

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lesson 12 Victory Over the Kings	3
Lesson 13 Inheritance by Command	13
Lesson 14 Inheritance by Faith	25
Lesson 15 Inheritance by Lot	41
Lesson 16 Inheritance for the Levites	55
Lesson 17 A Threat to Faithfulness	67
Lesson 18 A Charge to be Faithful	79
Lesson 19 The End of an Era	89
PRAYER REQUEST LOG	101

The map illustrates the physical features of Canaan, showing its geographical context and major locations. Key elements include:

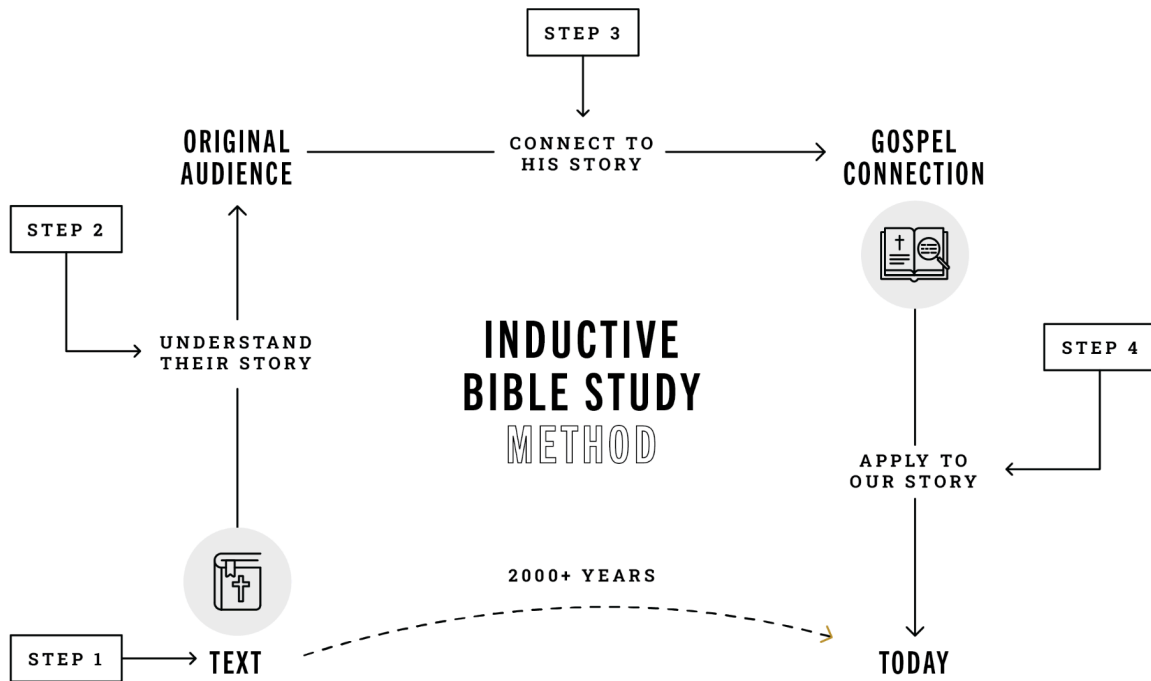
- Regions and Territories:** ARAM, BASHAN, AMMON, MOAB, EDOM, NEGEB, PHILISTIA, and the PLAIN OF SHARON.
- Cities and Towns:** Tyre, Acco, Dor, Megiddo, Beth-shean, Ramoth-gilead, Succoth, Adamah, Rabbath-ammon, Hehbon, Jerusalem, and Beer-sheba.
- Rivers and Water Bodies:** Lebanon River, Jordan River, Brook Zered, Lake Huleh (Semechonitis), Sea of Chinnereth, and the Dead Sea (Salt Sea).
- Mountains and Hills:** Mt. Hermon, Mt. Ebal, Mt. Gerizim, Mt. Ephraim, Mt. Nebo, and the Hills of Judah.
- Geographical Features:** The Wilderness of Kedemoth, the Wilderness of Moab, the Wilderness of Zin, and the Plain of Moab.
- Other Labels:** The Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea), the Valley of Lebanon, the Jordan River, and the Brook Zered.

2

JOSHUA

Lesson 12 | Victory Over the Kings

Joshua 12:1-24



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- ☐ **Step 1:** Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
 - ☐ **Step 2:** Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT* you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
 - ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT* you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
 - ☐ **Step 4:** Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson *SO THAT* the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

Joshua 12:1-24 (ESV)

LESSON TWELVE

12 Now these are the kings of the land whom the people of Israel defeated and took possession of their land beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon, with all the Arabah eastward:

² Sihon king of the Amorites who lived at Heshbon and ruled from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and from the middle of the valley as far as the river Jabbok, the boundary of the Ammonites, that is, half of Gilead, ³ and the Arabah to the Sea of Chinneroth eastward, and in the direction of Beth-jeshimoth, to the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, southward to the foot of the slopes of Pisgah;

⁴ and Og king of Bashan, one of the remnant of the Rephaim, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei ⁵ and ruled over Mount Hermon and Salecah and all Bashan to the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and over half of Gilead to the boundary of Sihon king of Heshbon.

⁶ Moses, the servant of the Lord, and the people of Israel defeated them.

And Moses the servant of the Lord gave their land for a possession to the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

⁷ And these are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the people of Israel defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir (and Joshua gave their land to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their allotments, ⁸ in the hill country, in the lowland, in the Arabah, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the Negeb, the land of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites):

⁹ the king of Jericho, one;

the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one;

¹⁰ the king of Jerusalem, one;

the king of Hebron, one;

¹¹ the king of Jarmuth, one;

the king of Lachish, one;

¹² the king of Eglon, one;

the king of Gezer, one;

¹³ the king of Debir, one;

the king of Geder, one;

¹⁴ the king of Hormah, one;

the king of Arad, one;

¹⁵ the king of Libnah, one;

the king of Adullam, one;
¹⁶ the king of Makkedah, one;
the king of Bethel, one;
¹⁷ the king of Tappuah, one;
the king of Hephher, one;
¹⁸ the king of Aphek, one;
the king of Lasharon, one;
¹⁹ the king of Madon, one;
the king of Hazor, one;
²⁰ the king of Shimron-meron, one;
the king of Achshaph, one;
²¹ the king of Taanach, one;
the king of Megiddo, one;
²² the king of Kedesh, one;
the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one;
²³ the king of Dor in Naphath-dor, one;
the king of Goiim in Galilee, one;
²⁴ the king of Tirzah, one:
in all, thirty-one kings.

Lesson 12 | Victory Over the Kings

Joshua 12:1-24

Look at the text: Understand Their Story

Chapters 1-11 of Joshua are filled with action! God charges Joshua to lead Israel into the land, being strong and courageous. Joshua first sends spies, and then guides Israel across the Jordan, through various rituals of remembrance, consecration and celebration. Through a series of military engagements, Joshua learns to navigate with God's guidance through victory, deception, and defeat. As we enter the second half of the book, the action slows down and the focus changes. God has been faithful to Israel; He has kept His promises. What will Israel do in response? We're glad you have joined us to find out!

1. Begin your study in prayer. Read the passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Then, work through the questions below.
2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 12:1 is a summary statement introducing the first section of text. **WHAT** are the next 5 verses about, according to verse 1?
 - i. Joshua 12:2-3 **WHAT** are these verses describing?
 - ii. Joshua 12:4-5 **WHAT** are these verses describing?
 - iii. Joshua 12:6 **WHAT** does this verse affirm?
 - b. Joshua 12:7-8 is a summary statement introducing the second section of text. **WHAT** are the next 17 verses about, according to verses 7-8?
 - i. Look at Joshua 12:9-24. **WHAT** pattern do you see in this list?
 1. *WHY* do you think this list was written this way? (i.e. Why did the author not simply say, "Israel defeated 31 kings"?). Another way to ask this is "HOW do you think an Israelite in Joshua's day might have responded to this record"¹?

¹ Smith, Exalting Jesus in Joshua, p 158.

3. **WHO** (which Israelite leader) does the narrator highlight in verses 1-6?

a. **WHAT** title is repeatedly given to this leader?

1. *WHY do you think the narrator repeats his title?*

4. **WHO** (which Israelite leader) does the narrator highlight in verses 7-24?

5. **WHO** is defeated in both sections of text? (i.e. verse 1 and verse 7 use the same phrase to describe the people / group of people being defeated. What phrase is being used?)

6. **WHO** is victorious in both sections of text? (i.e. verse 1, 6, and 7 use the same phrase to describe the group of people who won the victory. What phrase is being used?)

1. *We learn in verse 6 that the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ of Manasseh will take possession of the land being described in the first section, and we learn in verses 7-8 that the rest of the tribes will take the rest of the land. In light of the division that will eventually occur, WHY do you think the narrator highlights the fact that all the people defeated all of the kings of the land, together?*

7. **HOW** is this list of victories organized? Locate as many of the cities as you can on the map on page 2, in the order in which they are mentioned in this list, to see if you can determine the pattern the narrator may have been following as he listed them.²

² Note: Finding every location on the map is not possible for several reasons. First, scholars and archaeologists are not certain where every ancient city mentioned in Scripture is located. Additionally, some of the kings of the land traveled in groups and attacked Israel at a specific location together (see Joshua 10:1-5 and 11:1-5) rather than at the gates of their own city. Finally, some of the battles were summarized earlier in the text (see Joshua 10:40-43), and now, in chapter 12, are listed in more detail. Because of this, the names of each city listed in Joshua 12:7-24 may not show up earlier.

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

1. “Sihon king of the Amorites who lived at Heshbon and ruled from Aroer”... “and Og, King of Bashan... who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei” are listed as the first kings which the people of Israel defeated. The story of these battles is found in Numbers 21:21-35 and Deuteronomy 2:26-3:11. Read the texts below and answer the questions to learn more about these battles.
 - a. Numbers 21:21-26
 - i. **WHAT** was Israel’s initial request to the Sihon?
 - ii. **WHAT** was Sihon’s response to their request?
 - iii. **WHY** is Israel victorious in this war, according to Deuteronomy 2:31-37?
 - b. Numbers 21:31-35
 - i. **WHO** initiated war in these verses?
 - ii. **WHY** is Israel victorious according to these verses?
 - c. Deuteronomy 3:4-5
 - i. **WHAT** additional details do we learn in these verses about the extent of Og’s territory, and the type of cities that Israel conquered?
 - d. Deuteronomy 3:11
 - i. **WHAT** additional detail do we learn about Og’s ethnic background in this verse?
 - ii. **WHAT** is significant about the ethnic group he belongs to? (read Deuteronomy 2:10-11, and then Deuteronomy 1:28 if you’re not sure!)
 - iii. **WHAT** additional detail do we learn about Og’s size in this verse?³

³ A cubit is approximately 18 inches or 45 centimeters.

1. *Based on the passages which we've read on the preceding page, what do you think the author of Joshua wants the people to reflect on, as he reminds them of their victories over Sihon and Og?*

2. **“Now these are the kings of the land whom the people of Israel defeated...”** As we noted in part one of this week's study, both sections of text (verses 1-6, and verses 7-24) use the same phrases to introduce the verses which come next. The narrator isn't primarily drawing our attention to whole armies, or to people groups, but rather to the defeat of kings. Why is this important to the narrator (and to us, as Bible readers)? Read the texts and answer the questions below to find out.

- a. Psalm 2

- i. **HOW** does the psalmist describe the kings of the earth?
- ii. **HOW** does the psalmist describe God's attitude towards the kings of the earth?

- b. Proverbs 21:1

- i. **WHAT** do we learn about the power of a king in this text?

- c. Daniel 4:28-37

- i. **WHAT** happens in these verses 28-33?
- ii. **WHY** do these events happen?
- iii. **WHAT** does Nebuchadnezzar learn as a result of these events (according to verses 34-37)?

- d. Daniel 7:13-14

- i. **WHO** does Daniel see in this vision?
- ii. **WHAT** does this person receive?

e. Philippians 2:1-11

i. **WHAT** do these verses reveal about Jesus?

f. Revelation 11:15-18

i. **WHAT** will happen in the last days? **WHAT** can Christians look forward to?

1. *Stop and reflect on what you've read in the Joshua, Psalms, Proverbs, Daniel, Philippians and Revelation about the power of the "kings of the land" compared to the power of our triune God (Father, Son, and Spirit). What "earthly power" is intimidating you today? What authority are you frustrated with or fearful of? How are you challenged or encouraged by reading these verses about God's power over earthly kings?*

3. **"Sihon king of the Amorites... and Og king of Bashan"** These kings show up repeatedly within Scripture, and the locations in which they appear are instructive for us when we ask what we are supposed to take away after studying a text like Joshua 12:1-24!

a. Psalm 135:1-12

i. **WHAT** is the focus of this Psalm?

ii. **WHY** do you think the Psalmist is mentioning Sihon and Og?

b. Psalm 136:1-2, 17-22, 26

i. **WHAT** words are repeated throughout this Psalm?

ii. **WHY** do you think the Psalmist is mentioning Sihon and Og?

1. *As we've hinted at in several ways in this lesson, Joshua 12 teaches us to stop and remember His power (Psalm 135), and His steadfast love (Psalm 136). The people of Joshua's time counted the kings that God defeated. What is God leading you to itemize or count today?*

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

ADORATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

CONFESSION

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

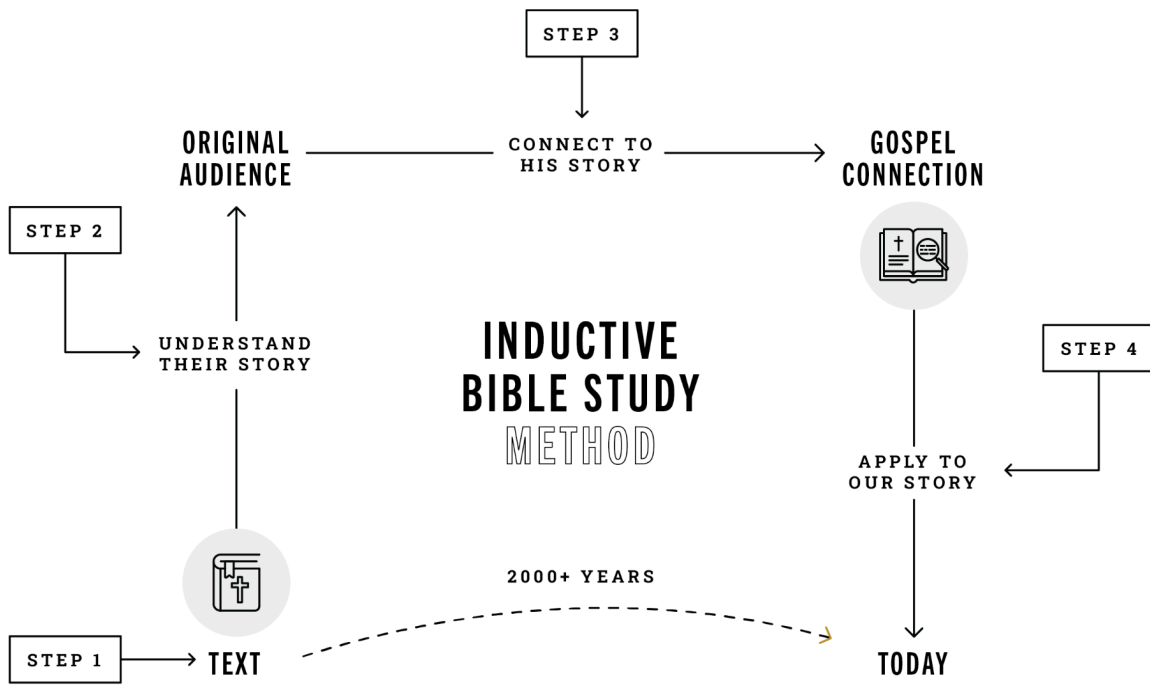
SUPPLICATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

JOSHUA

Lesson 13 | Inheritance by Command

Joshua 13:1-33



- ☐ **Step 1:** Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
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Joshua 13:1-33 (ESV)

LESSON THIRTEEN

13 Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him,

“You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.

² This is the land that yet remains: all the regions of the Philistines, and all those of the Geshurites

³ (from the Shihor, which is east of Egypt, northward to the boundary of Ekron, it is counted as Canaanite; there are five rulers of the Philistines, those of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron), and those of the Avvim, ⁴ in the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians, to Aphek, to the boundary of the Amorites, ⁵ and the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo-hamath, ⁶ all the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim, even all the Sidonians.

I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel.

Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

⁷ Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.”

⁸ With the other half of the tribe of Manasseh, the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the Lord gave them:

⁹ from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the tableland of Medeba as far as Dibon;

¹⁰ and all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the boundary of the Ammonites;

¹¹ and Gilead, and the region of the Geshurites and Maacathites, and all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan to Salecah;

¹² all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei (he alone was left of the remnant of the Rephaim); these Moses had struck and driven out.

¹³ Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day.

¹⁴ To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance.

The offerings by fire to the Lord God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.

¹⁵ And Moses gave an inheritance to the tribe of the people of Reuben according to their clans.

¹⁶ So their territory was from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the tableland by Medeba;

¹⁷ with Heshbon, and all its cities that are in the tableland;

Dibon, and Bamoth-baal, and Beth-baal-meon, ¹⁸ and Jahaz, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath, ¹⁹ and Kiriathaim, and Sibmah, and Zereth-shahar on the hill of the valley, ²⁰ and Beth-peor, and the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth, ²¹ that is, all the cities of the tableland, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses defeated with the leaders of Midian, Evi and Rekem and Zur and Hur and Reba, the princes of Sihon, who lived in the land.

²² Balaam also, the son of Beor, the one who practiced divination, was killed with the sword by the people of Israel among the rest of their slain.

²³ And the border of the people of Reuben was the Jordan as a boundary.

This was the inheritance of the people of Reuben, according to their clans with their cities and villages.

²⁴ Moses gave an inheritance also to the tribe of Gad, to the people of Gad, according to their clans.

²⁵ Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites, to Aroer, which is east of Rabbah, ²⁶ and from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the territory of Debir, ²⁷ and in the valley Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, having the Jordan as a boundary, to the lower end of the Sea of Chinnereth, eastward beyond the Jordan.

²⁸ This is the inheritance of the people of Gad according to their clans, with their cities and villages.

²⁹ And Moses gave an inheritance to the half-tribe of Manasseh.

It was allotted to the half-tribe of the people of Manasseh according to their clans.

³⁰ Their region extended from Mahanaim, through all Bashan, the whole kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, sixty cities, ³¹ and half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

These were allotted to the people of Machir the son of Manasseh for the half of the people of Machir according to their clans.

³² These are the inheritances that Moses distributed in the plains of Moab, beyond the Jordan east of Jericho.

³³ But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them.

Lesson 13 | Inheritance by Command

Joshua 13:1-33

Look at the text: Understand Their Story

Joshua 12, which we studied last week, is a hinge section in this book. It summarizes and celebrates the victory of Israel over the kings of the land, and sets the stage for phase two: settling down in the land. As the book of Joshua continues, the land is distributed to the twelve tribes. Reading this chapter and segments of some of the following ones may seem a bit tedious on the surface, but they are rich with historical and theological significance. Stick with it and you'll learn a lot about why these people and places matter!

1. Begin your study in prayer. Read the passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Then, work through the questions below.
2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 13:1a
 - i. **WHAT** is the setting of this chapter?
 - b. Joshua 13:1b-7
 - i. **WHO** is speaking to **WHOM** in this section?
 - ii. **WHAT** issue is being identified?
 - iii. **HOW** will this issue be solved?
 - iv. **WHO** will inherit this land?
 - c. Joshua 13:8-12
 - i. **WHAT** is this section of text about? **HOW** would you summarize this paragraph?
 - d. Joshua 13:13-14
 - i. **WHAT** information is provided in these verses?
 1. *WHY do you think the author wrote verse 13? What could be his purpose in drawing attention to this detail?*
 - e. Joshua 13:15-23
 - i. **WHAT** is this section of text about? **HOW** would you summarize this paragraph?

f. Joshua 13:24-28

i. **WHAT** is this section of text about? **HOW** would you summarize this paragraph?

g. Joshua 13:29-31

i. **WHAT** is this section of text about? **HOW** would you summarize this paragraph?

h. Joshua 13:32-33

i. **HOW** does this chapter conclude?

3. **WHAT** is the relationship between the information provided in Joshua 13:8-12 (c above) and that provided in Joshua 13:15-31 (e, f, and g above)?

4. **WHO** is responsible for allotting land to the 9 ½ tribes on the west of the Jordan?

5. **WHO** was responsible for allotting land to the 2 ½ tribes on the east of the Jordan?

6. In this chapter the phrase “drive out / driven out” is used three times referencing the actions of three different individuals or groups. Circle or highlight each time you see this phrase. **WHAT** do you learn about the different individuals or groups involved?

1. *WHAT do you think the author is drawing attention to by repeating this phrase?
HOW does this exercise help you answer question 2 (d) (1) above.*

7. **WHICH** word do you notice is repeated most in Joshua 13? (Repeated words are sometimes called KEY WORDS; a key word helps to shape our understanding of what the chapter is about.)

a. **HOW** does this word help you understand the main point of the chapter?

8. **WHAT** two things do the Levites receive as their inheritance, instead of land?

9. **WHERE** is the land which is allocated to each of the 2 ½ tribes? Take note of the place names in Joshua 13:15-31 and see if you can identify the tribal boundaries for Reuben, Gad and ½ Manasseh on the map on page 2.

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

1. **Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, “You are old and advanced in years...”** The narrator reports that Joshua is old, and the LORD does too but the text doesn’t identify his age! How old is he? Look up the texts below to come up with an estimate.
 - a. Exodus 17:8-16
 - i. This is the first time that Joshua shows up in the Bible. What is he doing in this text?
 - b. Numbers 1:1-3
 - i. What is the minimum age for an Israelite male to go to war, according to this text?
 - c. Numbers 10:11-12
 - i. How long did the Israelites camp at Mt. Sinai before they began their journey through the wilderness?
 - d. Joshua 5:6
 - i. How long did the Israelites walk in the wilderness?
 - e. Joshua and Caleb were the only two people from their generation of Israelite men who were allowed to enter the promised land. How old is Caleb at this time? Read Joshua 14:10 to find out!

1. Based on your answers for the questions above, approximately how old do you think Joshua is in Chapter 13?

2. **“I myself will drive them out ... Moses had struck and driven them out ... Yet the people of Israel did not drive out...”** The idea of driving out the nations who originally lived in this land comes up repeatedly in this text. Why was it necessary to drive out the original nations? What is at stake? Read the texts below and answer the questions to find out.
 - a. Exodus 23:20-33
 - i. **WHO** is driving out the nations in this text?
 - ii. **WHY** is he driving out the nations? What is at stake?

b. Numbers 33:50-55

- i. **WHO** is commanded to drive out the nations in this text?
- ii. **WHAT** else are they commanded to do?
- iii. **WHY** are they commanded to do these things? **WHAT** is at stake?

1. *Based on these texts in Exodus and Numbers, what subtle “hint” is the narrator of Joshua dropping in Joshua 13:13? What do you think he is hoping his readers will feel when they read this verse?*

3. **“To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance.”** WHY? What is the history of this tribe, and why did they not receive an inheritance? Read the texts below and answer the questions to find out.

a. Exodus 32:1-29 recounts the story of Israel worshipping a golden calf instead of God. Read the final verses of this chapter (Exodus 32:25-29) to see how this story impacts the tribe of Levi.

- i. **WHAT** was unique about the sons of Levi after Israel disobeyed the LORD and Moses, and worshiped a Golden Calf?
- ii. **WHAT** “job” was given to them as a result of their actions?

b. Numbers 1:1-54 provides a census of Israel’s warriors. Read the final verses of this chapter (Numbers 1:47-54) to see how this census impacts the tribe of Levi.

- i. **WHO** was left out of the census of those who are “able to go to war”?
- ii. **WHAT** job was this given to this tribe instead?

c. Numbers 18:8-14, 21-26

- i. **WHAT** else was given to this tribe in these verses? (two categories of things are given to them: one is highlighted in each section of verses)

- ii. **WHY** were they given both of these? **WHAT** was the purpose of their work?
 - iii. **WHAT** were the Levites supposed to do with the tithe they received?
- d. Numbers 35:1-8
- i. **WHAT** else do the Levites receive in these verses?
 - ii. **HOW** is this gift different from the 'inheritance in the land' which is received by the other tribes?
 - 1. *From reading the texts above, we understand that there are two implications of the Levite inheritance being the LORD rather than land. First of all, they are dispersed throughout Israel, and secondly they are physically dependent on the other tribes. Why do you think God would design things this way?*
 - a. *How do you think this arrangement would benefit Israel?*
 - b. *What do you think could go wrong with this arrangement?⁴*
- e. 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- i. **WHAT** do these texts say about those who spend their lives proclaiming the gospel, and preaching and teaching?
 - ii. **HOW** does this New Testament teaching relate to Old Testament teaching? (i.e., WHO takes the 'place' of the Levites in the New Testament church?)

⁴ If you want an idea of what could go wrong, read Nehemiah 13:10-14

1. *Think through the link between (d) and (e) above. How do these texts challenge or encourage you as you think about how you support those who are in full time ministry?*

- f. In the New Testament, we see that the idea of inheritance is transformed for ALL of God's people. What do each of the following texts teach about a Christian's inheritance?
 - i. Colossians 1:9-14 - **WHO** has qualified Christians for an inheritance? What is the nature of the inheritance?
 - ii. Hebrews 9:11-15 - **WHO** has secured a Christian's inheritance? What is the nature of the inheritance?

We'll end this lesson by connecting this idea of inheritance with the previous gospel connection question. In question 2, we explored the tension between God driving out enemies, Moses driving out enemies, and the people failing to drive out enemies. Because of the people's failure, they risked NOT inheriting that which God had made available to them. How does this apply to our inheritance? Read the texts below to find out:

- a. Philippians 2:5-13
 - i. **WHAT** has Jesus done to make an inheritance available to us?
 - ii. **WHAT** are we supposed to do in response?
 - iii. **HOW** does God assist us in our "doing"?
- b. Hebrews 12:1-3
 - i. **WHAT** has Jesus done to make an inheritance available to us?
 - ii. **WHAT** are we called to do in response?

1. *How do these texts encourage or challenge you today?*

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

ADORATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

CONFESSION

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

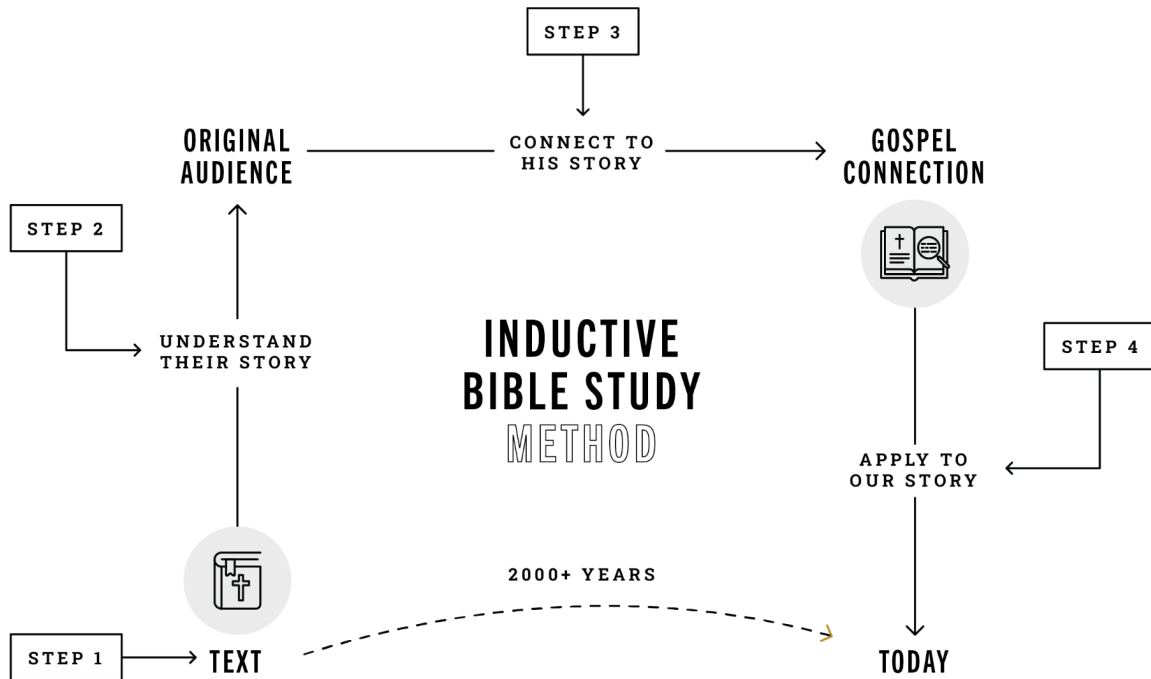
SUPPLICATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

JOSHUA

Lesson 14 | Inheritance by Faith

Joshua 14:1-17:18



-
- ☐ **Step 1:** Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
 - ☐ **Step 2:** Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT* you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
 - ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT* you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
 - ☐ **Step 4:** Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson *SO THAT* the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

Joshua 14:1-17:18 (ESV)
LESSON FOURTEEN

14 These are the inheritances that the people of Israel received in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel gave them to inherit.

² Their inheritance was by lot, just as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses for the nine and one-half tribes.

³ For Moses had given an inheritance to the two and one-half tribes beyond the Jordan, but to the Levites he gave no inheritance among them.

⁴ For the people of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim.

And no portion was given to the Levites in the land, but only cities to dwell in, with their pasturelands for their livestock and their substance.

⁵ The people of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses; they allotted the land.

⁶ Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal.

And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him,

"You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me.

⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart.

⁸ But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the LORD my God.

⁹ And Moses swore on that day, saying,

'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

¹⁰ And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness.

And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old.

¹¹ I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming.

¹² So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities.

It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said."

¹³ Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.
¹⁴ Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel.
¹⁵ Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.

15 The allotment for the tribe of the people of Judah according to their clans reached southward to the boundary of Edom, to the wilderness of Zin at the farthest south.

² And their south boundary ran from the end of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward.

³ It goes out southward of the ascent of Akrabbim, passes along to Zin, and goes up south of Kadesh-barnea, along by Hezron, up to Addar, turns about to Karka, ⁴ passes along to Azmon, goes out by the Brook of Egypt, and comes to its end at the sea.

This shall be your south boundary.

⁵ And the east boundary is the Salt Sea, to the mouth of the Jordan.

And the boundary on the north side runs from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

⁶ And the boundary goes up to Beth-hoglah and passes along north of Beth-arabah.

And the boundary goes up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

⁷ And the boundary goes up to Debir from the Valley of Achor, and so northward, turning toward Gilgal, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim, which is on the south side of the valley.

And the boundary passes along to the waters of En-shemesh and ends at En-rogel.

⁸ Then the boundary goes up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the southern shoulder of the Jebusite (that is, Jerusalem).

And the boundary goes up to the top of the mountain that lies over against the Valley of Hinnom, on the west, at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim.

⁹ Then the boundary extends from the top of the mountain to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, and from there to the cities of Mount Ephron.

Then the boundary bends around to Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim).

¹⁰ And the boundary circles west of Baalah to Mount Seir, passes along to the northern shoulder of Mount Jearim (that is, Chesalon), and goes down to Beth-shemesh and passes along by Timnah.

¹¹ The boundary goes out to the shoulder of the hill north of Ekron, then the boundary bends around to Shikkeron and passes along to Mount Baalah and goes out to Jabneel.

Then the boundary comes to an end at the sea.

¹² And the west boundary was the Great Sea with its coastline.

This is the boundary around the people of Judah according to their clans.

¹³ According to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).

¹⁴ And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmi, the descendants of Anak.

¹⁵ And he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir.

Now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher.

¹⁶ And Caleb said,

“Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and captures it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter as wife.”

¹⁷ And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, captured it.

And he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

¹⁸ When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field.

And she got off her donkey, and Caleb said to her,

“What do you want?”

¹⁹ She said to him,

“Give me a blessing.

Since you have given me the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water.”

And he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

²⁰ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Judah according to their clans.

²¹ The cities belonging to the tribe of the people of Judah in the extreme south, toward the boundary of Edom, were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, ²² Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, ²³ Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, ²⁴ Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, ²⁵ Hazor-hadattah, Keriath-hezron (that is, Hazor), ²⁶ Amam, Shema, Moladah, ²⁷ Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet, ²⁸ Hazar-shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah, ²⁹ Baalah, Iim, Ezem, ³⁰ Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah, ³¹ Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, ³² Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: in all, twenty-nine cities with their villages.

³³ And in the lowland, Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, ³⁴ Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam, ³⁵ Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, ³⁶ Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, Gederothaim: fourteen cities with their villages.

³⁷ Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad, ³⁸ Dilean, Mizpeh, Joktheel, ³⁹ Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, ⁴⁰ Cabbon, Lahmam, Chitlish, ⁴¹ Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their villages.

⁴² Libnah, Ether, Ashan, ⁴³ Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, ⁴⁴ Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah: nine cities with their villages.

⁴⁵ Ekron, with its towns and its villages;

⁴⁶ from Ekron to the sea, all that were by the side of Ashdod, with their villages.

⁴⁷ Ashdod, its towns and its villages;

Gaza, its towns and its villages;

to the Brook of Egypt, and the Great Sea with its coastline.

⁴⁸ And in the hill country, Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, ⁴⁹ Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir), ⁵⁰ Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, ⁵¹ Goshen, Holon, and Giloh:
eleven cities with their villages.

⁵² Arab, Dumah, Eshan, ⁵³ Janim, Beth-tappuah, Aphekah, ⁵⁴ Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior:
nine cities with their villages.

⁵⁵ Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, ⁵⁶ Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, ⁵⁷ Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah:
ten cities with their villages.

⁵⁸ Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor, ⁵⁹ Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon:
six cities with their villages.

⁶⁰ Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), and Rabbah:
two cities with their villages.

⁶¹ In the wilderness, Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah, ⁶² Nibshan, the City of Salt, and Engedi:
six cities with their villages.

⁶³ But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

16 The allotment of the people of Joseph went from the Jordan by Jericho, east of the waters of Jericho, into the wilderness, going up from Jericho into the hill country to Bethel.

² Then going from Bethel to Luz, it passes along to Ataroth, the territory of the Archites.

³ Then it goes down westward to the territory of the Japhletites, as far as the territory of Lower Beth-horon, then to Gezer, and it ends at the sea.

⁴ The people of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, received their inheritance.

⁵ The territory of the people of Ephraim by their clans was as follows:

the boundary of their inheritance on the east was Ataroth-addar as far as Upper Beth-horon, ⁶ and the boundary goes from there to the sea.

On the north is Michmethath.

Then on the east the boundary turns around toward Taanath-shiloh and passes along beyond it on the east to Janoah, ⁷ then it goes down from Janoah to Ataroth and to Naarah, and touches Jericho, ending at the Jordan.

⁸ From Tappuah the boundary goes westward to the brook Kanah and ends at the sea. Such is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Ephraim by their clans, ⁹ together with the towns that were set apart for the people of Ephraim within the inheritance of the Manassites, all those towns with their villages.

¹⁰ However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day but have been made to do forced labor.

17 Then allotment was made to the people of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph.

To Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, were allotted Gilead and Bashan, because he was a man of war.

² And allotments were made to the rest of the people of Manasseh by their clans, Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, and Shemida.

These were the male descendants of Manasseh the son of Joseph, by their clans.

³ Now Zelophehad the son of Hephher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters, and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ⁴ They approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the leaders and said,

“The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance along with our brothers.”

So according to the mouth of the LORD he gave them an inheritance among the brothers of their father. ⁵ Thus there fell to Manasseh ten portions, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which is on the other side of the Jordan, ⁶ because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance along with his sons.

The land of Gilead was allotted to the rest of the people of Manasseh.

⁷ The territory of Manasseh reached from Asher to Michmethath, which is east of Shechem.

Then the boundary goes along southward to the inhabitants of En-tappuah.

⁸ The land of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but the town of Tappuah on the boundary of Manasseh belonged to the people of Ephraim.

⁹ Then the boundary went down to the brook Kanah.

These cities, to the south of the brook, among the cities of Manasseh, belong to Ephraim.

Then the boundary of Manasseh goes on the north side of the brook and ends at the sea, ¹⁰ the land to the south being Ephraim's and that to the north being Manasseh's, with the sea forming its boundary. On the north Asher is reached, and on the east Issachar.

¹¹ Also in Issachar and in Asher Manasseh had Beth-shean and its villages, and Ibleam and its villages, and the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, and the inhabitants of En-dor and its villages, and the inhabitants of Taanach and its villages, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; the third is Naphath.

¹² Yet the people of Manasseh could not take possession of those cities, but the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land.

¹³ Now when the people of Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

¹⁴ Then the people of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying,

“Why have you given me but one lot and one portion as an inheritance, although I am a numerous people, since all along the LORD has blessed me?”

¹⁵ And Joshua said to them,

“If you are a numerous people, go up by yourselves to the forest, and there clear ground for yourselves in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you.”

¹⁶ The people of Joseph said,

“The hill country is not enough for us.

Yet all the Canaanites who dwell in the plain have chariots of iron, both those in Beth-shean and its villages and those in the Valley of Jezreel.”

¹⁷ Then Joshua said to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh,

“You are a numerous people and have great power.

You shall not have one allotment only, ¹⁸ but the hill country shall be yours, for though it is a forest, you shall clear it and possess it to its farthest borders.

For you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong.”

Lesson 14 | Inheritance by Faith

Joshua 14:1-17:18

Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In lesson 13 Israel began receiving the land inheritance promised to them by God, starting with those east of the Jordan. In lesson 14, the allotments of land continue for those within the promised land. Nine and a half tribes remain to receive their inheritance of land, these chapters deal particularly with Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh. As we skim through descriptions of these territories, some interesting characters take the spotlight. Let's dig into the text together!

1. Begin your study in prayer. *Normally we suggest that you read the text several times, but this week we want you to skim it as you answer the questions below so that you get the main ideas rather than focusing on details! Don't get bogged down! Look at it from a 30,000 ft view.*
2. Answer the questions below for each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 14:1-5. These verses provide us with a summary statement of the detail which will follow in the next few chapters. Read them carefully so that you understand the key points of this land distribution.
 - i. **WHO** is in charge of carrying out the giving of the land in these verses?
 - ii. **HOW** was the inheritance to be distributed? **WHO** commanded it to be this way?
 - iii. **WHO** has already received land beyond the Jordan from Moses?
 - iv. **WHAT** tribe was not to receive an inheritance of land? **WHAT** were they promised to receive?
 - b. Joshua 14:6-15. Next, the author focuses on one person.
 - i. **WHO** spoke to Joshua from the tribe of Judah?
 - ii. **WHAT** set this individual apart from his "brothers" when they initially searched the promised land?
 - iii. **WHAT** did the LORD promise him? **HOW** was this individual preserved in order to receive the promise?
 - c. Joshua 15:1-12. Now, the author zooms out!
 - i. **WHAT** is this section of text describing? (Just give a one sentence summary!)
 - d. Joshua 15:13-19. And, once again, the author returns the focus to the same individual.
 - i. **WHAT** did Caleb do with the land he was given?

- ii. **TO WHOM** does Caleb give land in these verses? **WHAT** is unusual about this allotment?

- e. Joshua 15:20-63. Now, again, the author zooms out.
 - i. **WHAT** is this section of text describing? (Just give a one sentence summary!)

 - ii. **WHAT** is the similarity & difference between Joshua 15:1-12 and Joshua 15:20-63?

 - iii. **WHAT** information is provided in the last verse of this section, and **WHY** is it important?

- f. Joshua 16:1-10. Now the author focuses on another group of people.
 - i. **WHAT** is this section of text describing? (Just give a one sentence summary!)

 - ii. **WHAT** information is provided in the last verse of this section, and **WHY** is it important?

- g. Joshua 17:1-13. And again, the author focuses on another group of people.
 - i. **WHAT** information is provided in verses 1-2? (Just give a one sentence summary!)

 - ii. **WHO** is given land in verses 3-6? **WHAT** is unusual about this allotment?

 - iii. **WHAT** is being described in verses 7-11? (Again, just give a one sentence summary!)

 - iv. **WHAT** information is provided in verses 12-13, and **WHY** is it important?

- h. Joshua 17:14-18. In this text, the two distinct groups in Joshua 16 and 17 come together.
 - i. **WHO** gathers before Joshua in these verses? **WHICH** tribes are included in this group?⁵

 - ii. **WHAT** is their complaint to Joshua, and **WHY** do they feel slighted?

 - iii. **WHAT** is Joshua's rebuttal to their complaint? **WHAT** does he suggest will solve their problem?

 - iv. Joshua's answer doesn't satisfy them. **WHAT** are their next complaints?

⁵ If you need a hint, refer back to Joshua 16:4

- v. **WHAT** is Joshua's last word to the people of Joseph in verses 17-18?
3. WHEW! That was a lot of detail! To bring it all together, quickly summarize what you have just read.
 - a. **WHICH** tribes receive land in these texts?
 - b. **HOW** does each description of land allotment end? (i.e. What information is provided in the final verses of each section?)
 - i. *WHAT effect do you think this information is supposed to have on the reader?*
 - c. **WHAT** is unusual about the events in these 4 chapters, in a patriarchal society where only sons inherit?
 - i. *WHAT do these events communicate about the character of God?*
 4. **WHERE** were the boundary lines drawn for the tribes of Judah, Ephraim and Manasseh? Using the information provided in these chapters, trace out their land allotments on the map on page 2.
 5. In Joshua 14:8, 14:9 and 14:14 we read that Caleb "wholly followed the Lord".
 - a. *WHY do you think the author begins by highlighting Caleb's character, especially as the rest of Israel receives their inheritance?*
 - b. **WHAT** example does Caleb set in Joshua 15:13-19 for others receiving their inheritance?
 6. Re-read Joshua 14:1-5.
 - a. **HOW** was the LORD involved in the allotment process?
 - i. *WHAT significance does this add to the allotment process?*

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story

1. **“Surely the land... shall be an inheritance for you... because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.”** As already noted, this phrase is used to describe Caleb 3 times. The nature of the human heart is a key theme in Scripture. Biblical authors outline the consequences of having a divided heart (a heart divided between pleasing God and pleasing our sinful desires), and call people to follow God wholeheartedly.

- a. Read Numbers 32:10-13

- i. **WHAT** was the consequence for those who did not wholly follow the Lord in this text?

- b. Read 1 Kings 11:1-11

- i. In **WHAT** way did Solomon fail to follow God with his whole heart?

- ii. **WHAT** were the consequences for Solomon?

- c. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 16-19

- i. **WHAT** did God command Israel in verses 4-6?

- ii. **WHAT** would be the result of them living in this way according to verses 18-19?

- d. Read Mark 12:28-34

- i. **WHAT** does Jesus say is the greatest commandment?

- e. Read James 4:1-10

- i. **WHAT** problem does James call out in the Christians he is writing too?

- ii. **WHAT** does he tell them to do about it?

1. *How does the scriptural call to whole-heartedly follow after God challenge you today? Is your heart divided between warring allegiances? If so, what would the Scriptures call you to do?*

2. **“The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance along with our brothers.”** In the first part of this study, we briefly drew attention to the counterculture reality of Zelophehad's daughters receiving land as their own possession. Throughout the Bible, God continually shows His love and attention to the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the marginalized. This teaches us a lot about His character, and about how we can and should represent Him here on earth. Look up the texts below and answer the questions to explore how this story and these ideas are developed in Scripture.
 - a. Read Numbers 27:1-11
 - i. **WHAT** “statute and rule” is created for Israel in response to the request that Zelophehad's daughters make to Moses and Eleazar in the wilderness?
 - b. Read Numbers 36:1-12
 - i. **WHAT** additional rule is added in this text, for women who inherit land?
 - ii. **WHY** is this rule necessary? **WHO** does it protect?
 1. *WHAT do you learn about the LORD and His priorities by reading these texts? How do these texts challenge or encourage you today?*
 - c. Read Micah 6:6-8
 - i. Based on the rhetorical questions which Micah asks in this text, **WHAT** do people think that the LORD wants from them?
 - ii. **WHAT** does the LORD actually want from his people, according to Micah?
 - d. Read James 1:26-27
 - i. According to James, **WHAT** are the marks of “pure and undefiled religion”?
 1. *Reflect on the stories of Zelophehad's daughters and the teaching of Micah and James. How, and where might God be prompting you to stand with those who are on the margins? (eg. In what practical ways can you ‘do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God’? Who are the “widows and orphans” whom you could minister to?)*

3. **“If you are so numerous,” Joshua answered, “and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there... drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong.”** The people of Joseph complain about their land allotment, and Joshua challenges them to get to work! He seems to think that the key issue is NOT that God gave them too little and NOT that they are not strong enough for their enemies. Rather, they are unwilling to do the work necessary to fully receive what God has given them.

a. Re-read Joshua 14:6-11

i. **WHAT** separated Caleb from his fellow Israelites when they scouted out the land?

ii. **WHAT** did Moses promise to Caleb because he wholly followed the LORD?

iii. In Joshua 14, Caleb is finally receiving his portion of land, however, it is still occupied by other people. **WHAT** group of people are on his land, and in **WHAT** type of cities do they live?

iv. **WHAT** is Caleb trusting God to do for him when he goes to take the land? Note: HOW old is Caleb at this point?

1. *What is the “secret” to Caleb’s courage and work ethic? How does his story challenge or encourage you today?*

b. Read Matthew 25:14-30

i. **WHAT** does each servant do with the talent(s)⁶ they receive?

1. *If you were the master, WHAT would you be expecting the servants to do with the talent(s) you have given them?*

ii. **WHAT** is the reward for the two servants who doubled their master’s money?

iii. According to the master, **WHAT** is the sin of the third servant who buried the money he received? **WHAT** is his consequence?

⁶ One “talent” is a monetary unit worth about 20 years’ wages for a laborer. So, in today’s market, one talent may be \$1 million (\$50,000/year * 20 years)

1. *As we read these stories, a pattern seems to be present. God rewards those who make the most of the resources and opportunities which He gives them. What resources and opportunities has He given you? Are you making the most of them? Why or why not?*

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

ADORATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

CONFESSION

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

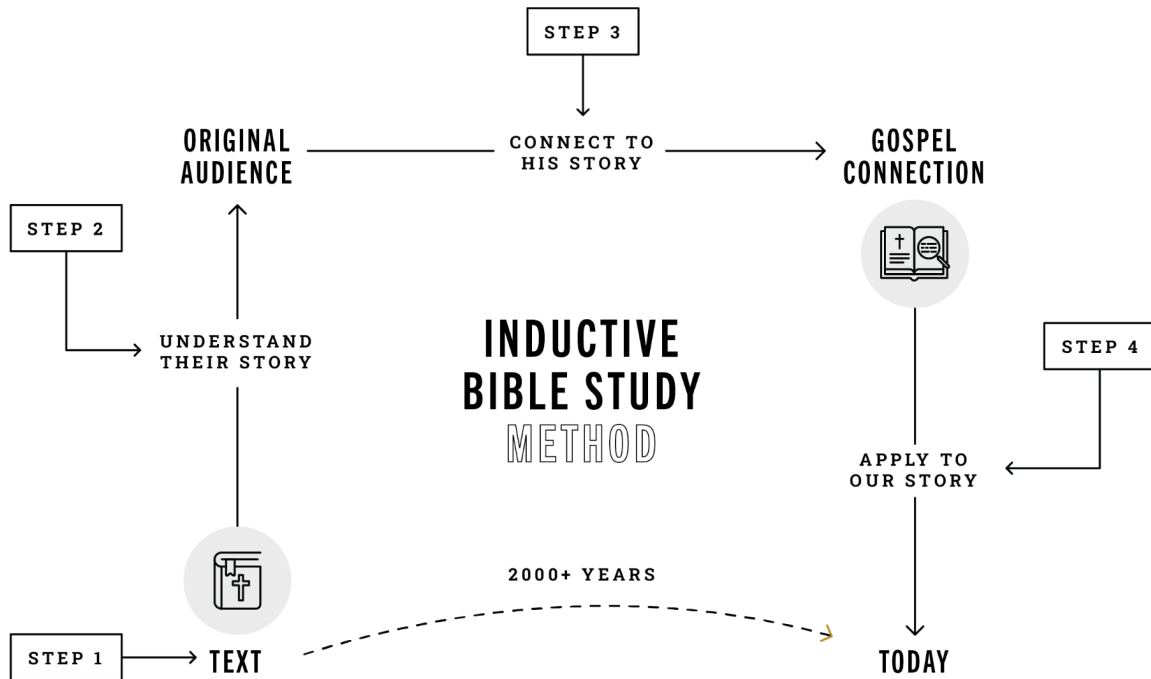
SUPPLICATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

JOSHUA

Lesson 15 | Inheritance by Lot

Joshua 18:1-19:51



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Joshua 18:1-19:51 (ESV)
LESSON FIFTEEN

18 Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there.

The land lay subdued before them.

There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned.

³ So Joshua said to the people of Israel,

“How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?

⁴ Provide three men from each tribe, and I will send them out that they may set out and go up and down the land.

They shall write a description of it with a view to their inheritances, and then come to me.

⁵ They shall divide it into seven portions.

Judah shall continue in his territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall continue in their territory on the north.

⁶ And you shall describe the land in seven divisions and bring the description here to me.

And I will cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

⁷ The Levites have no portion among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their heritage.

And Gad and Reuben and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan eastward, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them.”

⁸ So the men arose and went, and Joshua charged those who went to write the description of the land, saying,

“Go up and down in the land and write a description and return to me.

And I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh.”

⁹ So the men went and passed up and down in the land and wrote in a book a description of it by towns in seven divisions.

Then they came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh, ¹⁰ and Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD.

And there Joshua apportioned the land to the people of Israel, to each his portion.

¹¹ The lot of the tribe of the people of Benjamin according to its clans came up, and the territory allotted to it fell between the people of Judah and the people of Joseph.

¹² On the north side their boundary began at the Jordan.

Then the boundary goes up to the shoulder north of Jericho, then up through the hill country westward, and it ends at the wilderness of Beth-aven.

¹³ From there the boundary passes along southward in the direction of Luz, to the shoulder of Luz (that is, Bethel), then the boundary goes down to Ataroth-addar, on the mountain that lies south of Lower Beth-horon.

¹⁴ Then the boundary goes in another direction, turning on the western side southward from the mountain that lies to the south, opposite Beth-horon, and it ends at Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city belonging to the people of Judah.

This forms the western side.

¹⁵ And the southern side begins at the outskirts of Kiriath-jearim.

And the boundary goes from there to Ephron, to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah.

¹⁶ Then the boundary goes down to the border of the mountain that overlooks the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is at the north end of the Valley of Rephaim.

And it then goes down the Valley of Hinnom, south of the shoulder of the Jebusites, and downward to En-rogel.

¹⁷ Then it bends in a northerly direction going on to En-shemesh, and from there goes to Geliloth, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim.

Then it goes down to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben, ¹⁸ and passing on to the north of the shoulder of Beth-arabah it goes down to the Arabah.

¹⁹ Then the boundary passes on to the north of the shoulder of Beth-hoglah.

And the boundary ends at the northern bay of the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan: this is the southern border.

²⁰ The Jordan forms its boundary on the eastern side.

This is the inheritance of the people of Benjamin, according to their clans, boundary by boundary all around.

²¹ Now the cities of the tribe of the people of Benjamin according to their clans were Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz, ²² Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, ²³ Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,

²⁴ Chephar-ammoni, Ophni, Geba—twelve cities with their villages:

²⁵ Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, ²⁶ Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah, ²⁷ Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, ²⁸ Zela, Haeleph, Jebus(that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah and Kiriath-jearim—fourteen cities with their villages.

This is the inheritance of the people of Benjamin according to its clans.

19 The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the people of Simeon, according to their clans, and their inheritance was in the midst of the inheritance of the people of Judah.

² And they had for their inheritance Beersheba, Sheba, Moladah, ³ Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem, ⁴ Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, ⁵ Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah, ⁶ Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhem—thirteen cities with their villages;

⁷ Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan—four cities with their villages, ⁸ together with all the villages around these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the Negeb.

This was the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Simeon according to their clans.

⁹ The inheritance of the people of Simeon formed part of the territory of the people of Judah.

Because the portion of the people of Judah was too large for them, the people of Simeon obtained an inheritance in the midst of their inheritance.

¹⁰ The third lot came up for the people of Zebulun, according to their clans.

And the territory of their inheritance reached as far as Sarid.

¹¹ Then their boundary goes up westward and on to Mareal and touches Dabbesheth, then the brook that is east of Jokneam.

¹² From Sarid it goes in the other direction eastward toward the sunrise to the boundary of Chisloth-tabor.

From there it goes to Daberath, then up to Japhia.

¹³ From there it passes along on the east toward the sunrise to Gath-hepher, to Eth-kazin, and going on to Rimmon it bends toward Neah, ¹⁴ then on the north the boundary turns about to Hannathon, and it ends at the Valley of Iphtahel;

¹⁵ and Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem—twelve cities with their villages.

¹⁶ This is the inheritance of the people of Zebulun, according to their clans—these cities with their villages.

¹⁷ The fourth lot came out for Issachar, for the people of Issachar, according to their clans.

¹⁸ Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem, ¹⁹ Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, ²⁰ Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, ²¹ Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, Beth-pazzez.

²² The boundary also touches Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, and its boundary ends at the Jordan—sixteen cities with their villages.

²³ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Issachar, according to their clans—the cities with their villages.

²⁴ The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the people of Asher according to their clans.

²⁵ Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph, ²⁶ Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. On the west it touches Carmel and Shihor-libnath, ²⁷ then it turns eastward, it goes to Beth-dagon, and touches Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtahel northward to Beth-emek and Neiel.

Then it continues in the north to Cabul, ²⁸ Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, Kanah, as far as Sidon the Great.

²⁹ Then the boundary turns to Ramah, reaching to the fortified city of Tyre.

Then the boundary turns to Hosah, and it ends at the sea;

Mahalab, Achzib, ³⁰ Ummah, Aphek and Rehob—twenty-two cities with their villages.

³¹ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Asher according to their clans—these cities with their villages.

³² The sixth lot came out for the people of Naphtali, for the people of Naphtali, according to their clans.

³³ And their boundary ran from Heleph, from the oak in Zaanannim, and Adami-nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum, and it ended at the Jordan.

³⁴ Then the boundary turns westward to Aznoth-tabor and goes from there to Hukkok, touching Zebulun at the south and Asher on the west and Judah on the east at the Jordan.

³⁵ The fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth, ³⁶ Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

³⁷ Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor, ³⁸ Yiron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh—nineteen cities with their villages.

³⁹ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Naphtali according to their clans—the cities with their villages.

⁴⁰ The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans.

⁴¹ And the territory of its inheritance included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh, ⁴² Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,

⁴³ Elon, Timnah, Ekron, ⁴⁴ Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, ⁴⁵ Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon, ⁴⁶ and Me-jarkon and Rakkon with the territory over against Joppa.

⁴⁷ When the territory of the people of Dan was lost to them, the people of Dan went up and fought against Leshem, and after capturing it and striking it with the sword they took possession of it and settled in it, calling Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor.

⁴⁸ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans—these cities with their villages.

⁴⁹ When they had finished distributing the several territories of the land as inheritances, the people of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun.

⁵⁰ By command of the LORD they gave him the city that he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim.

And he rebuilt the city and settled in it.

⁵¹ These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel distributed by lot at Shiloh before the LORD, at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

So they finished dividing the land.

Lesson 15 | Inheritance by Lot

Joshua 18:1 - 19:51

Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In lesson 14 we saw God's faithfulness on a large scale (as the first tribes received their inheritance) and His faithfulness on an individual level (towards Caleb and the daughters of Zelophehad). We learned that Caleb's wholehearted devotion to God is an example of how we all should seek to live. Now in lesson 15 the continued faithfulness of God is shown towards the remaining seven tribes yet to receive their inheritance. This lesson will draw out some interesting gospel connections, so let's dig in!

1. Begin your study in prayer. *Normally we suggest that you read the text several times, but this week again, we want you to skim it as you answer the questions below so that you get the main ideas rather than focusing on details! Don't get bogged down! Look at it from a 30,000 ft view.*
2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 18:1-10 - These verses set up the land allotment process to follow. Read them carefully so that you understand the process.
 - i. **WHAT** did the people of Israel set up at Shiloh? **WHAT** does this action signify?
 - ii. **HOW** is the land described? What words are used in the NIV translation?
 - iii. **WHAT** does Joshua 'accuse' the final seven tribes of doing?
 - iv. **WHAT** two tasks does Joshua give to the three men from each of the seven tribes?
 - v. **HOW** will the seven land divisions be allotted to the final tribes? **WHO** will have the final say in which tribe receives which division of land?
 - vi. **WHAT** tribe will not get a portion in the land? Do you remember **WHY** they don't get land?
 - b. Joshua 18:11-28
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?
 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Based on the geographical markers (cities, landmarks) noted in the scripture passage, locate and label the area apportioned to this tribe on the map on page 2.

- c. Joshua 19:1-9
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?

 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Locate and label on the map on page 2.

- d. Joshua 19:10-16
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?

 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Locate and label on the map on page 2.

- e. Joshua 19:17-23
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?

 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Locate and label on the map on page 2.

- f. Joshua 19:24-31
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?

 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Locate and label on the map on page 2.

- g. Joshua 19:32-39
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?

 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Locate and label on the map on page 2.

- h. Joshua 19:40-48
 - i. **WHO** receives land in this section of text?

 - ii. **WHERE** is this land located? Locate and label on the map on page 2.

i. Joshua 19:49-51

- i. **WHO** is the last to receive his inheritance?

1. *HOW might this speak to the character of Joshua? WHAT can leaders learn from his example?*

- ii. **WHO** commanded that Israel give Joshua an inheritance?

1. *How does this information shape your understanding of God and His character?*

- iii. **WHAT** tribe did Joshua's inheritance fall under?

- iv. **WHAT** did Joshua do with the land he was given?

- v. In **WHOSE** presence, was all the land distribution accomplished?

1. *WHY is this the case?*

3. Most of the tribal allotments include little extra detail outside of the boundaries of their inheritance, with two exceptions.

- a. **WHAT** is odd or different about the inheritance for Simeon (19:9)?

- b. **WHAT** story is told about the land in which the tribe of Dan received?

1. *Do you think this story is about a future event, or a current event? WHAT clues are in the text that can help you determine when this takes place?*

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story

1. “...the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there.” This text which describes land allotment begins (18:1) and ends (19:51) by mentioning the tent of meeting. The tent of meeting was a significant symbol of God’s presence with His people. Let’s look at how the theme of God’s presence develops through the scriptural narrative.
 - a. Read Genesis 3:8 and 3:22-24
 - i. **HOW** does this verse 8 describe God’s presence with Adam and Eve in the Garden?
 - ii. **WHAT** is the result of Adam and Eve’s sin according to verses 22-24.
 - b. Read Ex. 29:43-46 and Leviticus 26:11-13
 - i. **WHERE** does God want His presence to be?
 - ii. **WHAT** do we learn about the relationship God desires to have with His people from these two passages?
 - c. Read Joshua 7:10-12
 - i. **WHAT** has the potential to separate Israel from God’s presence?
 - d. Read Exodus 33:7-11
 - i. **WHO** would visit the tent? (Note: there 3 different individuals or groups mentioned.)
 - ii. **HOW** did the people of Israel respond when Moses went into the tent and the cloud descended?
 - iii. **HOW** is the relationship between God and Moses described in this text?
 - iv. **WHO** seems to have been in the tent more than everyone else?

God was with Israel in the tent of meeting in the Old Testament. How is this idea developed and transformed in the New Testament?

e. Read Matthew 1:19-23

i. **WHAT** does Matthew want us to know about Jesus?

f. Read Hebrews 4:14-16

i. **WHAT** does Jesus allow us to do with confidence? **WHY** can we do this confidently?

g. Read Revelation 21:1-4

i. **WHAT** do believers have to look forward to? **WHO** will be with us?

1. *The Scriptures confirm that God desires to be with His people! Do you make it a priority to spend time with God? Why or why not?*

2. *Reflect and pray about how you could structure your day, in order to spend more time seeking His presence.*

2. **“Go and make a survey of the land...Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of the Lord.”** Throughout history, great leaders of faith were able to act when others wouldn’t because they were filled with wisdom. When problems came up that needed action, they could act because they knew how to discern God’s will. Joshua knew how to act when the remaining tribes weren’t acting, because he knew God’s word. What had the LORD said about this process in the past?

a. Read Numbers 33:50-56

i. **WHAT** two things did the Lord command Israel to do once they entered the land of Canaan? By **WHAT** means will the inheritance be distributed?

b. Read Joshua 1:6-9 and then focus on verses 7-8

i. **WHAT** was God requiring Joshua to do? **WHAT** was the result of following through?

c. Read John 17:14-18 and then focus on verse 17

i. **WHAT** will enable Jesus’ disciples to be sanctified?⁷

⁷ Sanctify means to purify, or to free something (or someone) from sin.

- d. Read Romans 12:1-2
 - i. **WHAT** does Paul say must happen so we can discern the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God?

1. Summarizing all we have read in all these texts, what renews our minds and helps us to discern God's will?

2. If you examine your weekly schedule and habits, are you setting yourself up well to learn, know, and do God's will?

- 3. **"The land lay subdued before them."** In Gen 1-2 we have a picture of God who organizes and subdues the earth which was dark and "without form and void" (Genesis 1:2). He transforms chaos into order, beauty, and abundance. He also sets up the first humans to be His representatives on earth to protect what God created. Let's see how this call continues through the Scriptures.

- a. Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:15
 - i. **WHAT** role did God give to people?

- b. Read Genesis 6:9-13 and then focus on verse 11
 - i. **HOW** does God describe what the world has become?

- c. Read Deuteronomy 9:4-5
 - i. **WHY** is God calling Israel to drive out the Canaanites in the land?

- d. Read Isaiah 49:1-6 and then focus on verse 6
 - i. **WHAT** does God want His servant to do?

- e. Read Matthew 5:13-16
 - i. **HOW** does Jesus describe His disciples?

1. WHAT role do these two things play in society?

2. In WHAT way do you live out these roles?⁸

⁸ From the beginning, God has called His people to participate in keeping and restoring a chaotic world stuck in sin. We aren't called to subdue chaos with a sword but rather to preserve the world through our actions, and to light up the way to Jesus.

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

ADORATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

CONFESSION

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

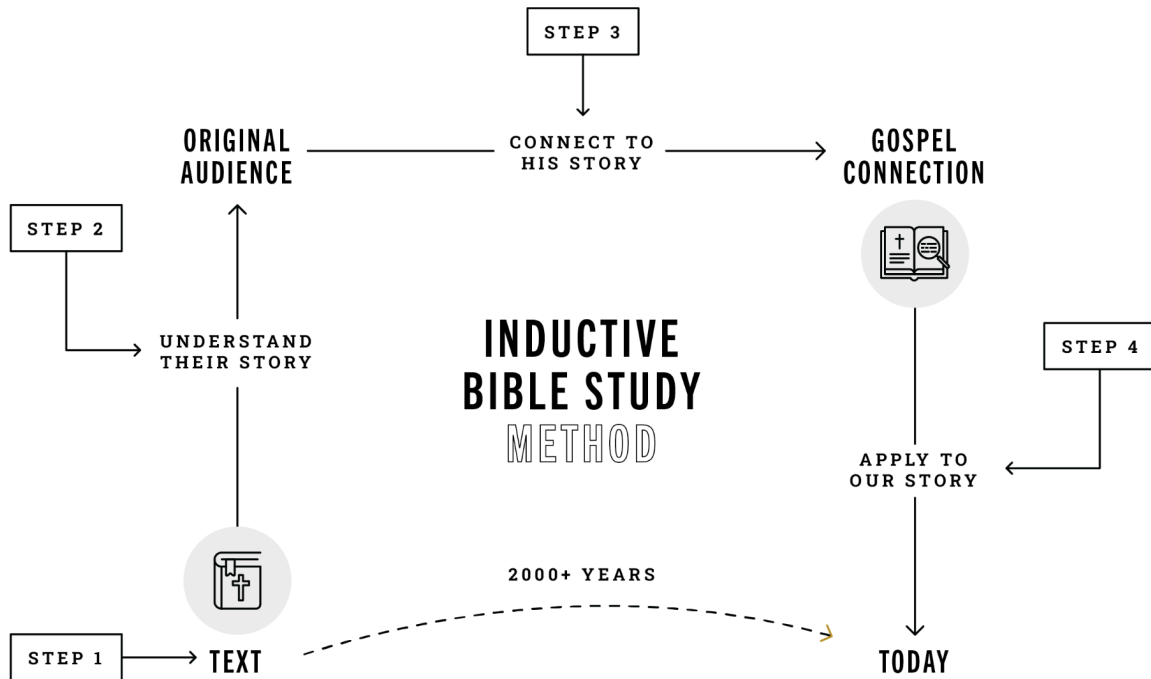
SUPPLICATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

JOSHUA

Lesson 16 | Inheritance for the Levites

Joshua 20:1-21:45



- ☐ **Step 1:** Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
- ☐ **Step 2:** Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT* you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT* you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- ☐ **Step 4:** Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson *SO THAT* the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

Joshua 20:1 - 21:45 (ESV)
LESSON SIXTEEN

20 Then the LORD said to Joshua,

² “Say to the people of Israel,

‘Appoint the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, ³ that the manslayer who strikes any person without intent or unknowingly may flee there.

They shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood.

⁴ He shall flee to one of these cities and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and explain his case to the elders of that city.

Then they shall take him into the city and give him a place, and he shall remain with them.

⁵ And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not give up the manslayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unknowingly, and did not hate him in the past.

⁶ And he shall remain in that city until he has stood before the congregation for judgment, until the death of him who is high priest at the time.

Then the manslayer may return to his own town and his own home, to the town from which he fled.”

⁷ So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.

⁸ And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they appointed Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹ These were the cities designated for all the people of Israel and for the stranger sojourning among them, that anyone who killed a person without intent could flee there, so that he might not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, till he stood before the congregation.

21 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua the son of Nun and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel.

² And they said to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan,

“The LORD commanded through Moses that we be given cities to dwell in, along with their pasturelands for our livestock.”

³ So by command of the LORD the people of Israel gave to the Levites the following cities and pasturelands out of their inheritance.

⁴ The lot came out for the clans of the Kohathites. So those Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest received by lot from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin, thirteen cities.

⁵ And the rest of the Kohathites received by lot from the clans of the tribe of Ephraim, from the tribe of Dan and the half-tribe of Manasseh, ten cities.

⁶ The Gershonites received by lot from the clans of the tribe of Issachar, from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.

⁷ The Merarites according to their clans received from the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

⁸ These cities and their pasturelands the people of Israel gave by lot to the Levites, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

⁹ Out of the tribe of the people of Judah and the tribe of the people of Simeon they gave the following cities mentioned by name, ¹⁰ which went to the descendants of Aaron, one of the clans of the Kohathites who belonged to the people of Levi; since the lot fell to them first.

¹¹ They gave them Kiriath-arba (Arba being the father of Anak), that is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, along with the pasturelands around it.

¹² But the fields of the city and its villages had been given to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.

¹³ And to the descendants of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasturelands, Libnah with its pasturelands, ¹⁴ Jattir with its pasturelands, Eshtemoa with its pasturelands, ¹⁵ Holon with its pasturelands, Debir with its pasturelands, ¹⁶ Ain with its pasturelands, Juttah with its pasturelands, Beth-shemesh with its pasturelands—nine cities out of these two tribes;

¹⁷ then out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with its pasturelands, Geba with its pasturelands,

¹⁸ Anathoth with its pasturelands, and Almon with its pasturelands—four cities.

¹⁹ The cities of the descendants of Aaron, the priests, were in all thirteen cities with their pasturelands.

²⁰ As to the rest of the Kohathites belonging to the Kohathite clans of the Levites, the cities allotted to them were out of the tribe of Ephraim.

²¹ To them were given Shechem, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer with its pasturelands, ²² Kibzaim with its pasturelands, Beth-horon with its pasturelands—four cities; ²³ and out of the tribe of Dan, Elteke with its pasturelands, Gibbethon with its pasturelands, ²⁴ Aijalon with its pasturelands, Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands—four cities;

²⁵ and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Taanach with its pasturelands, and Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands—two cities.

²⁶ The cities of the clans of the rest of the Kohathites were ten in all with their pasturelands.

²⁷ And to the Gershonites, one of the clans of the Levites, were given out of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan with its pasturelands, the city of refuge for the manslayer, and Beeshterah with its

pasturelands—two cities; ²⁸ and out of the tribe of Issachar, Kishion with its pasturelands, Daberath with its pasturelands, ²⁹ Jarmuth with its pasturelands, En-gannim with its pasturelands—four cities; ³⁰ and out of the tribe of Asher, Mishal with its pasturelands, Abdon with its pasturelands, ³¹ Helkath with its pasturelands, and Rehob with its pasturelands—four cities;

³² and out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its pasturelands, the city of refuge for the manslayer, Hammoth-dor with its pasturelands, and Kartan with its pasturelands—three cities.

³³ The cities of the several clans of the Gershonites were in all thirteen cities with their pasturelands.

³⁴ And to the rest of the Levites, the Merarite clans, were given out of the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its pasturelands, Kartah with its pasturelands, ³⁵ Dimnah with its pasturelands, Nahalal with its pasturelands—four cities; ³⁶ and out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer with its pasturelands, Jahaz with its pasturelands, ³⁷ Kedemoth with its pasturelands, and Mephaath with its pasturelands—four cities;

³⁸ and out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its pasturelands, the city of refuge for the manslayer, Mahanaim with its pasturelands, ³⁹ Heshbon with its pasturelands, Jazer with its pasturelands—four cities in all.

⁴⁰ As for the cities of the several Merarite clans, that is, the remainder of the clans of the Levites, those allotted to them were in all twelve cities.

⁴¹ The cities of the Levites in the midst of the possession of the people of Israel were in all forty-eight cities with their pasturelands.

⁴² These cities each had its pasturelands around it. So it was with all these cities.

⁴³ Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers.

And they took possession of it, and they settled there.

⁴⁴ And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers.

Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands.

⁴⁵ Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Lesson 16 | Inheritance for the Levites

Joshua 20:1-21:45

Look at the Text: Understand their Story Workbook

In lesson fifteen we finished up with the distribution of the promised land to the tribes of Israel. What else needs to happen for Israel to be established in the land the way that God intended? Keep studying along with us and you'll find out! *(Please note that the distribution of questions is a bit different this week: there are 2 pages in the "Understand their Story" section, and 4 pages in the "Connect to His Story" section).*

1. Begin your study in prayer. Read the passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Then, work through the questions below.
2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 20:1-9
 - i. **WHAT** is being organized in this text?
 - ii. **WHAT** purpose do these cities play?
 - iii. **WHAT** must the manslayer do when he reaches one of these cities?
 - iv. **WHAT** will the elders of that city do for the manslayer?
 - v. **WHAT** must happen before the manslayer can return home to his own village?
 - vi. In addition to Israelite people, **WHO** can flee to these cities if they accidentally kill someone?
 - vii. **WHAT** cities were set aside for cities of refuge? Locate these cities on the map on page 2.

1. *WHAT do these instructions teach you about God's character and plans?*

b. Joshua 21:1-42

- i. **WHO** approaches Joshua and Eleazer in this text?
- ii. **WHY** are these people receiving cities and land? (eg. what purpose will it serve)?
- iii. **WHAT** are the names of the three clans of Levites?

- iv. **HOW** are the Levite clans distributed among the tribes of Israel? Fill out the chart below to organize this information.

Clan 1:	Clan 2:	Clan 3:
Receives land from the following tribes:	Receives land from the following tribes:	Receives land from the following tribes:

- v. Count the names of tribes listed above. **HOW** many of the tribes gave land to the Levites?

1. *The Levites are spiritual leaders. Some are priests, and some guard the tabernacle / temple, and lead and communicate His law. What does their distribution among Israel communicate about God's desire for His people to know and worship Him?*

c. Joshua 21:43-45

- i. **WHAT** two things does the text say that God fulfilled just as He had sworn He would?
- ii. **HOW** many promises did God fulfill to Israel?

1. **WHAT** are your thoughts as you read this summary? How do these words impact you today?

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

1. **“And he shall remain in that city until he has stood before the congregation for judgment, until the death of him who is high priest at the time.”** In some way the death of the high priest nullifies not only the guilt of the manslayer, but the anger of the avenger of blood. Why might this be the case? Read the texts and answer the questions below to see how this theme is developed in Scripture.
 - a. Read Exodus 28:29-30
 - i. Aaron was Israel’s first high priest. **WHAT** does this description of some of Aaron’s clothing communicate about his role?
 - ii. **WHAT** is the role of the priest in this process?
 - b. Read Leviticus 4:27-31
 - i. **WHAT** must a guilty person do in order to be forgiven?
 - ii. **WHAT** is the role of the priest in this process?
 - c. Read Hebrews 9:23-28
 - i. **WHAT** is different about Christ’s work compared to other priests?
 - ii. **WHAT** did Jesus’ sacrifice accomplish?
 - iii. When Jesus appears a second time **WHAT** will He bring?
 - d. Read Hebrews 10:19-22
 - i. When the high priest died, the manslayer was permitted to go home. **WHAT** does this text confirm about the benefits we receive from Jesus’ death?
 1. *As you reflect on the texts in Joshua, Exodus, Leviticus, and Hebrews in relation to the cities of refuge, how would you answer the question that was posed at the top of this page: “In some way the death of the high priest nullifies not only the guilt of the manslayer, but the anger of the avenger of blood. Why might this be the case?”*

2. “...and for the stranger sojourning among them...” God graciously showed care not only for His people but also for the sojourner (or non-Israelite, foreigner). This reminds us that the LORD is not tribal, He blessed one nation with the goal that they would bless all nations. Read the texts and answer the questions below to see how this theme is developed within Scripture.
- a. Read Genesis 12:1-3
 - i. **WHAT** was God’s purpose for Abram’s family (the nation of Israel)?

 - b. Read Leviticus 19:33-34
 - i. **WHAT** does God command Israel not to do to strangers?

 - ii. **HOW** must they treat the stranger among them?

 - iii. **WHY** should they treat the stranger this way?

 - c. Read Ezekiel 47:21-23. Ezekiel was written about 700 years after Joshua, when Israel was removed from their land by the nation of Babylon as judgement for their sin. As the LORD speaks to Ezekiel, He is telling him what will happen in the future.
 - i. **WHO** will receive land in this future ‘land allotment’ ceremony?

 - ii. **HOW** are the sojourners to be considered?

 - iii. **HOW** many of the tribes of Israel must participate in this fair treatment of the sojourner?

 - d. Read Revelation 7:9-12
 - i. **WHO** is standing before the throne of God?

 - ii. **HOW** many nations, tribes, and languages are represented?

 - iii. **WHAT** are they all crying out together, in one unified voice?

1. *What do these texts teach you about God's character and concern for all people? What should they receive on earth? What should they be invited into eternally?*

3. **“Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.”** God's faithfulness is on full display in this passage, and throughout the whole Bible. Although the word faithfulness is not explicitly used here, the LORD is clearly behind the inheritance of land that Israel is now receiving. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever and so we can count on Him keeping all of the good promises He has made to us.

- a. Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-20
 - i. **WHAT** does this text tell us about God's faithfulness?
 - ii. **WHAT** confidence does Paul give believers in these verses about every other promise we have in Christ?
 - iii. **WHAT** does Paul say he can utter through Jesus?

Let's look at a few of these promises that are yes in Christ!

- b. Read Matthew 28:18-20
 - i. **WHAT** promise does Jesus give to His disciples?
- c. Read Matthew 11:27-30
 - i. **WHAT** promise does Jesus give to those who come to Him?
 - ii. **WHAT** does Jesus communicate about His 'yoke'?
- d. Read John 14:1-3
 - i. **WHAT** emotions are the disciples of Jesus experiencing?
 - ii. **WHAT** promise does He give to His disciples who He is leaving behind?

- e. Read Matthew 10:26-33
 - i. **WHAT** does Jesus promise will happen to those who acknowledge him before men?

 - ii. **HOW** should we live as a result of this promise?

- f. Read Luke 12:11-12
 - i. **WHAT** does Jesus promise will happen to those who have to publicly defend their faith?

- g. Read the following passages from Revelation and list what “the one who conquers/overcomes” will receive:
 - i. Revelation 2:7

 - ii. Revelation 2:11

 - iii. Revelation 2:17

 - iv. Revelation 2:26-28

 - v. Revelation 3:5

 - vi. Revelation 3:12

 - vii. Revelation 3:21

- 1. We could spend pages listing all of God’s promises to His children, but for the sake of time, we’ll stop here! Reflect on the texts that you read. **WHAT** promise is most encouraging to you today, and **WHY**?

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

ADORATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

CONFESSION

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

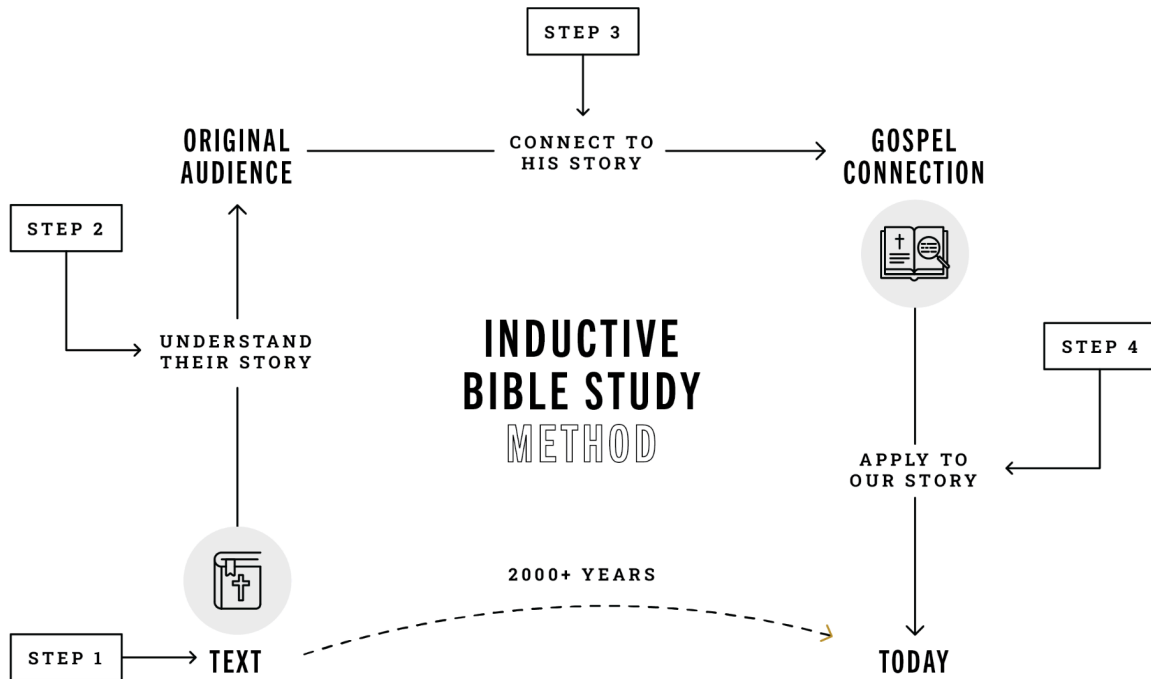
SUPPLICATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

JOSHUA

Lesson 17 | A Threat to Faithfulness

Joshua 22:1-34



- ☐ **Step 1:** Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
- ☐ **Step 2:** Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT* you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT* you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- ☐ **Step 4:** Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson *SO THAT* the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

Joshua 22:1-34 (ESV)
LESSON SEVENTEEN

22 At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, ² and said to them,

“You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you and have obeyed my voice in all that I have commanded you.

³ You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful to keep the charge of the Lord your God.

⁴ And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as he promised them. Therefore turn and go to your tents in the land where your possession lies, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

⁵ Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

⁶ So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

⁷ Now to the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua had given a possession beside their brothers in the land west of the Jordan.

And when Joshua sent them away to their homes and blessed them, ⁸ he said to them,

“Go back to your tents with much wealth and with very much livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and with much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers.”

⁹ So the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh returned home, parting from the people of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the land of Gilead, their own land of which they had possessed themselves by command of the Lord through Moses.

¹⁰ And when they came to the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size.

¹¹ And the people of Israel heard it said,

“Behold, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built the altar at the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region about the Jordan, on the side that belongs to the people of Israel.”

¹² And when the people of Israel heard of it, the whole assembly of the people of Israel gathered at Shiloh to make war against them.

¹³ Then the people of Israel sent to the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, ¹⁴ and with him ten chiefs, one from each of the tribal families of Israel, every one of them the head of a family among the clans of Israel.

¹⁵ And they came to the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, and they said to them,

¹⁶ “Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord,

‘What is this breach of faith that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away this day from following the Lord by building yourselves an altar this day in rebellion against the Lord?

¹⁷ Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor from which even yet we have not cleansed ourselves, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation of the Lord, ¹⁸ that you too must turn away this day from following the Lord?

And if you too rebel against the Lord today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.

¹⁹ But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the Lord's land where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us.

Only do not rebel against the Lord or make us as rebels by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the Lord our God.

²⁰ Did not Achan the son of Zerah break faith in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel?

And he did not perish alone for his iniquity.’”

²¹ Then the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh said in answer to the heads of the families of Israel,

²² “The Mighty One, God, the Lord! The Mighty One, God, the Lord!

He knows; and let Israel itself know!

If it was in rebellion or in breach of faith against the Lord, do not spare us today ²³ for building an altar to turn away from following the Lord.

Or if we did so to offer burnt offerings or grain offerings or peace offerings on it, may the Lord himself take vengeance.

²⁴ No, but we did it from fear that in time to come your children might say to our children,

‘What have you to do with the Lord, the God of Israel?

²⁵ For the Lord has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you, you people of Reuben and people of Gad.

You have no portion in the Lord.’

So your children might make our children cease to worship the Lord. ²

⁶ Therefore we said,

‘Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, ²⁷ but to be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, that we do perform the service of the Lord in his presence with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and peace offerings, so your children will not say to our children in time to come,

“You have no portion in the Lord.”

²⁸ And we thought,

‘If this should be said to us or to our descendants in time to come, we should say,

“Behold, the copy of the altar of the Lord, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you.”

²⁹ Far be it from us that we should rebel against the Lord and turn away this day from following the Lord by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering, or sacrifice, other than the altar of the Lord our God that stands before his tabernacle!”

³⁰ When Phinehas the priest and the chiefs of the congregation, the heads of the families of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the people of Manasseh spoke, it was good in their eyes.

³¹ And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the people of Manasseh,

“Today we know that the Lord is in our midst, because you have not committed this breach of faith against the Lord.

Now you have delivered the people of Israel from the hand of the Lord.”

³² Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the chiefs, returned from the people of Reuben and the people of Gad in the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the people of Israel, and brought back word to them.

³³ And the report was good in the eyes of the people of Israel.

And the people of Israel blessed God and spoke no more of making war against them to destroy the land where the people of Reuben and the people of Gad were settled.

³⁴ The people of Reuben and the people of Gad called the altar Witness,

“For,” they said, “it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.”

Lesson 17 | A Threat to Faithfulness

Joshua 22:1-34

Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In this lesson we look at two scenes that accompany the departure of the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. Scene one is Joshua's final words of instruction and blessing before they cross the river to go home. Scene two is the conflict that arises because of the altar that these tribes set up on their way out. What were these 2 ½ tribes to keep in mind now that they could go home? Why does a civil war nearly begin on their way out? Read the passage and answer the questions to find out!

1. Begin your study in prayer. Read the passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Then, work through the questions below
2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 22:1-9 - Setting (could this all be part of the setting? Or is this its own little plot arc?)
 - b. Joshua 22:10-12 - Inciting action/conflict
 - c. Joshua 22:13-29 - Rising Action
 - i. 22:13-20
 - ii. 22:21-29
 - d. Joshua 22:30-31 - Climax
 - e. Joshua 22:32-34 - Resolution
3. **WHO** are the characters in this chapter? What do you learn about them?
 - a. Joshua
 - i. Based on Joshua's parting speech, his commendation and commands to the tribes, **WHAT** things do you notice are important to him?
 - ii. **WHAT** does Joshua do after he's done instructing the tribes?
 1. *What is the state of the relationship between these 2 ½ tribes and Joshua (along with the rest of Israel) at this point?*

- b. The people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (the 2 ½ tribes moving East of the Jordan, we'll call them the "Eastern tribes")
 - i. According to Joshua's speech **WHY** are they now able to return home? **HOW** does Joshua describe them?
 - ii. **WHERE** is their home in relation to the rest of Israel?
 - iii. As they return home, **WHAT** are they bringing with them?
 - iv. **WHAT** controversial choice do they make on their way home? What do they build?
 - 1. According to their defense in 22:21-29, **WHY** did they build the altar? **WHAT** were they afraid of?
 - v. How do the Eastern tribes feel about the LORD? How do they feel about rebellion against the LORD?
 - 1. *Do you think the Eastern tribes' reason for setting up the altar was justified? Wise? Why or why not?*
- c. The people of Israel" (the 10 tribes living West of the Jordan, the "Western tribes")
 - i. **HOW** do the people of Israel initially respond when they hear about the altar?
 - ii. **WHO** do they send to talk to the people of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh?
 - iii. **WHY** did the Western tribes of Israel have such a strong reaction? **WHAT** accusation do they make against the Eastern tribes?
 - 1. **WHO** do they think will face God's wrath?

- iv. **WHAT** two examples from their past do they use to illustrate the seriousness of their concern? (We'll dig into these in Gospel Connection #3!)
- v. **HOW** do the Western tribes receive the explanation of defense from the Eastern tribes? **WHAT** repeated phrase do you see in 22:30 and 22:33?
- vi. *Like the Western tribes, we may see the actions of our brothers and sisters in the faith and be concerned - perhaps to the point of planning serious confrontation (like we see them discussing in 22:33). What things do you have a heightened sense of suspicion about others doing? What is the reason for your concern?*

- 1. *What do you do with such concerns? Is there anything in the Western tribes' motivations/actions that can be followed?*

d. The LORD

- i. **HOW** is the LORD described by the Western tribes? **WHAT** do they know is important to the LORD?
- ii. **HOW** is the LORD described by the Eastern tribes? **WHAT** do they believe God knows?
 - 1. *What do you believe about God's knowledge of your own life, motives, and actions? Is this comforting, convicting, frightening?*
- iii. **WHAT** does Phinehas affirm about the Lord after the conflict has been resolved?
- iv. **WHAT** is the altar called and why? What does it affirm about God and their relationship?

4. **WHAT** do you think is the main point of this story? What are the warnings and encouragements you see?

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

1. **“You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful to keep the charge of the LORD your God” (22:3).** The commands to these 2 ½ tribes (Gad, Reuben & ½ of Manasseh) were referenced early on in the book of Joshua (see 1:12-18). Numbers 32 is the backstory that we looked at in Lesson 2 of “Joshua Part 1”, and is helpful to recall here.
 - a. Visit the backstory in Numbers 32.
 - i. Numbers 32:1-5. What do these tribes ask for?
 - ii. Numbers 32:6-15. Why is Moses upset at their request?
 - iii. Numbers 32:16-19. What do these tribes promise to Moses?
 - iv. Numbers 32:28-32. How does Moses ensure that they will keep their promise?
 - b. According to Joshua’s speech, the tribes obeyed and so they are blessed and sent to their inheritance (22:6). The biblical concept of reward for faithfulness is found elsewhere. Look up Matthew 16:24-27.
 - i. What does Jesus call people to do?
 - ii. How do Jesus’ words here motivate faithfulness in discipleship?
2. **“...be very careful to observe the commandment ...to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul” (22:5).** Faithfulness to God is a key theme in this chapter, seen both in Joshua’s commands the mutual suspicion of the tribes. The biblical story highlights our struggle to be faithful, but also how God can empower us .
 - a. This command is echoed both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.
 - i. Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - What does Moses instruct the people to do?
 1. **WHY** should they obey? List as many reasons as you can find.
 - ii. Matthew 22:34-40 - What is the significance of Jesus repeating these commands? ?

iii. *"What are some ways you are trying to obey these commands today? What does it look like to love/serve God with your **heart** and **mind** and **might**?"*

b. This command is daunting given the state of humanity.

i. Read Ezekiel 36:16-19. How did Israel do when it came to obedience in the land?

ii. Read Ezekiel 36:24-29. Why did Israel fail to keep the commands? What is the problem that Israel (and all people) have?

1. What is God's promise to address this problem?

c. Romans 8:1-11 - It's the Spirit that helps us to be faithful. What are the differences between those who have only the flesh and those who have the Spirit dwelling in them?

Flesh	Spirit

i. *What reminder does God have for you today from these verses in your own quest to be faithful to cling to God and serve him with all your heart and all your soul?*

3. **"Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor..." (22:17), and "Achan the son of Zerah" (22:20).**

The Western tribes' aggressive response to the Eastern tribes is fuelled by events in Israel's history. We studied Achan's story in Joshua part 1 (check out Joshua 7 for a refresher), but let's look at the sin at Peor more closely.

a. Numbers 25:1-13. What happened with the "sin at Peor"?

i. What was the sin of the Israelites?

ii. How did Moses call them to respond?

iii. What consequences did the people experience?

iv. Which character from Joshua 22 played an important role in resolving this matter according to Numbers 22:10-11? How does God describe this person?

1. *What do these stories teach us about how God views (and judges) rebellion against Him?*

4. **“For the Lord has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you, you people of Reuben and people of God. You have no portion in the Lord.’ So your children might make our children cease to worship the Lord”** The Eastern tribes were worried that, in the future, the river boundary could cause the Western tribes to exclude them from worshipping God. In the Old Testament, the LORD was very clear that Israel must worship Him in the place that He chooses, so geographical barriers were a very real obstacle. After Jesus’ sacrificial death, resurrection and ascension, the age of the physical tabernacle and temple ended and worship was re-centered around Jesus: He provided access to worship the one true God who isn’t bound to a specific location.

a. John 4:1-42 recounts the story of Jesus visiting Samaria. Read the chapter if you have time, or just focus on the sections below:

i. Read John 4:1-9. **WHAT** two people groups are represented in this scene? What is their relationship like?

ii. Read 4:19-26. **WHAT** belief did the two groups have about worship?

1. **WHAT** does Jesus teach instead?

b. Acts 1:6-9. After Jesus died and rose again, He gave His disciples a commission to spread the gospel. **WHERE** were they to be His witnesses?

c. Revelation 21:22-27. In John’s vision of the new heavens and new earth, when Jesus comes back, **WHAT** will be the focal point of worship in the city?

i. *How do you view the diversity and unity of God’s people? What barriers might you have surrounding who belongs to “Christianity”?*

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

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In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

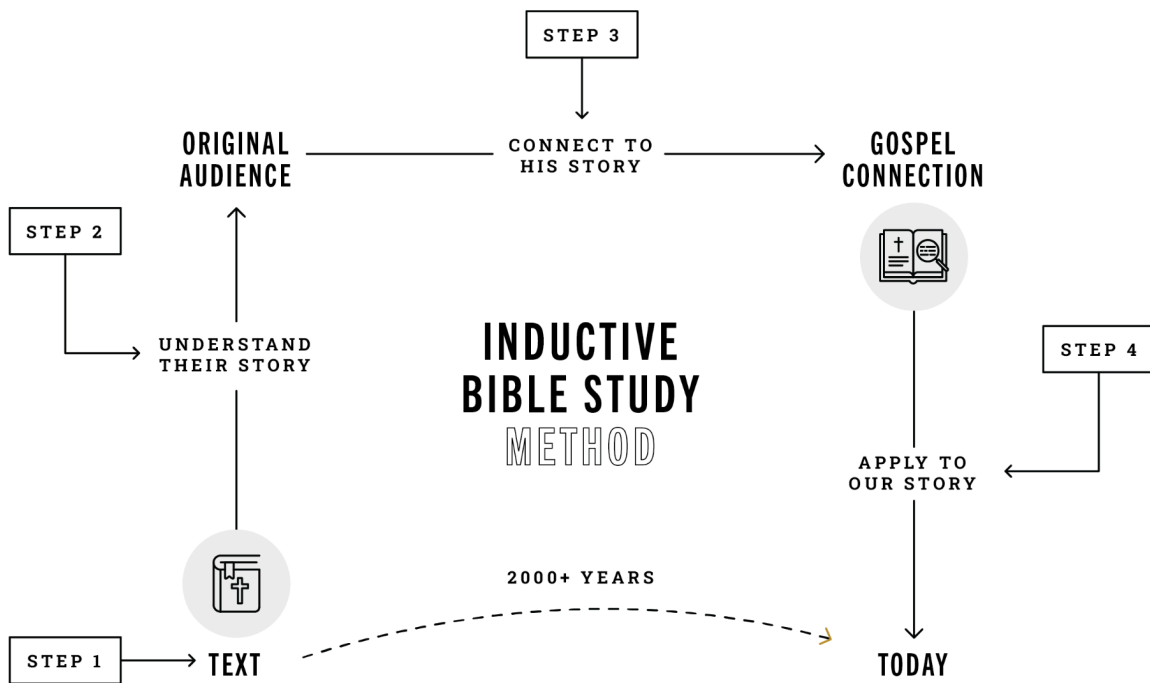
SUPPLICATION

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JOSHUA

Lesson 18 | A Charge to be Faithful

Joshua 23:1-16



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- ☐ **Step 2:** Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT* you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
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Joshua 23:1-16 (ESV)

LESSON EIGHTEEN

23 A long time afterward, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, ² Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them,

“I am now old and well advanced in years.

³ And you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the Lord your God who has fought for you.

⁴ Behold, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off, from the Jordan to the Great Sea in the west.

⁵ The Lord your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight.

And you shall possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you.

⁶ Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, ⁷ that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, ⁸ but you shall cling to the Lord your God just as you have done to this day.

⁹ For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations.

And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day.

¹⁰ One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, just as he promised you.

¹¹ Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God.

¹² For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, ¹³ know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you.

¹⁴ “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you.

All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.

¹⁵ But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the Lord your God has given you, ¹⁶ if you transgress the covenant of

the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them.

Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”

Lesson 18 | A Charge to be Faithful

Joshua 23:1-16

Look at the Text: Understand their Story

Time has passed since the conquest of the promised land, and this chapter in Israel's history is coming to a close as Joshua nears his death. In his farewell address to Israel's leaders, Joshua stresses loyalty to the LORD to remain in their inheritance (23:1-16). What does he want them to do? What does he want them to remember? And, why? Read Joshua 23 and answer the following questions to understand this important moment at both the end of Joshua's life, and the beginning of Israel's life without his leadership.

1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 23:1-16 several times. Mark characters, setting, and key words/phrases and anything else that stands out.
2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
 - a. Joshua 23:1-2 - The Setting: **WHEN** is this scene taking place?
 - i. **WHO** is speaking? **WHO** is the audience?
 - ii. **WHAT** is the audience presently experiencing?
 - b. Joshua 23:2b-16 - Joshua's Speech
 - i. 23:3-5 - What is Joshua describing in this section?
 - ii. 23:6-10 - Summarize Joshua's commands in this section.
 - iii. 23:12-16 - Summarize Joshua's warnings as he closes.
3. **WHAT** do we learn about Joshua in this chapter? (What is about to happen to him and **WHY** is it significant?)
 - a. *What can happen when great leaders leave or pass away, especially for churches? What are some things that God's people can do in order to protect against this?*
4. **WHAT** do we learn about the LORD from Joshua's speech?
 - a. List what the LORD *has done*:

b. List what the LORD *will do* (if they continue to obey):

c. List what the LORD *will do* (if they turn back):

i. *When you look at your own life in the past (or hopes for the future), is it easy or difficult for you to connect your practical circumstances to the presence and/or activity of God?*

d. **HOW** does the text describe God's emotion towards the people when they transgress the covenant?

i. *Is it uncomfortable to think of God in this way? Why or why not?*

5. **WHO** might be a source of trouble for the people of Israel?

a. **WHAT** imagery is used to describe their effect on Israel? What do you think Joshua is getting at?

i. *What could be some snare, traps, whips, and thorns for Christians today?*

6. The commands to the people in this speech are partly motivated by what is repeatedly described as "good" in 23:13-16.

a. **HOW MANY** times do you see the word "good" used to describe something?

i. **WHAT** is the word "good" used to describe? How is God connected?

1. *What impact do these repeated reminders have on how you understand God's heart behind the commands through Joshua?*

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

1. **“...be very strong to keep and to do all that is written...Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God”**. These two commands connect the biblical ideas of love and obedience. The two are meant to exist together in our response to God. Read the following verses to see some other key examples from Scripture.
 - a. Deuteronomy 10:12-13
 - i. What does God require of His people?
 - b. John 14:21-24
 - i. How does Jesus describe what love for God looks like?
 - c. 1 John 5:1-3
 - i. How does John define the love of God?
 - d. *What things help you be “very strong” or what will it look like for you to be “very careful” to follow through on love and obedience for God?*
2. **“that you may not mix with these nations...and cling...and make marriages with them”**. Joshua is concerned that an intimate connection with the remnant of the nations among God’s people would have a negative influence on their faithfulness to God. He labels them a “snare” and a “trap” (23:13). Look up the references below to expand on this recurring biblical theme.
 - a. Deuteronomy 7:1-6 - Moses gave God’s people a similar command before Joshua.
 - i. Why was Moses concerned about intermarriage and covenants?
 - b. 1 Kings 11:1-11 - Later in Israel’s history, a great king named Solomon ruled the nation.
 - i. What did Solomon do and how did it affect his relationship with God?
 - ii. What was God’s response to Solomon’s actions?
 - c. Years later in Israel’s history, the nation was exiled from their land and yet God brought them back and there was a time of renewal. Yet even then, they were unfaithful.
 - i. Read Ezra 9:1-3 - What do the officials reveal about the people of Israel?

ii. Read Ezra 9:10-15 - What words does Ezra use to describe their actions as he prays?

d. Now let's see what the New Testament says along these lines.

i. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 - What are Paul's instructions to Christians?

1. *How are these instructions similar to Joshua's commands to Israel? How are they different?*

e. *So, taken all together, what is the critical issue at stake in the "inter-marriage" situation? (Remember, the presence of foreigners was permitted in Rahab's case in Joshua 6:25 and we saw that God honoured the covenant Israel made with the Gibeonites in Joshua 9).*

f. *What challenges have you experienced (or could you imagine would occur) in a "spiritually-mixed" relationship (marriage, business, friendships)?*

3. **"...not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed" (23:14b).** God thoroughly delivered on the promises He made. This consistently happens throughout the biblical story: God promises good things and does great things to keep His word.

a. Romans 1:1-6

i. What had God promised?

ii. How did God act on this promise?

iii. According to this text, what can we experience as a result?

b. 2 Corinthians 1:18-20

i. What is the relationship between God's promises and Jesus?

- c. Hebrews 6:13-18 - The author of Hebrews offers rich encouragement by pointing to God's character and activity along these lines.

- i. What is impossible for God?

- ii. What does a Christian possess as a result?

- d. *What great things has God done in the past and/or what good things has promised to do in the future that the Holy Spirit might want to encourage you with today? Take a moment and write down some of the evidence in your life of God's promises that never fail.*

- 4. **"...if you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you" (23:16).** The Bible consistently demonstrates that there are real consequences for disobedience. Sin is serious.

- a. Deuteronomy 4:15-17 - Moses gave a similar warning

- i. What provokes God to anger?

- ii. What consequences would they face for disobedience?

- b. John 3:36 - For us today, there's more than inheriting land that is at stake.

- i. What is the good news about belief?

- ii. What is the bad news about disobedience?

- c. Galatians 5:16-25 - Look at how Paul contrasts two ways of living.

- i. What are the consequences of living to gratify the flesh?

- ii. What does it look like to walk by the Spirit?

- d. *How do you view sin/disobedience? Do you take it seriously enough? How do these passages and Joshua's commands help shape your view of sin?*

Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often “Preparatory Texts.” They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people’s need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week’s passages...

- What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- How does God save in this text?
- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?



Apply to Our Story

ADORATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

CONFESSION

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

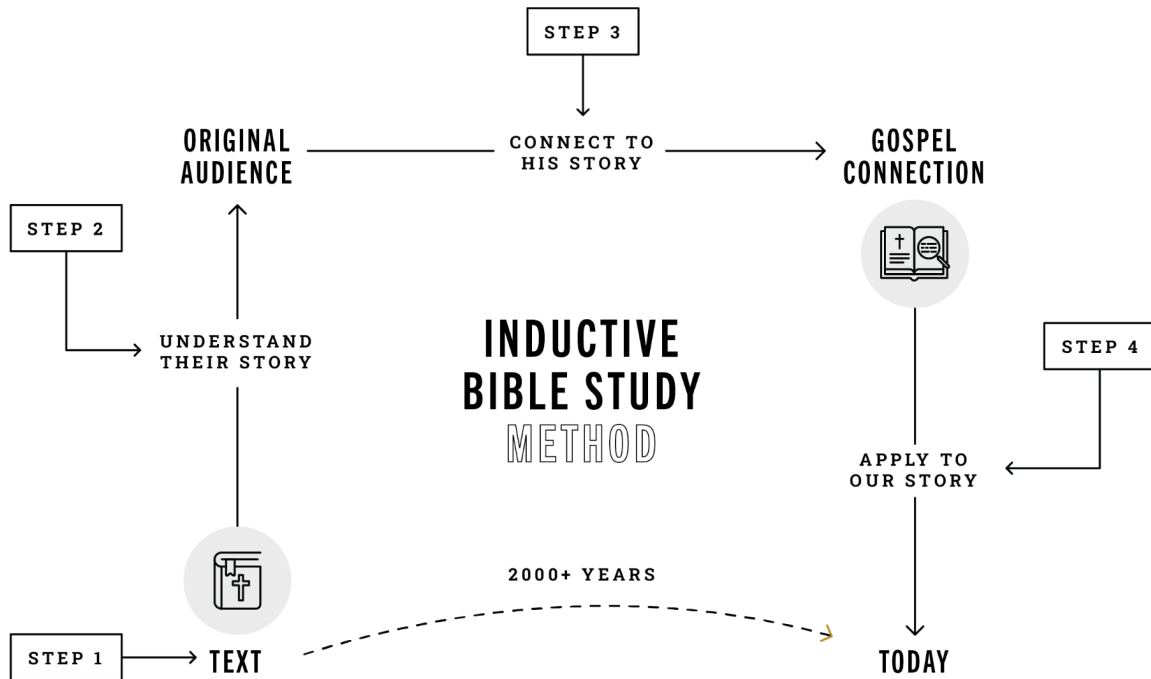
SUPPLICATION

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

JOSHUA

Lesson 19 | The End of an Era

Joshua 24:1-33



- ☐ **Step 1:** Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
- ☐ **Step 2:** Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT* you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT* you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- ☐ **Step 4:** Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson *SO THAT* the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

Joshua 24:1-33 (ESV)

LESSON NINETEEN

24 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel.

And they presented themselves before God.

² And Joshua said to all the people,

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel,

‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

⁵ And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out.

⁶ “Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.

⁷ And when they cried to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time.

⁸ Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan.

They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you.

⁹ Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel.

And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, ¹⁰ but I would not listen to Balaam.

Indeed, he blessed you.

So I delivered you out of his hand.

¹¹ And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

And I gave them into your hand.

¹² And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow.

¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them.

You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.’

¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness.

Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.

But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered,

“Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.

¹⁸ And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people,

“You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God.

He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”

²¹ And the people said to Joshua,

“No, but we will serve the Lord.”

²² Then Joshua said to the people,

“You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.”

And they said,

“We are witnesses.”

²³ He said,

“Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

²⁴ And the people said to Joshua,

“The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”

²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem.

²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.

²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people,

“Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us.

Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.”

²⁸ So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

²⁹ After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old.

³⁰ And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

³¹ Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money.

It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

³³ And Eleazar the son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of Phinehas his son, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.

Lesson 19 | The End of an Era

Joshua 24:1-33

Look at the Text: Understand their Story

We now arrive at the end of the book. Following the events of the exodus, the decades in the wilderness, and the years involved in moving into the land, Joshua now gathers the people for one final address before he dies. What will the people hear in these final moments at both the end of an era, and the start of a new chapter in their history?

1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 24:1-33 several times. Mark characters, setting, and key words/phrases - **especially words that are repeated in this section!**
2. The content of 24:2-27 follows the pattern of an ancient practice called the *Suzerain-Vassal Treaty*. Two parties were involved in this agreement which established the expectations of the relationship: a superior/ruler (Suzerain), and a lesser subject (vassal). Six components were typically involved in the treaty and can be identified in this chapter (see the chart below).

Treaty Component	Verses
Preamble	24:2a
Prologue	24:2b-13
Stipulations	24:14-24
Written Record	24:26
Witnesses	24:22, 26-27
Blessings + curses	Throughout. See especially 24:20

3. **WHAT** is the setting of the speech? (24:1-2)
 - a. **WHO** is gathered?
 - b. **WHERE** are they gathered?
 - c. **WHO** is speaking to them? (And **WHOSE** message is being spoken?)
4. The “prologue” of the speech describes Israel’s history and God’s great works for them. **WHO** are the characters described in the speech?
 - a. Abraham (24:2-4)
 - i. **WHERE** was he from? And **WHO** did his family “serve”?

ii. **WHAT** did God do with/for him?

b. Moses and Aaron (24:5-8)

i. **WHAT** did the people see God do to the Egyptians?

ii. **WHAT** did the people see God do when they were in the land of the Amorites?

c. **Balak and Balaam** (24:9-10)

i. **WHAT** did Balak do to Israel? **WHAT** did Balaam try to do?

ii. **WHAT** did God do in response?

d. Foreign nations and leaders (24:11-13)

i. **WHAT** did God do to them?

ii. **WHAT** are the Israelites experiencing as a result?

5. **HOW** would you describe the message of 24:2-13 in one sentence?

i. *If someone were going to write out the history of your relationship with God/how God has worked in your life, what events would be included?*

6. In light of this prologue, Joshua now gives the people instructions and stipulations for a covenant with God in 24:14-28.

a. **WHAT** are the people commanded to do in 24:14? What does that look like practically for them?

b. **WHAT** is the choice they must make? And what choice has Joshua made?

i. *Joshua's decision in 24:15b is one that many Christian parents have taken up for their own families. What was your experience in the home you grew up in?*

c. **HOW** do the people repeatedly (v. 18, 21, 24) respond to Joshua's challenge?

i. **WHAT** motivates their response?

ii. **WHAT** does Joshua believe about their response?

1. **WHAT** does he believe about what the people will do?

2. **WHAT** does he believe God will do? **WHY**?

d. **WHAT** is the purpose of the stone Joshua sets up?

7. **HOW** does the author close this book? **WHOSE** deaths and burials does he describe?

a. **WHAT** is the state of Israel in the era of Joshua according to these verses?

i. *This is a fitting end to the book of Joshua. Think back through all you have studied. Joshua's legacy is significant. What things do you think makes for a good legacy today?*

Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

1. **“Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord...”**. God’s people always live in proximity to the religions and worldviews of other people groups. These can be a negative influence on the worship of the LORD. Like the decision Joshua puts before the people, all people must decide who they will serve.
 - a. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - Like Joshua, Moses had previously renewed the covenant between God and Israel and provided final words of challenge before his death.
 - i. What is similar between this passage and Joshua 24?
 - ii. What is different about this challenge compared to Joshua 24? (Are there any different words used in reference to God or the choice the people are to make?)
 - b. Psalm 86:8-13
 - i. What is the difference between God and “the gods” according to this passage?
 - ii. What does the psalmist pray for in light of this?
 1. *There are things that compete for our worship today. What competes with God for your heart? Pause and pray this prayer right now as a way to help you follow through on your choice to serve the LORD.*
 - c. John 6:66-69
 - i. What is Jesus concerned about in regards to His disciples?
 - ii. What does Peter recognize about the *words* of Jesus?
 - iii. What does Peter recognize about the *identity* of Jesus?

1. *Can you think of someone who has been drawn away from serving God? Is there something about God's words or identity you think they are missing?*

2. **"...You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods..."**

(24:19-20a). Joshua believes the people have a serious problem. God won't overlook apostasy or let it slide if they abandon Him for other gods. What does the whole gospel story tell us about people's ability to serve God and turn away from sin?

a. Exodus 34:6-7

i. What do we learn about God's character when it comes to transgression?

ii. What do we learn about God's character when it comes to dealing with the "guilty"?

b. Jeremiah 31:31-34

i. Why does God promise to make a new covenant?

ii. Why will this new covenant be better than the old one?

c. Hebrews 9:11-15

i. How is the identity and activity of Jesus described in this text?

ii. What does this text say we are able to do today because of Jesus?

1. *Joshua renewed the old covenant at Shechem, but he already knew there were going to be limitations and shortcomings if the people trusted themselves to stay faithful. How do these gospel connections give you hope today?*

3. **“As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph” (24:32).** Without the backstory in mind (from hundreds of years earlier!) we might easily miss the significance of this detail that the author includes. Check out these references to learn why it’s here!
- a. Genesis 50:22-26 (Remember Joseph and his brothers are the forefathers of the nation of Israel.)
 - i. Where was Joseph at the end of his life?
 - ii. What does Joseph request?
 - iii. What does Joseph believe God will do?
 - b. Exodus 13:19-22
 - i. What happens with Joseph’s bones? What is God’s role at this point in the story?
 - c. *Hundreds of years later, Joseph’s belief about God turns out to be true! God is faithful! Is there something God has promised for the future that feels too far away to appreciate right now? How could this story encourage you?*

As we close the study in the book of Joshua, take some time to think back and reflect...

- 1. What did you learn about God and His role in the book of Joshua:
 - a. God’s Promises:
 - b. God’s Commands:
 - c. God’s Power and Presence:
 - d. God’s Grace:
- 2. What has God done in your life as a result of this study?

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PRAYER REQUEST LOG

WEEK ONE

Name

Prayer Request(s)

[illegible]

Name

Prayer Request(s)

[illegible]

Name

Prayer Request(s)

[illegible]

Name

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