wrote: At Hazor, where I have long worked, all major buildings were violently destroyed by fire. Take the ceremonial palace in the heart of the acropolis, our excavation revealed that, in

addition to a great amount of timber placed in the walls, the façade, the floor and the roof were also made of wood. In addition, we uncovered 20 huge pithoi (storage jars) nearby that originally contained olive oil. When the palace went up in flames, so did the combustible oil in these vessels, as evidenced by the marks of burning liquid still discernible on the surface of the pithoi. The combination of an enormous amount of wood with several hundred liters of oil resulted in an intense fire. Add to this the strong winds prevailing at Hazor and the result is extraordinary: The bricks of the walls were vitrified and clay vessels were melted, indicating a fire temperature of more than 1300 degrees Celsius (a normal fire burns at 700-800 degrees).

Question 10: What can we learn about Joshua in **verse 15**?

Question 11: According to **verse 18**, Joshua made war a long time with all the kings in Canaan. How many years do you estimate were spent securing the conquest of Canaan?

Question 12: What did God do to the Canaanite people to cause them to fight Israel?

Question 13: Who were the Anakim and why was their destruction mentioned in **verses 21-23**?

Question 14: **Verse 23** says that “Joshua took the whole land”. How does this relate to **Joshua 13:1** where God told Joshua that he did not take the whole land?

Question 15: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 11**?

Question 16: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 11**?

Question 1: This chapter lists all the kings (31 of them) conquered by Moses and Joshua. What is the purpose of enumerating the kings killed by Israel?

Question 2: Verses 1-6 is a review of the lands conquered on the east side of the Jordan River (this land is called the Transjordan territory) prior to the death of Moses. What were the boundaries of this Transjordan territory?

Question 3: Was the Transjordan territory part of God's original promise to Abraham? Provide Bible reference(s) to support your answer.

Question 4: What is the claim to the Transjordan territory based upon according to **verse 6**?

Question 5: Was this claim of the eastern territory beneficial to the nation of Israel in the later years?

Question 6: Og is described as a remnant of the giants (**verse 4**). How big was Og? How does his height compare to the height of Goliath of Gath, the Philistine warrior David defeated in **1 Samuel 17**?

Question 7: Who were the Geshurites and the Maachathites? What roles did they play in the history of Israel?

Question 8: Although the kings named in **verses 7-24** were conquered by the army of Joshua, not all their cities were conquered. Name some cities that were not conquered.

Question 9: Verse 24 says that 31 kings were conquered. How many were defeated by Moses and how many defeated by Joshua?

Question 10: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 12**?

Question 11: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 12**?

Week 14: Joshua Chapter 13

[10th – 16th June 2018]

Question 1: God told Joshua in verse 1 that he was old and advanced in years. How old do you think Joshua was at this time?

Question 2: Why did God tell Joshua that he was old and advanced in years?

Question 3: If God said to you: “You are old and advanced in years”, do you think it is time for you to retire?

Question 4: How much land did Israel possess at this juncture in relation to the entire territory God promised to Israel?

Question 5: After many years of conquering the land of Canaan, is it a surprise to you that God told Joshua “there are still very large areas of land to be taken over” (verse 1, NIV)? If not, why not?

Question 6: If there are lands still to be conquered, why is God not ordering Joshua to continue the conquest?

Question 7: What was the major task that Joshua was required to still complete?

Question 8: What promise did God make concerning the lands remaining to be conquered and where is this land located in relation to the Jordan River?

Question 9: **Verse 14** says that the tribe of Levi was given no inheritance. Cite Bible references to show this is indeed so.

Question 10: If the Levites were not given any land, how did God provide for their material support?

Question 11: **Verses 15-23** describe the territory assigned to the tribe of Reuben. In general, their inheritance included territory taken from Sihon king of Heshbon, stretching from the Arnon River north along the Dead Sea till it reached the Jordan River. Identify and label this land on the map shown on page 32.

Question 12: The inheritance of the tribe of Gad is described in **verses 24-28**. It was the territory north of that of the Reubenites, including the rest of the region captured from Sihon king of Heshbon. It included much of the land of Gilead along the Jordan River as far north as the Sea of Chinnereth (or Sea of Galilee). Identify and label this land on the map shown on page 32.

Question 13: The half tribe of Manasseh also inherited land east of Jordan. Their inheritance, described in **verses 29-31**, was generally the territory captured from Og king of Bashan. This was north of Gad's inheritance, including the rest of Gilead. Identify and label this land on the map shown on page 32.

Question 14: Who divided the land east of the Jordan to the two and a half tribes of Israel?

Question 15: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 13**?

Question 16: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 13**?

MAP OF CANAAN - TWELVE TRIBE PORTIONS



Question 1: Israel was given the land of Canaan. What and where is Canaan?

Question 2: Describe how the land was allotted to the different tribes of Israel.

Question 3: Was the allocation process designed by Joshua?

Question 4: The people involved in the allocation process are given in **verse 1**. What different offices within the nation of Israel do you think they represented?

Question 5: Who is Eleazar?

Question 6: Since the tribe of Levi was not given any land, how many tribes would receive allotments of land on the west side of the Jordan?

Question 7: Who is Caleb?

Question 8: Caleb is one of the few men in the Bible that God calls "my servant" (see **Numbers 14:24**). Up to this point in time, who else did God call "my servant"? Cite Bible references to support your answer.

Question 9: What did Caleb call the other eleven spies who went to survey the land of Canaan with him? What lessons can we learn from this?

Question 10: What was Caleb's inheritance? What is the significance of this inheritance in the past (before he received it) and in the days after Caleb has received it?

Question 11: On what basis was this inheritance given to Caleb?

Question 12: Caleb said in **verse 10** that he was 85 years. Who do you think is older, Joshua or Caleb? Justify your answer.

Question 13: Why was the name Kirjath Arba changed to Hebron?

Question 14: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 14**?

Question 15: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 14**?

Week 16: Joshua Chapter 15

[24th – 30th June 2018]

Question 1: Verses 1-12 describe the borders of the land allotted to Judah. It is difficult to determine the exact location of many places named on the boundaries today after so many years have passed. In general, Judah's territory stretched from the Dead Sea on the east to the Mediterranean Sea on the west. The northern border stretched westward from the northern tip of the Dead Sea, where the Jordan entered the Sea. It passed Jerusalem and went west to the sea. On the south, Judah's territory stretched to Edom and the wilderness of Zin south of Canaan. Identify and label the territory of Judah on the map shown on page 32.

Question 2: According to the order of their birth (**Genesis 29:31-30:34; 35:16-20**), Judah was the fourth son of the twelve sons of Jacob, namely, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin. Why was Judah the first tribe to be allotted with the land?

Question 3: Both Hebron and Debir had been captured by Joshua before (**Joshua 10:38-39**). Why did Caleb have to capture these cities again?

Question 4: Who is Othniel? What other important role did Othniel play in the history of Israel? (See **Judges 1:9-21; 3:9-11**)

Question 5: How were Othniel and Achsha related to each other? Why was their marriage not prohibited?

Question 6: Why did Achsah and Othniel ask for a field in **verse 18** when they had already been given the land at Kirjath Sepher?

Question 7: In **verse 18**, why did Achsah persuade Othniel to ask her father for a field and at the end, it was Achsah herself who asked Caleb for a blessing?

Question 8: How did Caleb respond to Achsah's request and how does his answer tell us about his character?

Question 9: **Verses 20-62** is the longest and most detailed list of cities allotted to a tribe. The list consists of 29 cities in the Negeb, 39 (14, 16 and 9) cities in the lowland, 49 (11, 9, 10, 6, 11 and 2) in the mountain country, and 6 in the wilderness. **Verses 33-36** list the names of 15 cities. Is there a discrepancy in **verse 36** that says that there are fourteen cities with their villages?

Question 10: Who were the Jebusites who dwelled in Jerusalem?

Question 11: Jerusalem was not among the cities allotted to Judah. To which tribe was Jerusalem allotted?

Question 12: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapter 15**?

Question 13: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 15**?

Week 17: Joshua Chapters 16 and 17

[1ST – 7TH July 2018]

Chapters 16 and 17 deal with the allotment of land to the two tribes of Joseph. The two chapters may be better read as one unit divided into four parts as follows:

1. The general boundaries of the tribe of Joseph (**16:1-4**)
2. Ephraim's boundaries (**16:5-10**)
3. Manasseh's boundaries (**17:1-13**)
4. The complaint of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh concerning their lot (**17:14-18**)

Question 1: Joseph was one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Why was there not an allotment of land to the tribe of Joseph similar to that for the tribe of Judah in **Chapter 15**?

Question 2: Verses 1-3 describe the southern boundary of the land allotted to the children of Joseph. The boundary stretched from the Jordan at Jericho west past Bethel to the Mediterranean Sea. Identify this boundary on the map shown on page 32.

Question 3: Bethel means "house/place of God". How was the site of Bethel important in the history of Israel?

Question 4: The land allotted to the tribe of Ephraim is described in **verses 5-9**. Identify and label the territory of Ephraim on the map shown on page 32.

Question 5: The next tribe allotted land is Manasseh. Manasseh was the first born of Joseph (**Joshua 17:1**). Why was his land not allotted first before Ephraim in **Chapter 16**?

Question 6: Who is Zelophehad? **Verse 4** says that the daughters of Zelophehad were to be given land according to the Lord's command to Moses. Cite the Bible reference where this promise was made.

Question 7: The land allotted to Manasseh is described in **Joshua Chapter 17:7-11**. Identify and label the territory of Manasseh on the map shown on page 32.

Question 8: Which tribes did Manasseh's land share its borders with?

Question 9: Manasseh also shared towns with other tribes. Name some of these towns.

Question 10: **Verse 14** says that "... the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua". Why did they speak only to Joshua and not to "Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel (**Joshua 14:1**)?"

Question 11: What were the complaints of the children of Joseph and how did Joshua deal with them?

Question 12: Do you think their complaints were justified? What was the root problem that caused them to complain?

Note: The complaint by the children of Joseph that they did not have enough cleared land and that the enemies in the plains were too powerful may not have been the point they were trying to raise with Joshua, a brother Ephraimite. Notice the question they asked: "Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit (**verse 14a**)?" The force of their complaint may have been that Joseph was the favored son and they should therefore receive not just a single lot for each tribe, but a double portion of the land under the rights of the "first-born" (Joseph was Rachel's first born) and also being the favored son. They may be backing up their argument by pointing out that God approved their rights as the "first-born" because He has blessed them in their large number of people in the tribes (**verse 14b**). Joshua either misunderstood their request, or disagreed with their understanding, or ignored it when he told them that since they were such a large tribe, they could easily clear the land for farming, and win more of the unconquered Gentile lands for their own use.

Question 13: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapters 16 and 17**?

Question 14: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapters 16 and 17**?

Joshua Chapters 18-19 deal with the allotment of land at Shiloh to the remaining seven tribes of the children of Israel. The two chapters may be better read as one unit divided into three parts as follows:

1. Land allotment continued at Shiloh after a survey of the remaining land (**18:1-10**).
2. The allotments of land for the remaining seven tribes:
 - (a) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Benjamin (**18:11-28**)
 - (b) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Simeon (**19:1-9**)
 - (c) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Zebulun (**19:10-16**)
 - (d) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Issachar (**19:17-23**)
 - (e) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Asher (**19:24-31**)
 - (f) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Naphtali (**19:32-39**)
 - (g) the boundary lines and towns of the tribe of Dan (**19: 40-48**)
3. Joshua's heritage and the conclusion of the land allotment (**19:49-51**)

Question 1: Where did the children of Israel set up the tabernacle of meeting? From where did they move the tabernacle? What is the significance of this new location?

Question 2: Verse 1 says that “And the land was subdued before them”. What does this mean?

Question 3: What did Joshua reprove the children of Israel of?

Question 4: At this point in time, how long has passed since they crossed over Jordan?

Question 5: How many men were to be chosen from each of the seven remaining tribes? What were the men needed for?

Question 6: The remaining land was to be divided into seven parts. Name the tribes that would be allotted with this land.

- Question 7:** How was the land allotment being carried out? Do you think this is a fair way of allocation?
- Question 8:** The territory and cities assigned to the tribe of Benjamin are described in **Joshua 18:11-28**. This is a region between what had been assigned to Judah and Ephraim. It bordered at the Jordan north of the Dead Sea and stretched to the west between Judah and Ephraim's territories. Identify and label the territory of Benjamin on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 9:** What are the boundaries of the lands allotted to the tribe of Simeon described in **Joshua 19:1-9**? Why were the boundaries allotted in this manner? Identify and label the territory of Benjamin on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 10:** The inheritance of Zebulun is described in **Joshua 19:10-16**. In general Zebulun's territory was centrally located north of Manasseh's territory (the Manasseh west of Jordan). It was surrounded by Asher to the west, Issachar to the southeast, and Naphtali to the northeast. Identify and label the territory of Zebulun on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 11:** The land allotted to Issachar is located southeast from that of Zebulun's. Issachar held a region along the Jordan river, north of the valley of Jezreel but south of the Sea of Galilee. They were surrounded by Manasseh to the south, Zebulun to the northwest and Naphtali to the north (**Joshua 19:17-23**). Identify and label the territory of Issachar on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 12:** Asher's territory was along the Mediterranean Sea (**Joshua 19:24-31**). It extended north from Manasseh and northwest from Mt. Carmel all along the sea as far north as the city of Tyre. It had Manasseh to its south, Zebulun to its southeast, and Naphtali to its east. Identify and label the territory of Issachar on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 13:** The land allotted to Naphtali (**Joshua 19:32-39**) was along the west coast of the Sea of Galilee and northward from there between the Jordan river to their east and Asher to their west. Issachar was to their south and Zebulun to their southwest. Identify and label the territory of Issachar on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 14:** The last tribe to be given its territory was Dan. Dan received territory extending to the Mediterranean Sea, but west of Ephraim and Benjamin. They had Judah to their south and Manasseh to their north. (**Joshua 19:40-48**). Identify and label the territory of Issachar on the map shown on page 32.
- Question 15:** Who gave Joshua an inheritance and why did they do that? Where is Joshua's inheritance and why do you think he chose this place?

Question 16: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapters 18 and 19**?

Question 17: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapters 18 and 19**?

Week 19: Joshua Chapters 20 and 21

[15th – 21st July 2018]

Chapters 20-21 are better grouped as one unit in which special cities are defined. These cities are the cities of refuge that offer sanctuary and the cities appointed for the Levites.

Chapter 20 deals with the appointment of the cities of refuge. The law forbidding the intentional taking of innocent life is found in the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20:13** and **Deuteronomy 5:17**), but the command against the shedding of innocent blood extends back to the first murder in the death of righteous Abel (**Genesis 4:9-12**) and the penalty of death is imposed for homicide in **Genesis 9:5-6**. The laws concerning homicide (intentional killing), manslaughter (unintentional death), personal injury cases and the deaths of animals are detailed in **Exodus 21:12-36**. In those laws, it is stated that anyone who is involved in an accidental or unintentional death can seek refuge in a place selected by God to avoid blood vengeance by the family of the one killed (**Exodus 21:13**). Detailed instructions concerning the establishment of cities of refuge are given in **Numbers 35:9-15**. **Numbers 35:16-34** then defines the difference between what could be judged intentional and unintentional killing. Further instructions are given in **Deuteronomy 19:1-13**.

Question 1: How many cities of refuge did God command Moses to establish prior to the conquest of Canaan?

Question 2: Which cities of refuge did Moses establish in the Israelite lands on the east side of the river before his death?

Question 3: Why was there a need to appoint these cities of refuge? How was such need met before such cities were appointed?

Question 4: When God spoke to Moses concerning the cities of refuge, what reasons did God give for establishing these cities among the tribes of Israel? See **Exodus 21:12-14**, **Numbers 35:9-12, 33-34** and **Deuteronomy 19:13**.

Question 5: Describe the process how a person who has been involved in an accidental or unintentional death seek asylum in a city of refuge to avoid blood vengeance by the family of the one killed.

Question 6: What is meant by “accidental or unintentional” in **verse 3**?

Question 7: Where are the cities of refuge located?

Question 8: Who is the “avenger of blood” (NKJV)?

Question 9: If the community determined the killing was accidental, why did the person involved in the killing have to stay in the city of refuge until the “death of the one who is high priest in those days”?

Question 10: Were the cities of refuge only extended to Israelites?

Note: The Levites were responsible for the spiritual care of Israel. They were given cities dotted throughout Israel's tribal allotments, meaning most Israelites would be less than a day's journey from a Levitical city. This shows God's heart for placing spiritual leaders among His people. Today, God has placed spiritual leaders in the church to equip Christians to do their part in developing a community of people who live and serve like Jesus (**Eph. 4:11-16**).

Question 11: While all the tribes received their lands, why were the Levites not given land?

Question 12: How many cities were designated Levitical cities? Is this number commanded by God?

Question 13: How were the cities of the Levites assigned and how was this different from the way the cities of refuge were identified?

Question 14: **Joshua 21:4-42** describe the assignment of cities to the various families of the Levites. Complete the table below to show from which tribes did these cities come from.

Levite family:	Number of cities:	Contributing tribes:
Kohathites (Priests)		
Kohathites (Levites)		
Gershonites		
Merarites		

Question 15: How many cities of refuge are also Levitical cities? Why?

Question 16: God's covenant name is repeated four times and the word "all" is repeated six times in **verses 43-45**. The repetition emphasizes God's commitment to His covenant with Israel and His faithfulness in fulfilling His promises. How much of God's promise to Abraham has been fulfilled at this point in time?

Question 17: What have you learnt about God in **Joshua Chapters 20 and 21**?

Question 18: How can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapters 20 and 21**?

Week 20: Joshua Chapters 22

[22nd – 28th July 2018]

During Moses' lifetime, Israel had captured the land east of Jordan. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh had been granted permission to settle in this land for their inheritance. However before they could do so, God had required them to go with the other tribes to help capture the land west of Jordan. Joshua had required these 2½ tribes to keep this agreement. At the present point in the account, Israel had captured the territory west of Jordan and had been given their designated inheritances. The 2½ tribes had fulfilled their agreement. Now they were ready to go back to their families to the east.

Question 1: Provide references for the agreement Moses made with the tribes of Reuben, Gad and ½ tribe of Manasseh regarding the land east of the Jordan and Joshua's requirement that they fulfilled the agreement.

Question 2: How long have the 2½ tribes stayed and fought for the tribes on the west side of Jordan?

Question 3: Why did Joshua praise the tribes of Reuben, Gad and ½ tribe of Manasseh?

Question 4: Joshua admonished them in **verse 5**. What five things did Joshua mentioned that they must do?

Question 5: Why do you think these 2½ tribes needed to be admonished?

Question 6: Before dismissing them, Joshua blessed them and gave them a final reminder. What were they reminded to do?

Question 7: When they came to the region of the Jordan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built a great, impressive altar. Where was the altar built?

Question 8: When the news of the altar built by the eastern tribes reached the other tribes, why were the children of Israel on the west ready to go to war against the eastern tribes?

Question 9: Who is Phinehas (besides being the son of Eleazar the priest) and what did he do in this confrontation?

Question 10: What three rhetorical questions did the delegation ask the eastern tribes?

Question 11: What past events were used as examples of rebellion that incurred God's wrath and His punishment on the whole community of Israel?

Question 12: What solution did the delegation propose if the land possessed by the 2½ tribes were “unclean”?

Question 13: What explanation did the 2½ tribes give for the building of the great and impressive altar?

Question 14: Do you think the explanation from the eastern tribes was sincere? Justify your answer.

Question 15: What was the response of the delegation from the western tribes?

Question 16: What lessons can we learn from this event?

Question 17: What have you learnt about God, and how can you see the gospel in **Joshua Chapter 22**?

Week 21: Joshua Chapter 23

[29th – 4th August 2018]

Joshua Chapters 23-24 may be better considered as one unit in three parts:

- (1) Joshua's farewell address to the people (**Joshua 23:1-16**);
- (2) Joshua's address continued at the covenant renewal ceremony at Shechem (**Joshua 24:1-28**);
- (3) Conclusion: the three graves of Israel's heroes in the Promised Land (**Joshua 24:29-33**).

- Question 1:** Joshua is now the oldest man in the nation of Israel. How old was he when he gave his farewell address?
- Question 2:** How does Joshua characterize the Canaanites and Amorites etc. that God and the children of Israel have driven from the land? Why do you think such term is used?
- Question 3:** In **verses 3-5**, Joshua reminds the children of Israel that God has kept His promise to fight for Israel. The phrase “God will fight/fought for Israel” has been repeated six times prior to this. Cite the references where they occur.
- Question 4:** Israel at this time had never really driven all of the enemies out. What did God promise that He would do to these enemies? On what basis would this promise be fulfilled?
- Question 5:** How were the children of Israel “to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses”?
- Question 6:** What were the children of Israel forbidden to do in their interaction with their pagan neighbors? What would be the consequences if they disobey?
- Question 7:** The Israelites were warned not to “cling” to the remnant pagan nations in their midst (**verse 12**). What does “cling” mean?
- Question 8:** How did Joshua demonstrate God’s faithfulness to the people?
- Question 9:** What characters have Joshua shown in this Chapter that you want to imitate?

Question 10: What have you learnt about God, and how can you see the gospel, in **Joshua Chapter 23**?

Week 22: Joshua Chapter 24

[5th – 11th August 2018]

Question 1: What were the reasons Joshua “gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem” and not to Shiloh?

Question 2: In **verses 2-13**, Joshua gave a summary of the history of God’s dealings with Israel. What is significant about Joshua’s historical survey?

Question 3: Which river does the “River” in **verse 2** refer to?

Question 4: Where and when did God “.... send the hornet before you which drove them out from before you”? Cite the relevant Bible references.

Question 5: In **verse 13**, Joshua explained to the people the basis on which they have come to possess their land. What is this basis and how is it applicable to us?

Question 6: Joshua’s first call to obedience is recorded in **verses 14-15**. How did the children of Israel respond to his call?

Question 7: In order to serve God, Israel must put away their gods. What are these gods that they must put away?

Question 8: Joshua made the declaration: “... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” In your RTBT group, discuss what this declaration mean and how it is applicable to you.

- Question 9:** When the people professed faith in the Lord and their desire to serve the Lord, why did Joshua tell them that they cannot serve the Lord?
- Question 10:** In spite of the challenge Joshua put forth before them, the children of Israel affirmed their desire to serve the Lord. After studying the Book of Joshua and seeing how God acted in history, is this your personal response also? If not, why not?
- Question 11:** How did Joshua reinforce their commitment to the Lord? Why did he do this?
- Question 12:** Israel responded positively to Joshua's three calls to obedience. List the three oaths of allegiance given by the people.
- Question 13:** **Verse 25:** "So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day". Is this a new covenant that they made?
- Question 14:** Joshua then took a large stone and set it by an oak near the sanctuary of the Lord. What is the purpose of this stone?
- Question 15:** What promise has been fulfilled when they buried Joseph in Canaan?
- Question 16:** What have you learnt about God, and how can you see the gospel, in **Joshua Chapter 24**?
- Question 18:** What have you learnt from the **Book of Joshua**? Share this with your RTBT group.

Acknowledgement

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