

IMMERSE: KINGDOMS

Week 2 – CONQUEST - ?

June 19, 2022

Psalm 111:2-4 - *The works of the LORD are great, studied (to seek with care; to request [as in crying out for understanding) by all who have pleasure in them (who LONG to understand. ³ His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. ⁴ He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.*

Deut. 6:21-23 –God ...*brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.* How fitting that a miracle similar to that of the exodus from Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea should mark the entrance into the land of promise when the Jordan River overflowed its banks and was heaped up 15 miles to the north! Just as judgment rained down on Egypt, and the children of Israel departed, judgment rained down on those inhabiting the land of Canaan so that the children of Israel could enter the land of promise which God had given them.

JUDGMENT? Are some of you thinking...I don't understand why God would tell the children of Israel to DESTROY ALL the Canaanites. Did God actually tell the Israelites to DESTROY the Canaanites? Please be aware that some are teaching that God was using non-literal hyperbolic language!? Hyperbole means exaggeration or overstatement. When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, was that merely an exaggeration that didn't literally occur literally? When Jesus said, *Lazarus, Come Forth*, was that an overstatement? What about when Jesus cried from the cross, *It is finished!* Should we be concerned that Jesus didn't mean it?

God had a reason for His literal command to utterly destroy the Canaanites. God did not want Israel to be influenced in any way by the pagan practices of these Gentile nations!

Deut. 9:3 – Concerning God's command re: the Canaanites...*understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire, He will destroy (to exterminate; to cause to perish) them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.*

Num. 1:2-3 – God told Moses to ...*take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, ...every male individually, ³from twenty years old and above—all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies.* God used those of military age as an army of judgment against the Canaanites and their culture which

were so depraved. Who is our God? He is holy!! God is just! God hates sin!!! God attacks sin. God MUST deal with sin – which is rebellion against God! (Rom. 1:18-20)

Why did God command the destruction of the Canaanites, women and children included? We must recognize that we are incapable of fully understanding a sovereign, infinite, and eternal God. We must remember that God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9; Romans 11:33-36). We have to be willing to trust God and have faith in Him even when we do not understand His ways. God's words are NOT overstatements...God's words are NOT exaggerations. God's

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word is TRUTH (John 17:17). Psa. 119:160 – the ENTIRETY of God's word is TRUTH!

Archaeological documentation re: the depravity of the Canaanites:

In 1929 French Archaeologists discovered records concerning the Canaanites filled with idolatry, sodomy, bestiality, sorcery, and child sacrifice. Archaeologist William F. Albright, in his book *From the Stone Age to Christianity* (pp. 232-235), describes what the primary focus of Canaanite religion was: SEX. The featured idols recovered by archaeologists are hundreds of nude female forms in sexually suggestive forms, as well as male idols associated with homosexual cults.

AND, we need to take note of God's POINTED message to the children of Israel...

Deut. 9:5 - *It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.* God promised...His word is true...He WILL deliver on what He has promised. The entry into the land of promise in Joshua's day, at this specific time, was according to God's plan, was according to His promise of the land to the children of Israel. And, God's timing was according to the wickedness of the Canaanites and carrying out His justice/judgment! (Read Gen. 15:13-16 – God telling Abraham about the intensity of the Amorites/Canaanites' sin heightening in approx.. 400 years).

It is becoming more common within Biblical scholarship to encounter the writings of teachers even within the Evangelical world who state that the Hebrew Scriptures do not carry an intentional messianic meaning. Some teach that Gen. 3:15 isn't speaking of the Messiah...it is speaking of a struggle between good and evil. And because of these various teachings, I always want to highlight the clear Messianic theme that we find in each book.

The book of Joshua carries a strong Messianic theme.

God's plan of redemption begins in Genesis and we're introduced to the Redeemer, Jesus. He is called the "Seed of the woman" in Gen. 3:15.

And, we continue to see Him prophesied, and foreshadowed ("Type" – when we say that someone is a type of Christ, we are saying that a person in the Old Testament in some way behaves in a manner that corresponds to Jesus' character or actions. AND, we see the Messiah revealed in the OT/in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Joshua is a foreshadowing of Jesus!

We've seen Joshua whose Hebrew name was Yeshua leading the children of Israel into a place of victory and rest – into the land of promise. Messiah Jesus has acquired the place of ultimate victory (Heb. 2:14) and rest for us (Heb. 3 & 4) now and for all eternity.

AND, in understanding Rahab, we understand more so God's plan of redemption based on His covenant with Abram – that all families of the earth will be blessed through the Jewish Messiah (Gen. 12:3).

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Josh. 3:17 – Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant (the ark represents the presence of God) of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

Josh. 4:1-9 - And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: ² 'Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, ³ and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' ⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; ⁵ and Joshua said to them: 'Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder... ⁶ that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' ⁷ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.' ⁸ And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. ⁹ Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood.

Joshua also set up another pile of memorial stones in the very bed of the river Jordan, so that when it was lowered in a season of drought, those stones could be seen and would testify of the time that God had completely dried up the Jordan. Especially in a time of drought, we need to remember the great things God has done.

Matt. 3:1-9 - *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ...⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from **these stones**. Could “these stones” be the same stones that Joshua set up in the midst of the Jordan? Josh. 4:11 - *Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.**

They were IN the land of promise. Was it time for a vacation? It was time for battle! Any rest was equated to resting in God! What type of battle? It was time for ENORMOUS TRUST IN GOD! God’s desire is that, beyond us DOING something, we must be about BEING something for Him. God took time out to conquer Israel spiritually before they can conquer Jericho under His guidance.

Josh 4:19-24 - *Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month,.... Why is that date mentioned? The second generation, though young at the time, would’ve remembered. It was the day on which God told them to bring lambs into their*

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homes... (Ex. 12:3). They crossed over the Jordan River on the 10th day of the first month. It was almost time to celebrate Passover! Is Josh. 4:19 a foreshadowing? It would be the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey several days prior to His crucifixion. It was “Lamb Selection Day” when Jesus rode into Jerusalem among the approx. 256,500 animal lambs that would be sacrificed in the temple for Passover! Jesus crossed the Jordan River, entering and passing through Jericho (Luke 19:1) on His way to Jerusalem on the tenth day of the first month. The people were shouting out Hosannas and hailing Jesus as King....

Luke 19:39-40 - *And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, ‘Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.’ ⁴⁰ But He answered and said to them, ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones (the stones that served as memorial stones proclaiming God’s MIGHTY, POWERFUL works...) would immediately cry out.’ ...that the stone which the builders (the Jewish religious leadership) rejected has become the chief cornerstone (Psa. 118:22). I’m suggesting that Jesus had crossed the Jordan River on the tenth day of the first month and that the stones of which Jesus spoke to the Pharisees were the very stones that Joshua set up in the midst of the river over 1400 years prior to Jesus’ triumphal entry were located – still there!*

Josh. 4:22b-24 - *...Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; ²³ for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed*

over, ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.

God desires to make Himself known to the world!!!

Josh. 5:1- that the ALL the kings of the Amorites...heard...and “their heart” melted (dissolved, wasted away, became faint, grew fearful) What a perfect time to attack Jericho!

Josh. 5:2- *At that time the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.’*

Josh. 5:4-5 - *⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵ For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised.* Circumcision is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 17:9-14). GOD gave the Jewish people the rite of circumcision – the physical cutting of the flesh as the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant. YES, it was a physical cutting! BUT it looked forward to the spiritual circumcision of the heart!

WHY was circumcision not carried out in the 40 years in the wilderness?

Unger’s Dictionary – “This neglect is most satisfactorily explained as follows: The nation, while bearing the punishment of disobedience in its wanderings, was regarded as under temporary rejection by God and was therefore prohibited from using the sign of the covenant” ??????????????????

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If God rejected the children of Israel...why did He meet again with Moses and give Moses new tablets of the law...and continue to manifest Himself as a pillar of fire...a pillar of cloud...that DWELLED among them in the wilderness (check out Num. 33:1-49).

IF GOD REJECTED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, WHY DID GOD PROVIDE FOR THEM – MANNA, WATER, THEIR GARMENTS DIDN’T WEAR OUT - ? WHY DID GOD FIGHT FOR THEM – IF HE REJECTED THEM?

Josh. 5:8 - *So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.* From a military standpoint this was suicidal!! They did this because they trusted God, and His directions, instead of their own wisdom. They were put in the place where they could trust in nothing but God alone – a hard place, but a good place. This is radical obedience: abandoning ourselves to God; not counting the cost; knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that He alone is worthy...He alone is able!!

Josh. 5:9 – following the circumcision... *Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.* “Gilgal” means rolling. On this day God rolled away the scorn and the shame that the children of Israel knew in Egypt – the degrading shame of slavery, of bondage. This is the same work God does in hearts that place their trust in Jesus alone for their salvation. He takes away the shame of our sin and rebellion against Him. God causes us, we who are believers in Jesus, to see who we are in Him! We are not victims! We are MORE than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).

And, after crossing the Jordan on the 10th day...

Josh. 5:10 - *Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho* (Ex. 12:6) The original Passover itself could never be repeated (w/ the lambs’ blood over the door and alongside the door), but God told them to always remember how He had delivered them.

Josh. 5:12 - *Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.* God stopped the manna. The people were entering into a new relationship of trust in their Redeemer!

Josh. 5:13-15 - *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?”*

¹⁴ *So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”*

What was Joshua doing by Jericho? Joshua had sent out two spies to secretly spy the land – “especially Jericho.” Reconnaissance didn’t take place. Because Joshua had not been given a battle plan for Jericho, might he have gone by the city to devise a plan of attack?

Josh. 5:13 - *And it came to pass, that when Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, ‘Are You for us or for our adversaries?’ Joshua moves toward the Man with the drawn sword and asks, *Are You for us or for our adversaries?**

Josh. 5:14 - The Man's answer, '*No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.*' The Man is stating that Joshua asked the wrong question! The Man, by His answer, is stating that Joshua is not in charge – GOD is in charge.

Josh. 5:14b-15 - *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does **my** Lord say to His servant?"* ¹⁵ *Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.*

The command to remove his sandals was clear proof to Joshua that the Man standing before him was the voice from the burning bush – the Angel of the LORD. This Commander of the army of the LORD uses the same language that Yahweh/Jehovah used in Exodus 3:5 when He told Moses, as Moses approached the burning bush, *Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.*

Throughout the OT, God appears in the form of a man (Gen. 12:7; 17:1; 18:1) or the Angel of the LORD (Gen. 16:7-13; 22:11-12; 48:15-16; Ex. 3:2-6). In one instance, the Angel of the Lord is said to forgive sins (Ex. 23:21), and yet, we know that only God can forgive sins (Mk. 2:7). Therefore, the Angel of the LORD must be a manifestation of God Himself – a theophany. The Angel of the LORD is believed to be a pre-incarnate/pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus.

"Angel" means messenger. This pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus comes with a message!

WHY did Jesus appear to Joshua at this strategic time? Perhaps Jesus appeared to let Joshua know that it was His will, God's will, to conquer Israel before Israel could conquer any city, any person, in the land of promise. Israel had to be conquered by God through obeying a humanly foolish battle plan!

Joshua bowed down before this Man. Joshua worshipped God. Joshua was a servant of the LORD of hosts.

Joshua 6:1-27 – the battle of Jericho

Josh. 6:1-2 - *Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.* From God's perspective, the battle was already over and there was VICTORY in the camp through the power of God!

Josh. 6:3-5 - *You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. ⁴ And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵ It shall come to pass, when they make a*

long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat.

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Joshua told the children of Israel to do – WHAT? Were the people in Jericho paralyzed with fear? This absurd military method required TOTAL dependence upon God. This battle was totally of God! Yet God gave the children of Israel different roles, tasks...so that Israel could work in partnership with God!

Josh. 6:6- Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.' ⁷ And he said to the people, 'Proceed, and march around the city...⁸ So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people.... ⁹ The armed men went before the priests ...¹¹ So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.... So they did six days...¹⁵ But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶ And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, ...²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. ²¹ And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

²² But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." ²³ And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴ But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. ²⁵ And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho...²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

God simply told Joshua to have the people to march silently around Jericho for six days, and then, after seven circuits on the seventh day, to shout. Joshua followed God's instructions to the letter. When the people did finally shout, the massive walls collapsed instantly, and Israel won an easy victory. In fact, God had given the city of Jericho to them before they even began to march around its walls (Joshua 6:2, 16).

TO PONDER: Jericho was first fruits in the land of Canaan – the land of promise. Did the battle occur on the Feast of First Fruits (read Lev. 23:9-14) on the day following the Sabbath during PASSOVER WEEK?

In Joshua we see God's faithfulness in giving Israel the land of promise based on the Abrahamic Covenant. We see victory in the battle of Jericho and defeat at the battle

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against Ai because of one man's disobedience (Josh. 7) and then victory following God's judgment falling on Achan (Josh. 8)

The children of Israel did not seek God's counsel and a compromising treaty was made with the Gibeonites (either Hivittes or Horites) (Josh. 9)

Blessings and curses were read from Mt. Ebal (curses) and Mt. Gerizim (blessings) (Josh. 9)

God caused the sun to stand still so that Joshua could continue in battle and gain victory (Josh. 10).

The entire book of Joshua speaks to Israel's entrance into the inheritance of the land God promised that was NOT fully realized! The full extent of the land promised was NOT occupied in Joshua's day due to disobedience.

Josh. 11:23 – Joshua fought major battles and 31 kings were conquered (Josh. 12)

Josh. 13:1 - *Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.*

The land was divided among the tribes of Israel.

Josh. 18:1-3 – Joshua asks, *How long will you neglect to go and possess the land....?*

Deut. 7:16 - *...you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.*

Josh. 23:4, 11-13 - *See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, ... ¹¹ Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God. ¹² Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, ¹³ know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.*

Josh. 24:14-28 - *Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ ...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. ¹⁶ So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ...²² So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for*

yourselves, to serve Him.” And they said, “We are witnesses!”... ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!” ... ²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God.” ²⁸ So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.

Judges 17:6 - *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*