

This Journal Belongs to:

---

First Baptist Church Leeds, AL  
7481 Parkway Dr. 35094  
205.699.6141

# **COURAGEOUS**

## **WALKING BY FAITH IN A DANGEROUS WORLD**

If we consider all the things we could be afraid of, we can quickly see why don't be afraid, in one form or another, is one of the most repeated commands in Scripture. Put positively, God calls us to "be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:9).

But how can we become courageous?

In this 7-part series, pastor Steven Weems will follow the life of Joshua as an example of how even amidst hardship, challenges, sorrows, and tough decisions, the Lord counsels us to be strong and courageous.

If you miss any sermons in this series, you can find them archived on our church website at [www.fbcleeds.org](http://www.fbcleeds.org).

**Oct. 06, 2024 - Call to Take the Land**

**Oct. 13, 2024 - Spying on the Land**

**Oct. 20, 2024 - Crossing the Jordan**

**Oct. 27, 2024 - A Memorial to God's Faithfulness**

**Nov. 03, 2024 - Dedication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation**

**Nov. 10, 2024 - Fall of Jericho**

**Nov. 17, 2024 - Defeat and Victory at Ai**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>October 06.....</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>October 13.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>October 20.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>October 27.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>November 03.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>November 10.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>November 17.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Index of Sunday Morning Bible Studies.....</b>	<b>96</b>



Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the

**Lord**

**Your**

**God**

will be

**WITH YOU**  
wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**



# **JOSHUA CHAPTER 1**

## **Bible Studies in Book of Joshua: Spiritual courage in walking in your inheritance** by F Gordon

### **Background**

Before looking at the book of Joshua, let's back up and remember the story of the Bible so far. God chose Abraham to bring his blessing to the nations. Abraham's family grew and became the people of Israel, and after some time, they were enslaved in Egypt. Through Moses, God rescued the Israelites and brought them out of Egypt to Mount Sinai where he made a covenant with them. Then, God brought the people through the wilderness despite the hardships and rebellions along the way. Finally, as Israel camped outside the promised land, Moses called upon them to obey God's commands, so that they could show the other nations the true character of God. The book of Joshua picks up shortly after Moses dies as Israel prepares to enter the land.

### **Introduction**

The background from scripture for of the book of Joshua follows the journey of the nation of Israel having traveled from Egypt through toward Canaan and now Moses has died. Let's carry on this theme as we now enter into the Promised Land. So our studies during this sermon series will be from the book of Joshua.

### **Why couldn't Moses take them in?**

Joshua 1:1-2 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: (2) Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites.

So the first thing you are confronted with is the statement

that 'Moses my servant is dead'. It is as if God is telling Joshua here that there is a big change happening at this point. If you remember, Moses, who typified the law, could only take the nation of Israel so far. Being a type of the law, Moses could only take them up to the river Jordan on the borders of Canaan. Now as a type, Canaan is not heaven; it is all of the spiritual blessings that God had given to a redeemed people. It is a land that He had prepared for them. It is what Ephesians talks about in that we have been blessed in the heavenly places, we have been blessed in a risen Christ with all spiritual blessings and we are to go forward and obtain all of the blessings that God has given to us in the risen Christ. Israel needed a new leader to be able to actually take them in. In the same way, we have a new leader. The law can only take us so far. It can show you what sin is and convict you of sin, but it cannot take you into the blessings that God has for you. You need a new leader - the Lord Jesus Christ. The name Joshua means 'Jehovah saves', which is another title for Jesus, Savior. It is only the risen Lord Jesus Christ that can actually forgive us of our sins and also lead us into all that God has for us. So a new leader is needed. This statement 'Moses my servant is dead' is as if God is saying 'the old ways have passed away and so I am calling you to lead this people into the nation in a new way.'

### **What do we know about Joshua?**

So what do we know about Joshua? Up to this point in Scripture, we really only know a lot about Moses. In the scriptures you get a picture of Moses' life from the cradle to the grave. However, it is very different with this other saint Joshua. Apparently, at this point, he is about 60 years old when he has to take over the leadership of Israel. We know that they spent 40 years going round and around the wilderness. So looks as if he was 20 years in Egypt under slavery. The bible doesn't give us any insights into Joshua's life during those 20 years. There is only one mention and that is

that he was the first born son of Nun. So he was the eldest son and as the eldest son when the nation had to come out of Egypt what did they have to do for the firstborn? They had to cover the doorpost of their house with blood so that the angel of death would pass over, and their firstborn would be safe; a picture that the blood of Christ must be applied over our hearts for us to be secure in Him. So Joshua would have had this done by his father on his behalf and without reading too much into it, if that was you it would actually have a big bearing on your life having been saved by the blood that was over the doorpost. There is really nothing else given in that first 20 years concerning Joshua. He is an obscurity. The Holy Spirit doesn't reveal anything, but it doesn't mean that he wasn't being prepared during that time.

The first mention of Joshua is when he is leading the nation of Israel in battle against the Amalekites. The law of first mention in Scripture is always important. When a person, a king or a principle is first mentioned you always get an insight into some part of their character. So, if you remember, Moses was on the top of the hill with his hands raised and Joshua is down on the battle ground with the sword in his hand, fighting the Amalekites. This is the first mention of Amalek and in the Bible they are a picture of the flesh nature. Amalek was the grandson of Esau and the same sin principle that was in Esau was in the Amalekites. They have no time for God and no time for His purposes. They continually attack the stragglers at the rear; the weak and vulnerable; which is exactly what our flesh nature is like. It doesn't have any time for God. It will hinder you and continue to hinder you. So the first mention of this leader who we are now going to follow is that he is a man of war, and that there is a spiritual battle going on in that war and Joshua is right at the front of it.

The next mention is where he was actually Moses' assistant



during the 40 years in the wilderness. Do you remember when Moses went up the Mount to receive the tablets? It says in Exodus 24 that both Joshua and Moses went up Mount Sinai but Joshua could only go partway. Only Moses was called to enter the cloud and go to the top into God's presence. Aaron was back down with the nation, Moses was up in the presence of God, and Joshua was sort of stuck in between and had had to wait there until Moses came down - a period of 40 days and he didn't know how long Moses was going to be. So that is the other little insight that you get into this man, that he is a faithful man; faithful to Moses as his assistant, and also in serving God. I'm sure you remember the story of the 12 spies and how that Joshua was one of those chosen to go and spy out the land. Only Caleb and Joshua had enough faith to say 'yes, God has given us this land'. However, because of the unbelief of the other ten spies, Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and Joshua had to wait with the nation of Israel. So again you have a picture of the faithfulness of this man in that he waited with the nation. What they went through he had to go through until they eventually all died off. So you get this picture that he was a man of war, a man of faith, but also a man that God had in the wilderness for a long period of time before he stepped forward to be a leader. God's preparation is actually like that. Moses was 40 years learning the wisdom of all the Egyptians, and 40 years in the backside of the desert learning that he was an absolute nothing before God appeared to him one day in a bush. God said 'I have a plan for you.' Joshua is the same. We should never, ever, be in a hurry because we don't know what God is doing with us. A lot of times we feel as if we are in the wilderness. We are in no man's land. God is doing nothing with us and this is dry and it's dreary and I am surrounded by unbelief but God has His plans. When He wants to make an oak tree He takes 100 years. When He wants to make a squash He takes 6 months. Joshua gives us this picture of 40 years

preparation. Even the Lord Jesus Christ spent 30 years in obscurity. He didn't do anything for 30 years except relate to His Father. And yet when He came to John the Baptist in the waters of the Jordan God said 'this is My Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.' What had He done for 30 years? He pleased God. So we should never be in a hurry, for God takes His time and He knows what He is doing. Now Joshua's time has come. 'Moses My servant is dead now therefore arise.' So there is no rush with God because He knows exactly what He is doing. Joshua had been playing second fiddle so far and he was probably quite comfortable about not being in control, but now it is his time and God is going to use him.

### **Ephesians - The 'Joshua' equivalent of the New Testament**

Joshua 1:3-4 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. (4) Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west.

Ephesians says that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. But you actually have to step forward into all that God has given you. It says 'that every place that the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you' So you have got to move forward with God into these things. I read this week that this whole area of the land is something like 300,000 square miles. That is how big an area the Lord had actually given to the nation of Israel. They went in and conquered a certain amount of that land. Do you know how much they did conquer out of all that God had given them? 30,000 square miles, so it was one tenth. One tenth! They were given 300,000 square miles and they actually only subdued and obtained one tenth of all that God had given to them. When I read that, I thought, that is probably very true, because Ephesians tells us that we are accepted in the

beloved, we are seated in the heavenlies with Christ, and we have been given all spiritual blessings in Him. We have our feet down here on the ground, but our position is something completely different. But how much of that do we actually obtain as a reality? Not a tenth! God is always urging us, just as He did with Joshua, saying 'every place that the sole of your foot stands on, that is what I have given to you.' You are to walk forward.

### **The constant need for courage**

Joshua 1:5-9 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. (6) Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. (7) Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. (8) Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (9) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Now I just want to have a look at verses 5-9 because what sort of leader is God choosing? What is the consistent theme here that God keeps telling Joshua? 'Be strong and courageous.' God tells him this three times. Why do you think God spoke the same words to Joshua three times? I believe that Joshua in his natural self, even though he was a man of war, was still fearful; he was afraid. He has responsibilities now. Sometimes it is quite nice being second fiddle, not being the guy that all the responsibility falls on. I believe that Joshua was actually like this. He was fine when Moses was there, but now Moses is dead. Fear is ingrained in us;

it really is, right from the fall. The first effect with Adam was that he ran. He ran from God because he was afraid of Him. When you look at the type of leader that God is choosing here I am encouraged that He hasn't chosen a super duper human being, because none of us actually are like that. We are all fearful, we are afraid of things, all different things. Some of us are afraid of responsibility, some are afraid of sickness. Others are afraid of death or fearful of financial situations. Some people are afraid of being alone, whereas some are afraid of worst case scenarios or difficult situations. There are lots and lots of things that can frighten us because fear is ingrained in us. In some respects it is not always a negative thing because fear can heighten the senses. You can get a rush of adrenalin that is needed because of fear.

Have you ever laid in your bed and been woken at night because you heard a noise? Well the other night I was awoken and I knew someone was in the house. I had heard a noise and so instantly my ears were tuned. My eyes could not adjust at all, but then I knew that there was someone in the room. I laid there and thought - I have two options now, it's either a robber or it's a kid. My adrenalin started pumping - boom, boom, boom. Which one is it? I was listening really intently and I couldn't see anything so thought what do I do? So I made a guess and called my young daughter's name, - Ella - and her head popped up from the end of the bed like a mere cat. She said 'I can't sleep Dad' and so she was lying down on the floor at the end of the bed. Fear is not always a negative thing but controlling fear, that is another thing altogether and God is calling to Joshua 'be strong and of good courage.'

Oswald Sanders said this thing about courage: 'Courage of the highest order is demanded of Christians; always moral courage and sometimes physical courage as well.' Moral

strength and courage come from faith in the sovereignty of God and the provision of God. Courage is a quality of mind that enables men to encounter danger and difficulty with resolve, in spite of inner fears. Courage is not the absence of fear but fear is no longer allowed to dominate. I thought that is so true, no matter what God is calling you and I to today, fear will be there, courage is not the absence of it but a state of mind where you actually do not let fear dominate. It is a trust in God, and in the sovereignty of God, that He is actually with you---like He said to Joshua 'I will never leave you or forsake you, be strong and courageous'.

Do we need courage to be a Christian? We need moral courage and as Oswald Sanders said sometimes physical courage. For us in the West it is very much moral courage. The persecuted church needs both. In one sense we are incredibly blessed that our lives and our family's lives are not on the line for standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ. But for huge amounts of Christians in this world that is their calling; they need both moral and physical courage as everything is on the line. For us here, we are going against the tide, and there is no doubt that we need courage to be effective as Christians.

**OCTOBER 27**  
**10:45 A.M.**

*Family*  
**SUNDAY**

- COMBINED WORSHIP AT  
10:45 A.M
- TRUNK 'R TREAT FROM 3-5  
P.M. (cars parked by 2 P.M.)



# Cookie

## DECORATING CLASS

WITH SUGAR MAMA'S LENA GAUNTT



**OCTOBER**

**SUNDAY**

**6**

**5 P.M.**

**2024**

**\$30 PER PERSON**  
**GIRLS & LADIES OF ALL AGES INVITED**

**REGISTER AT:**  
**[WWW.FBCLEEDS.ORG/COOKIES](http://WWW.FBCLEEDS.ORG/COOKIES)**





**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20  
4 P.M.**

**MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS**





## FAMILIES MATTER AT FBCL

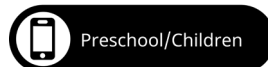
On Sundays and Wednesday nights, we carefully plan unique experiences for children and students like Sunday morning Bible classes, children's church (at 10:45AM), nursery and preschool activities, children's choir, mission activities, and youth group.



Yearly we host a week-long VBS, have summer camps for students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> and many other fun events. These activities are purposeful and are designed to help your young person know God and commit themselves to His service which will inevitably bear fruit.

Scan the QR codes below or visit our website for details about the Preschool, Children's, and Youth ministries here at First Baptist Leeds.

It is our prayer to walk beside you as you seek to impact your own family with the Gospel of Christ. Being a "fisher" of your own children and spouse is your first priority. Please let us know how we can help!





Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the **Lord**

**Your God**

will be

**WITH YOU**  
wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**

**Today's Date:**

**Sunday,  
October 13**

**Sermon Title:**

**SPYING OF THE LAND**

**Scripture: Joshua Chapter 2**

## **Sermon Notes**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# **Joshua Chapter 2: Rahab - From Harlot to Hero!**

by F Gordon

## **Introduction**

Let's continue with our studies in the book of Joshua, following Israel's journey from Egypt through to Canaan. This study will look at chapter 2 about Rahab and it is a wonderful picture of God's grace shown to a Gentile woman who had watched all that had happened to Israel and whose heart was prepared to accept Him. Ephesians tells us that when we were born again we were blessed in Christ Jesus with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places. It is something that has already happened. In like manner, Canaan, for us, is not heaven one day - it is about all the riches and inheritance that God has given to us in the person of Christ Jesus; It is past tense....So it is a matter of us, by faith, entering in to what God has given us.

But the book of Joshua is also a book of battles. It is about Israel moving forward and taking the land of Canaan. There are going to be lots of battles in our Christian lives and lots of opposition too, and in this chapter we see the beginning of this.

## **Send in the spies...**

Joshua 2:1-3 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. (2) The king of Jericho was told, "Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." (3) So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

The first thing that Joshua does is to send in spies; similar to what Moses did, but on a completely different level. When Moses sent in spies, they went in and had a look at the land and came back in unbelief. From Joshua's perspective it was different. 'I want you to go in under the battle mind-set and view this place, especially Jericho,' he told them. Jericho was situated about five miles inland from the Jordan, and seems to have been the centre of the Canaanite villages in that area. So in a sense Jericho was a real stumbling block to Israel's progress in going forward. It was a massive stronghold standing in opposition to them, so they now faced their first battle.

Jericho had a king over it, and Satan also has his dominion and he has his realm. In the same way that this king stood against Israel, there are lots of principalities and powers that oppose us on our walk. Jericho is the first stumbling block to the nation inheriting the Promised Land, just as Amalek was the first stumbling block to the nation coming out of Egypt. So we see that 'It was told the king of Jericho saying behold men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.' The king has obviously got a pretty good intelligence network. He knows straight away that people have entered into his country, and they were in Rahab's house. When I was thinking about that, I thought that is so true because whenever you want to go forward in your Christian life there is always opposition. Remember that this book is about taking the things that have been given to you, things that you were once afraid of and fearful of; it is about applying God's principles and receiving all that God has for you in a risen Christ.

I remember taking a mission trip into Thailand. We normally took in medical teams, attending to sick people during the day, and evangelism and outreaches at night. One of the Thai leaders said 'I think we will go to this other village as

we have never been there before.’ We went, not expecting any opposition, but from the moment of our arrival in the village there was trouble from the word ‘go’. We actually had a split in the team where half of the team refused to go into this village because they believed it wasn’t God’s will that we should be there. They got in their vehicle and went back to the city. I was one of those who went on into the village. As soon as we arrived we were received by the people, but there was just something about this village that didn’t want us there. All our outreaches were an absolute mess. We would put on little musical items but everything went wrong. Not one of us got a wink of sleep. I mean none of us. We were bombarded all night with troubling thoughts etc. So there is always opposition. We stayed in this village a couple of days and who knows whether we got anywhere but I know that we were just beaten around and buffeted and we felt as though everything we were doing was being opposed.

### **But when God is leading...**

Joshua 2:4-7 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. (5) At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” (6) (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) (7) So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

I love the providence of God. Here you have two men that are sent in to view this city. They didn’t know where they were going to go or where they were going to stay, yet God, in His providence, had gone before them and they met up with a woman named Rahab. She is a harlot, a prostitute,

but in this woman the light of heaven has been shining. And so they are led to a soul that God has been touching at this time. We should always be looking for the things that God has for us and we should be asking 'God, you know what is going on in this circumstance; you know the hearts that you are reaching and touching. Who is it that you are actually going to bring me into contact with today.' God led them to Rahab and she received them.

Now what is her reaction? What does she do when the king's men come? She hides them. And what else does she do? She lies to the king's men and uses deception. There is no doubt that she lied and used deception. We will look at what the New Testament says about Rahab. It doesn't condemn her for lying, it actually commends her faith.

**Hebrews 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.**

So here it is saying that by faith she received these two spies. There was a working out of faith in how she received them and the book of James says 'You see then that a man is justified by works and not by faith only. Likewise was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way.' So in other words what James is saying is that the outworking of her faith was to receive these two spies and actually conceal them and send them out another way so that they could not be caught. So the New Testament commends the way that she acted. So did she lie?

Is it ever ok to lie?

Some people would say 'she lied, and you cannot lie'. There are some Christians who feel like that. I don't know whether

things are so black and white. If I transported you all back into World War 2 in Nazi Germany, would you conceal some Jewish people and lie against the authorities? It is exactly the same thing. I think war is very different. In war time espionage is vital. Look how many nations think that their enemy is going to attack on such and such a beach where in fact it is somewhere else ... this is actually deception by the invading enemy troops. The nation of Israel is coming in, and it is coming in to destroy. In actual fact what Rahab is doing is committing treason against her own people. She is siding with the people of Israel, as we will see when we read on further. Is there a higher moral law that we are obedient to? Is there a higher moral law than the ones of the state? At times, all Christians are asked to answer that. Consider bible smuggling - Can you take bibles into closed countries when you have got to fill out the form and sign it saying that you have no illegal material? Some Christians can't do that because they see it as lying, when they know that their bags are jammed full of New Testaments. However, some have no problem with this.

Virtually every commentary I read on this passage condemned Rahab for lying. How many of you guys leave the light on when you go out at night for dinner? Why do you do it? It is a deception. You are trying to deceive the intruder by letting them think you are home! God has been at work in her heart!

Joshua 2:8-11 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof (9) and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. (10) We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. (11) When we heard of it, our hearts



melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

The first thing Rahab said was 'I know that the Lord has given you the land and terror has fallen upon us.' We don't know the history of her statement but the light of God has been shining upon this woman. She has come to realize things about the nation of Israel and their God. Verse 10 tells us what it was that had spoken to her. It was the miraculous things that the God of Israel had done! - How He dried up the Red Sea for Israel to cross over on dry ground, and how they had destroyed the two kings of the Amorites on the other side of Jordan. And in verse 11 Rahab expresses the outcome of this knowledge. Rahab says 'we have really been afraid since we heard about all of these things'. And this is the crazy thing... For 40 years the nation of Israel wandered round and round the desert because of unbelief. They were afraid of the inhabitants of this land. But when you get into Canaan, you see that the inhabitants have been afraid of Israel for the same amount of time. They have both been afraid for 40 years!

It is like that for us, the enemies of our lives, the principalities that oppose us have already been defeated by a risen Christ. They have already been defeated, but it is a matter of us pressing on into the things that God has for us and taking those places by faith. We read that now there is no more courage in anyone. Then Rahab makes this wonderful statement 'For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath!' So you can see that she has come into the realization of who the true God is through His miracles and through His leading of Israel.

**Joshua 2:12** Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign.



The Southern Plainsmen Quartet  
IN CONCERT AT FIRST BAPTIST LEEDS

**SUNDAY EVENING  
NOVEMBER 3, 2024  
5:00 P.M.**

**NO TICKET NEEDED!**  
FREEWILL-LOVE-OFFERING BASIS

### **Marcelle Slaughter**

Marcelle is the only remaining founding member currently with the group. A lifelong resident of Hornbeck, LA, he has been with the SPQ since day one. He serves as MC of the group as well as singing tenor. He is also a registered nurse and has worked in the healthcare field for over 40 years.



### **Robert Jackson**

Robert is one of our two lead singers. He first filled-in with us in January, 2020, then began to fill the role fulltime in January, 2022. He has been a high school math teacher and coach for 32 years. He is originally from Tioga, La, but he and his wife, Tish, now reside in Dry Creek, LA. They have four sons and three



### **Tim Thomas**

Born and raised in Quitman, LA, Tim has been with SPQ for over 7 years. He has been in public ministry for almost 35 years. A licensed and ordained Southern Baptist minister, he pastored churches in Louisiana and Texas as well as sang with his family group, The Thomas Family, before joining SPQ.



### **Jeff Bordelon**

Jeff has been with SPQ since June 2021. He was born in West Monroe, LA but Jeff and his wife Linda now reside in Pascagoula, MS. Before joining the group, he served in the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Before moving to Mississippi, Jeff served our Country in the US Navy.married to his wife, Leslie, for 24 years and has



### **Jeremy Glass**

Jeremy is our 2nd lead singer, and began traveling with us in August 2022. He was raised in rural east Texas and developed a love of gospel music as a young boy. Groups such as the Cathedrals and the Statler Brothers inspired him, and he was mesmerized by the music and message of Christian music. For almost 30 years he has been involved in music ministry in local churches by singing and leading worship or as church pianist. His piano hymn arrangements have been a blessing to many. Jeremy graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry (music business studies) and minors in public relations and Spanish. He currently resides in Houston, Texas.



## **The sign of the scarlet cord**

Joshua 2:15-20 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. (16) Now she had said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way." (17) The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us (18) unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. (19) If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible. As for anyone who is in the house with you, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. (20) But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear."

So safety and security for this woman was that she and her family must stay inside her house. Next she was to bind a scarlet cord, or rope outside the window. What does a scarlet cord or rope signify? There is a scarlet line that runs through the Bible, that of sacrifice by blood and the covering that occurs. If she stayed in her home, Rahab and her family were safe under the protection of the scarlet cord. This is the same thing that happened in Egypt when the children of Israel had to kill the Passover lamb. If they were behind the doors of the house and the blood was over the doors they were safe. Jesus said 'I am the door, if any man comes to Me, he shall be saved.' So the scarlet cord speaks of Christ and His death and resurrection and the blood that He shed for all those who believe. There is no need to be afraid of the future; there is safety and security for those who are washed by His blood.

## **The faith that works...**

## **The faith that works...**

Joshua 2:21 Agreed, she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

All Rahab had to do was put this scarlet cord outside of the window, so straight away she did this. There is no delay, she took on board what had been told her and applied it to her situation straight away. She didn't think 'well there might be judgment in the future but I might have a few days before that happens.' Many people think like that, they think later in life they will give it their consideration. However, you do not know when the judgment will come. If you knew that your city was to be attacked, and that there was a way of escape, I'm sure that you would take it. There was no hesitation with Rahab. You can see all through this passage that she has faith in God, and is acting on it continually. She wants herself and her family to be safe and secure.

## **Salvation by faith**

Joshua 2:22-24 When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. (23) Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. (24) They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

So while the nation is preparing three day's provisions this wonderful chapter of God's grace is taking place. The other thing I really like is that it mentions Rahab about eight times in scripture, six of which call her a harlot. I like the fact that God is no respecter of persons. He takes you for

what you are. Many people believe that you have to get all cleaned up and get things right before you can come and approach God but it is actually not like that. You come just as you are, just as Rahab did; she is a harlot but she is also someone whom God is working with and He took her as she was. It doesn't mean that she remains that way. But you come to God with all of your baggage, and He takes care of that. What I love about Rahab is that though she is a harlot, a sinner, she marries into the line of Christ the Messiah. She is actually mentioned in Matthew 1:5-6. We read that Salmon; a man in Israel of the tribe of Judah in the lineage of Christ, married her. She became the great, great grandmother of David the King of Israel. What marvelous grace God showed her! Rahab has gone from harlot to hero and even more importantly has found salvation through faith in the God of Israel!



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27  
3-5 P.M.**

- **ALL CARS MUST BE PARKED BY 2. P.M.**
- **BRING STARTER CANDY**

**SIGN UP NOW  
IN THE OFFICE  
HALLWAY**



Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the **Lord**

**Your God**

will be

**WITH YOU**  
wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**



**Today's Date:**

**Sunday,  
October 20**

**Sermon Title:**

**CROSSING THE JORDAN**

**Scripture: Joshua Chapter 3**

## **Sermon Notes**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Joshua Chapter 3: The Ark the Jordan

by F Gordon

## Introduction

Now we are going to look at Joshua chapters 3 and 4 and some of the highlights we find about Israel actually entering into the land. We will look at the Jordan which they had to cross, which was the second body of water that stood in their way. There was a crossing that hindered them when they came up out of Egypt, and were chased by Pharaoh and all of his men. The bible calls this the Red Sea crossing. God had to open up the Red Sea so that they could walk through on dry ground. Paul tells us in Corinthians that this is a picture of salvation for us too as we enter into deliverance from the world and commence our walk with God. It should really have been only a short walk from there to the Promised Land, but because of unbelief, they spent 40 long arduous years in the wilderness! Though they tried to keep God's commandments they did not at this point, know their own hearts. They said to God at Mount Sinai 'All that You have said to us we will do.' God was trying to show them that they actually couldn't do what He had commanded, but they didn't know the extent of their own wickedness; that they couldn't live up to what God had shown them they were to do.

Now they have another hindrance in front of them. Had they acted in faith from the beginning they wouldn't have had to cross the Jordan to get into the Promised Land at all, but because of 40 years of unbelief and wandering, they find themselves in the back side of the desert again, and Jordan stands between them and Canaan. As there was a hindrance in coming out of Egypt (The Red Sea) there is a hindrance in coming into the promises of God. When I look at Israel's experiences I see that what happened to Israel is a picture of what most Christians go

through in their walk with God; we are not established in God's truth, and very often not walking by faith. We always need to rediscover the established truths that God has shown us as often in doing this we are able to understand and apply them to our lives in a deeper way. So with that in mind let us have a look at chapter 3.

## **The crossing starts with following the Ark of the Covenant**

Joshua 3:1-5 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. (2) After three days the officers went throughout the camp, (3) giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. (4) Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." (5) Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

The first thing we are confronted with in this chapter is the Ark of the Covenant which stands for the presence of God. The children of Israel were now being instructed to keep their eyes upon it at all times and to follow where it led them. No longer are they being led by the pillar of cloud and fire, but they are to follow the Ark...the presence of God. We see from this that humanly speaking, they did not know where they were going. Then we read that they were not to come near the Ark - 'that there should be a space between you and it, about 2,000 cubits. Do not come near it that you may know the way by which you should go'. Their eyes were to be upon the presence of God. There were a couple of million people there and

if the Israelites had crowded in around the Ark the result would have been chaos. There would have been about ten committees, all deliberating which was the way to go! But God said 'I want you to keep well back and keep your eyes upon My presence and follow Me.' So here is something in the Scriptures about not crowding in too close to the way that God is leading. As Christians we shouldn't be anxious because He knows the way He is taking us. We can sometimes find this to be quite a scary process, but we need to give Him room and time and space to lead us to where He wants us to be. Psalm 37:5 tells us 'Commit your way unto the Lord. Trust in Him also and He will bring it to pass.'

### **God's right in being the leader!**

Verse 5 of Joshua chapter 3 tells the people to 'sanctify themselves'. This means to set yourself apart that the Lord may have His way in you, and that He may have the right to lead you wherever He so chooses. It is His business. In other words you have to make a conscious decision that God has the right to choose the path you are to follow. It is His right. It may be regarding your job, your partner, your wealth, or whatever direction that your life takes... God has got the right to lead you. So they were to be set apart and follow. There are no bridges over the Jordan... I wish there were. It would be the easy way. But there isn't a bridge over the Jordan and Israel had to rediscover what it meant to go into the place of death and come out the other side again. They had to follow the presence of God there and rediscover something in the Jordan that they had forgotten about at the Red Sea. There are two crossings both concerning the same truth; but one deeper than the other. It is actually a hard thing to commit yourself wholeheartedly to God in this way, but unless there is a wholehearted decision you cannot, as the Bible says, be His disciple. This is especially needed for victory regarding things that are holding us back.

Joshua 3:6-11 Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. (7) And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. (8) Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.' " (9) Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. (10) This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. (11) See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you.

So here you have this picture of the presence of God going to go into the place of death for Israel which pictures Christ going into the presence of death for us also. Joshua, who is a type of Christ, is going to be magnified before their eyes even as God has magnified Jesus in his death on the cross in the believer's eyes. We praise Him that we are delivered from sin and death and united in Him in resurrection. Next we come to the promise of God that He Himself will be their deliverer from the enemies that oppose them. Like Israel, we can rely on Him to do the work for us. The enemies which we cannot deal with ourselves, He will destroy on our behalf.

Joshua 3:12-13 Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. (13) And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD--the Lord of all the earth--set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."

All the priests had to do was carry the presence of God

into the midst of death and the waters would be cut off. A friend and I were talking this morning about river crossing and how scary they can be. Sometimes one strong person is chosen to go across the river with a rope and find a tree to tie it on so that everybody else could get across safely. Another way was for everyone to link arms to cross over in a chain, making them much stronger against the current. Remember that this Jordan River, as you will see in chapter 4, is actually in flood. It is the season where it is completely in flood and far too dangerous for any human types of crossing as I have just mentioned. But the priests go in. You will never see a crossing like this where someone actually goes into the water and the water starts to disappear backwards!

### **The waters receded all the way back to Adam!**

Joshua 3:14-16 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. (15) Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, (16) the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea ) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Here we are told that 'the waters were pushed back in a heap back from the point where they were crossing; a very long way back for the waters to recede. They went all the way back to the city of Adam! We don't know anything about this city. They haven't found any archaeology concerning it but they believe it to be about 16 miles back. Now of all the cities that are named in the Bible, this one happens to be called Adam. This shows that Christ died

to make a complete sacrifice for sin all the way back to Adam. Our Saviour was judged for all the sins of the fallen human race on the cross...past present and future. And not only our sins, but the sin principle in all of us. That Adamic, self-centred nature, which has no time for God, will never improve; will not get any better. The only thing that it is good for is crucifixion and burial. When I looked at that I thought it was such a good picture because the very thing that tripped up the nation of Israel is the thing that trips us up - the Adamic nature! That self-centred nature that loves to do its own thing. It doesn't have any time for God. An example often given is that of a pig. You could take a pig into your home and dress him up so that he was nice and clean and you could keep him in your house - for pigs are really intelligent. You could train this pig so that he doesn't make a mess, you could even train him to sit up at the table and hold back on his food while grace is said. However, if you leave the door open a bit he will bolt outside and head straight for the mud with all his nice little clothes on and roll over and over on his back. As he is rolling he sings 'home sweet home' because that is his real nature! Our Adamic, self-centred nature is exactly like that. Many times, the wilderness of the Christian life is about trying to do better, trying to put on an outward appearance, but it is carnal Christianity, and there is no victory there. But the good news is that Christ has actually judged that old nature, and it does not have to rule over us anymore, because He stands ready to do it for us, if we rely on Him.

Joshua 3:17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

As we said before, this is a picture of the presence of God being in the place of judgement until everything was com-

plete. The priests stood firm, they stood in the place of judgement until everybody had crossed over. This speaks so much of what our Saviour has actually done for us. Christ made an absolutely full payment when He died, and I believe that the nation of Israel had to rediscover this truth. What was the difference for the nation at this second crossing? When they had to cross the Red Sea they had armies behind them; Moses put out his arm and the waters were held back and they walked through into freedom. In this second crossing at the Jordan, the Ark, the presence of God, went before them in the midst of death. I think that this is the key to understanding this second crossing which is different from the first. Our eyes need to be opened to see that Christ has actually made a full payment for us at Calvary. We are with Him in that place of death. There has to be the realisation that not only was Christ there, but we are placed there too. This is a deeper, fuller, understanding of the working of God.



# rightnow MEDIA

Over 10,000 free videos for you and your family



**“The Netflix of  
Christian Bible Study”**

## **FREE ONLINE VIDEO BIBLE STUDIES!**

Not sure how to get started studying the Bible or feel as if you could use some extra help ministering to your family? Get connected at NO COST to the world's largest video-streaming library of Biblical resources. You'll enjoy a streaming library of 25,000+ videos anytime, anywhere. There's also in-app study guides that will help you follow along while watching RightNow Media Original series.

### **You'll find study content categories such as:**

- Marriage
- Christian Living
- Books of the Bible
- For Singles
- Biblical Finance
- Apologetics
- Leadership
- Plus content for Kids, Children, Teens, and much more!

FBCL gives everyone FREE access to the ultimate discipleship resource. Just email [info@fbcleeds.org](mailto:info@fbcleeds.org) to request your personal and private access code.



The Southern Plainsmen Quartet  
IN CONCERT AT FIRST BAPTIST LEEDS

**SUNDAY EVENING  
NOVEMBER 3, 2024  
5:00 P.M.**

**NO TICKET NEEDED!**  
FREEWILL-LOVE-OFFERING BASIS

### **Marcelle Slaughter**

Marcelle is the only remaining founding member currently with the group. A lifelong resident of Hornbeck, LA, he has been with the SPQ since day one. He serves as MC of the group as well as singing tenor. He is also a registered nurse and has worked in the healthcare field for over 40 years.



### **Robert Jackson**

Robert is one of our two lead singers. He first filled-in with us in January, 2020, then began to fill the role fulltime in January, 2022. He has been a high school math teacher and coach for 32 years. He is originally from Tioga, La, but he and his wife, Tish, now reside in Dry Creek, LA. They have four sons and three



### **Tim Thomas**

Born and raised in Quitman, LA, Tim has been with SPQ for over 7 years. He has been in public ministry for almost 35 years. A licensed and ordained Southern Baptist minister, he pastored churches in Louisiana and Texas as well as sang with his family group, The Thomas Family, before joining SPQ.



### **Jeff Bordelon**

Jeff has been with SPQ since June 2021. He was born in West Monroe, LA but Jeff and his wife Linda now reside in Pascagoula, MS. Before joining the group, he served in the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Before moving to Mississippi, Jeff served our Country in the US Navy.married to his wife, Leslie, for 24 years and has



### **Jeremy Glass**

Jeremy is our 2nd lead singer, and began traveling with us in August 2022. He was raised in rural east Texas and developed a love of gospel music as a young boy. Groups such as the Cathedrals and the Statler Brothers inspired him, and he was mesmerized by the music and message of Christian music. For almost 30 years he has been involved in music ministry in local churches by singing and leading worship or as church pianist. His piano hymn arrangements have been a blessing to many. Jeremy graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry (music business studies) and minors in public relations and Spanish. He currently resides in Houston, Texas.





Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the **Lord**

**Your God**  
will be

**WITH YOU**  
wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**



## The two sets of memorial stones by F Gordon

Joshua 4:1-9 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, (2) Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, (3) and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” (4) So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, (5) and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, (6) to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ (7) tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” (8) So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. (9) Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

There are two sets of stones and two monuments here. The first set of stones is mentioned in verse 9. Joshua has set up 12 stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the Ark of the Jordan stood. Why did he set up a monument in the middle of the Jordan? He did this to show that there was a burial and that there was significance in what happened where the priest’s feet stood firm. But you cannot see that monument because the waters

flowed over it again and it is under the water. We are told in the Bible that it is there to this day. When we think about the truth of the cross we know that Christ hung upon it and died for our sin, we know that. But do we see that we have been buried with the Lord Jesus Christ? Probably not in most cases. It can only be apprehended or seen by the eye of faith. You know that it exists; just like the monument under the water, which was unseen; but stood for a truth that had happened. It is interesting that it was Joshua who set it up. As mentioned, Joshua is a type of Christ. (He set up both these monuments; this one in the Jordan and another one in Gilgal which is in the Land.) We need our eyes opened by God to actually see our identification with Him in this burial. It is here in our union with Christ in death that the old man is actually rendered powerless. We come out on the other side, but it is in the midst of the Jordan that the first monument is set up.

### **The New Testament truth of the Jordan River Type**

Romans 6:1-7 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (5) If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. (6) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- (7) because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Concerning this truth Paul says 'do you not know that we have been baptised into Christ Jesus?' When the Lord Jesus was crucified upon the cross He had us with Him there.

When He was buried He had us with Him there. When He rose again He included us with Him then. We were completely identified with the Lord in all of the aspects - the crucifixion, the death, the burial and the resurrection. Just like in Joshua, it is the presence of God that goes into the place of death, but the people also go there too before coming out into resurrection life on the other side. Paul says 'that we are buried with Him through baptism into death that just as Christ was raised from the dead so we should walk in newness of life. Knowing this that our old man was crucified with Him that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves to sin.' The whole purpose of the burial is that the fleshly, Adamic, self-centred nature doesn't have to rule us any longer. We have actually been freed by our union with Christ so that we can live by the Spirit and follow after the things of God.

Romans 6:8-13 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10) The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (11) In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. (13) Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Here Paul presents all these truths. He says 'do you not know that when Christ died you were with Him?' 'When He was buried you were with Him and when He rose again you were with Him.' 'Do you not know that your old



man, that old Adamic nature has been crucified with the Lord?' 'You do not have to obey its lusts; you do not have to do what it commands.' Your only response, in light of all these truths, is to reckon yourself dead. Verse 11 says 'Likewise you also reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' In other words agree that, yes Lord God, you have done this, You have taken me into the place of death but You have also taken me out into new life. I don't need to be a slave any longer. Then, as you yield yourself to Him, God makes real those truths that are already true of you. You have been buried, you are risen again. Ephesians tells us we are actually seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. These are positional truths which God has done for us by His grace. It is now a matter of us receiving these things by faith in all simplicity and just saying thank you!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th**  
**7:00 A.M. · FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**MEN'S**  
**BREAKFAST**

**Join us for a time of food,  
fellowship, and prayer!**



CHURCH  
**BUSINESS**  
MEETING

**NOVEMBER 17**  
**5:00 P.M.**

*Ladies'*  
**PRAYER**  
**GROUP**

**Saturdays**  
**8:15 A.M.**

**in the**  
**Fireside Room**



## WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU

Getting involved at FBCL is important in furthering the Kingdom of God and with helping to stay in touch with other Christians.



Whether you are singing in the choir or serving in the youth ministry, getting involved will only enhance your growth. You'll be serving God, fellowshiping with others, and helping those in need.

Since this church largely operates on a volunteer basis, there are always plenty of ways available for you to get involved. We are all a part of Christ's body and that body doesn't function properly without every member.

Please scan the QR code below then take the Spiritual Gifts survey. Upon completion, ask God to help you know how He has uniquely gifted you for service and how you can begin to use your gifts in ministry to others.

Please email the church at [info@fbcleeds.org](mailto:info@fbcleeds.org) and we will put you in contact with the right person to help you get involved at FBCL.



Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the **Lord**

**Your God**

will be

**WITH YOU**  
wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**



# Joshua Chapter 5: The significance and meaning of Gilgal by F Gordan

## Introduction

We have looked at the Jordan and how that there were two sets of monuments that Joshua set up. One set of monumental stones was set up in the river and one set of stones was set up on the other side in Gilgal. They both had significance and the first one stood for the fact of death and burial with the Lord Jesus Christ. This monument in the Jordan is unseen because the waters flowed back over it, but it stands there to this day. We don't see it, but the eye of faith actually has to behold it for it shows that we are both dead and buried. The other monument on the other side of Gilgal stands for the coming up out of the waters of death into new life, which speaks of resurrection.

We are going to look at chapter 5 and especially about this place called Gilgal and the events that happened to the nation once they came up through the waters into this place. They are on 'redemption' ground so to speak, and that is why Gilgal is so significant to them. The meaning of Gilgal is 'a rolling away.'

## Before any warfare something has to happen...

Joshua 5:1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

From Gilgal to the city of Jericho is only a distance of 2kms, so it is really close to this city which Israel had to take. When Israel crosses the Jordan their enemies obvi-

ously know all about it, and their response is one of fear. They haven't got the heart for the battle anymore because they have heard what God has done and instantly their hearts melt and they are afraid. You would think that from a war perspective now would be the time for Israel to attack. You would think that they would go straight on in seeing that their enemies are afraid and they have been told this by the two spies which they sent in to spy out the land. But God had other plans for them. There were things He had to do with the nation of Israel before they were ready for battle.

Joshua 5:2-8 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." (3) So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth. (4) Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt--all the men of military age--died in the desert on the way after leaving Egypt. (5) All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the desert during the journey from Egypt had not. (6) The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land that he had solemnly promised their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. (7) So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. (8) And they had circumcised the people that they stayed in that place until they were healed.

God had to restore something that had long been neglected during their wilderness wanderings. And that something is circumcision. The sign of circumcision dated back to when God promised that He would make Abraham a father

of many nations and that He would bless his seed, and give his descendants a land which was to be their possession. This was not any piece of land, but the land that Abraham was dwelling in when God spoke to him. The sign of this covenant was to be circumcision; it was the sign that God loved this people, and had set them apart for Himself. He had plans for them, and this sign was to separate them from the nations around them.

In verse 2, it says 'make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time'. The first time they had done this was when they were back in Egypt, before they could actually partake of Passover. (You were not allowed to partake of Passover unless you had been circumcised.) Israel had neglected this sign (with the exception of once at Mount Sinai) during their time in the wilderness, but as soon as they arrive in the land of Canaan this sign is required of them once more. So instead of them going into battle straight away God actually has to address this issue. That yes, you are now in the land and as a sign of this you are to remember My covenant with you. You are to take knives and circumcise yourselves. So what does all this mean for us? If you take these things as a picture of the Christian life we see that when we come into redemption ground we too must co-operate with God. Does the New Testament speak about a circumcision for the believer? Yes, in Philippians Ch. 3 vs. 3 Paul is talking about some of his own credentials as a Jew and he says 'for we are the true circumcision who worship God in spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.'

Here there is the same thought; just as the nation of Israel came through the waters of Jordan, through death, and burial into resurrection, and then they had to be circumcised, we read 'that you also have been included with



Christ in His death, and His burial and His resurrection' and as a part of that the act of circumcision has actually been applied to you by the Lord Jesus when we trust in Him.

Colossians 3:1, 5, 8 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (5) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. (8) But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

This same thought is being spoken of here that even though we are now in the land---on redemption ground, and God has wonderful promises and an inheritance to give us; still we have to apply the knife to our old fleshly nature. Because Christ has been crucified, buried and resurrected for us, we now have to put away that old nature. We have to put to death, at times, things that would dominate us. Things that are not of the Spirit of God, which are not of Christ's nature, should not rule in our lives. In times past they used to rule, but now they don't have to because of our union with the Lord Jesus Christ. So, in the same light, what happened to Israel is true for us also.

### **Rolling away the reproach of Egypt**

Joshua 5:9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

What do you think the reproach of Egypt means? One meaning of the word is 'He has rolled away the shame of

Egypt'. This means that even though they were God's people and in a covenant with Him, they were actually still in a position of slavery. They were supposed to be God's children. He had a land for them and promises for them but there they were being treated as slaves. So for the nation, this place called Gilgal became really important because it was here that the shame of what had happened to them prior to this was rolled away. It was taken off them. Gilgal means 'a rolling'; it means that something is rolled off you which actually oppressed you. We need not let our past failures hang over us, we need to let the past go and go on into what Christ has for us. At Gilgal God began to remove and roll away all of the things that had oppressed them. For the Christian this is really important because there are things that we have done which we feel guilty about, and God wants us to allow Him to roll the shame of this away. In the risen Christ and on redemption ground these things are no longer a hindrance to us. Gilgal was pivotal for Israel and it is pivotal for us as Christians. It is the place of the Cross. It is the place of death. It is the place of resurrection. But it is also the place of self judgement. We need to judge our own lives first before God can use us. Now the things of the past no longer hindered Israel; God was freeing them so that they could now inherit what He had in store for them.

### **The Wilderness - Carnal Christianity**

**Joshua 5:10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.**

Straight away after monuments are set up, the nation observed Passover. They remember that the angel of death passed over them in Egypt when they started out

on their journey. Now they were to take a lamb and to observe it for four days. This is a picture of when the Lord Jesus was being observed for four days in Jerusalem by the Jews before His death on the cross. Then they had to apply the lamb's blood upon the doorpost of their dwellings. In the same way that Christ's blood became a shelter for them, it is a shelter for us too.

Now all through the wilderness there was only one observance of Passover and this was at Mount Sinai. Passover for the Jew was something that was meant to be celebrated for all time, but there was only one time in the whole 40 year period that it occurred. So you get this picture of what the wilderness life is like; it is a picture of carnal Christianity. There is no circumcision and no remembrance of Passover in the wilderness life. There is no cutting away of the fleshly nature and no celebration of what God has done for us in the lamb that was slain... which speaks of the death and resurrection of our Saviour. However, as soon as they are on redemption ground, they celebrate all that God has done for them... then they are ready for battle.

Joshua 5:11-12 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. (12) The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

Now we see that Israel partakes of a new food. As soon as they are in the land, the Manna ceases and now they eat of the old corn of the land that He promised them. The manna was only supposed to be given for a short period of time, just enough to get them from Egypt to Canaan: So the picture here for the Christian is that we

are now able to enter into the deeper truths of the Christian life, and now food of substance concerning Christ is available to us. This is what is called 'eating of the old corn of the land.' Gilgal is such a pivotal place. You have separation from the old fleshly nature, the celebration of Passover, a new type of food and then from verse 13 on you have new revelation:

### **Conclusion - Take note of the man with a sword in His hand**

Joshua 5:13-15 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" (14) Neither, he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" (15) The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

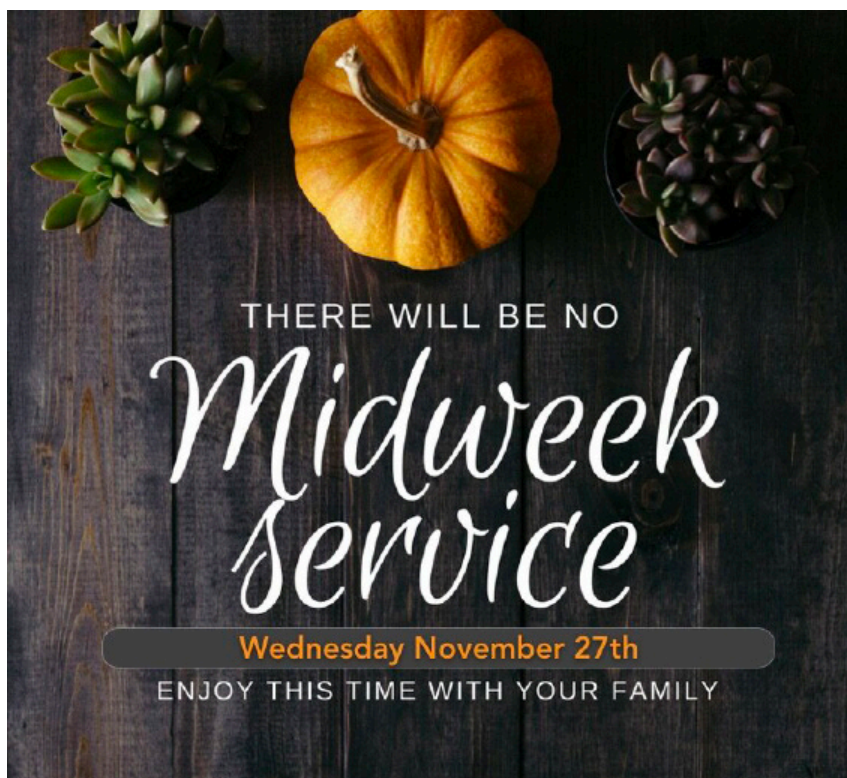
Here we see that Joshua takes a look at the city of Jericho which is only 2kms away. This is what they are going to be faced with first up. The walls were incredibly high and thick, and Joshua would have been thinking about how they were going to tackle this as a nation; which, as leader, is a normal thing for him to do. Jericho is the first foe to stand in their way and it is here that Joshua comes into contact with a man who is standing there with his sword drawn. The drawn sword is always a picture of being ready for war. It is not in its sheaf, it is actually drawn. He is ready for war, he is ready for action. Joshua did the most natural thing and asked 'Are you on our side or theirs?' The response of the man is 'Neither'.

Now God has a new revelation for Joshua; that if he is going to go into battle for the Lord, if he is going to inherit God's promises for the nation, then a new leadership has to take place. It wasn't God helping Joshua with his plans. It was actually God that had to be the originator. God was the one who was now in control. God was the one that was going to give the directions and the One who said 'I am not on your side or theirs, but I have actually come to take over.' In other words 'I have the pre-eminence'. It is not Me helping you, it is going to be My directions, it is going to be My will, My plans - not yours. When I was looking at this, I thought, how do we view our battles...how do we view the problems we are facing? Do we sometimes say 'God, will you help me with this' but all the way along it is what we want to do in our way... in this instance I think this is what Joshua was actually doing. But God had to reveal something to him; that it is not your ideas Joshua, it is not your will, I am not here just to be a helper, I want to take over. So the revelation given to Joshua here is that God is the One who is in control. He is the One who is going to order what the nation has to do from now on.

The true response of all Christians is to give Christ the pre-eminence, give Him the first place. Instantly, when Joshua was confronted with this statement he knew to humble himself before the Lord. He gave Christ the pre-eminence and he worshipped Him. Not only that but he said 'What has my Lord to say to His servant?' He actually shows that he is willing to be obedient to the way this commander of the army is going to direct the battle. He takes himself right out of the picture and says 'Okay, you are now in control,' to the angel of the Lord.

This is no ordinary angel. There are only two mentions in Scripture where we read that someone is asked to remove their sandal. One is this time and the second one concerned Moses and the burning bush. The angel of

the Lord had appeared to Moses in a flame of fire in the bush and the bush was on fire but it was not consumed. Moses saw this sight and turned aside to see this wonder, and God called to him and told him to remove his sandal. What is the picture we are given with Joshua before he is asked to remove his sandal? With Moses, it was to learn that the presence of God is adequate for any task; it is not the bush that counts, it is the presence of God. As regards Joshua's experience, it is to tell him that God is the One who is going to be in charge; He wants to take over. He doesn't want to be just a helper. Joshua did the most sensible thing - he removed his sandal and took a place of humility. He actually took a place of 'yes, I will be obedient to your plans, and your will, I can't battle this situation'. The Lord desires the same response and attitude in us today. His desire for you and me is that He would have a vessel which He can use for His purposes.



THERE WILL BE NO  
*Midweek  
Service*

Wednesday November 27th

ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY



## ARE YOU INVOLVED IN WOMEN'S OR MEN'S MINISTRY?

Two of the main components of the **Men's Ministry** at FBCL include having fun and investing in others as we increase in our faith. Please consider connecting with the men at FBCL. Our goal is to work together to grow in love and spiritual maturity. If you'd like to receive text updates about our Bible studies for men, coming events or outings, please request to be added to men's **GroupMe** by emailing [info@fbcleeds.org](mailto:info@fbcleeds.org).



Women have needs and challenges unique to their Christian walks. **Women often need Godly fellowship and opportunities** to share and pray for private prayer requests. A women's ministry is an excellent place for ladies to build connections while using their gifts and talents for God's glory. At FBCL, we do not want any woman to "fall through the cracks" and feel forgotten.

Request to join our ladies' **GroupMe** to stay informed on coming Bible studies, events, and outings designed just for the ladies of our community. You may request to receive **GroupMe** reminders for ladies by emailing [info@fbcleeds.org](mailto:info@fbcleeds.org).





Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the

**Lord**

**Your**

**God**

will be

**WITH YOU**

wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**





# Joshua Chapter 6: The walk of faith and the fall of Jericho by F Gordan

## Introduction

Now in Joshua chapter 6 we come to Jericho, a city built on a mound and covering an area of about 6 acres. Apparently archaeologists have found the actual area where Jericho was at the time of Joshua. They have found a wall belonging to it. Apparently this city had been rebuilt a few times before Joshua had actually arrived there, and the walls had been fortified. We are not sure how many people lived there as the Bible doesn't tell us, but this is the size of Jericho at the time of Joshua. We know that Rahab dwelt upon the wall and apparently there was another wall on the outside of this wall which was about 12-15 feet away; it was a wall of protection. This wall was about six feet thick and some people say it was about thirty feet high. Apparently, to fit everyone in, people dwelt in the gap between the two walls as well as on it, and houses were put in between the two walls. Let's have a look.

## When a city shuts up shop...

**Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.**

Here we have a picture of the enemies of God completely shut up because of their fear of the Israelites. Joshua tells us that none went out and none came in; it was a fortress completely closed off, but it remained a hindrance to the nation of Israel. For them to go on into Canaan this is the first battle which must be confronted. What could that mean to us? If we take Israel's journey as a picture of our walk, when there is an obstacle which hinders our path or we are confronted by a fortress securely shut up what do we do? The enemy remains secure within the walls, but it is a battle that has to be confronted. For Israel it was a literal city which they had to attack, but we have a spiritual battle to face. What are our Jericho's? Corinthians talks about us having to pull down every stronghold which the enemy tries to build out

of vain imaginations that are locked within our fallen humanity. So Jericho for us could just be a hindrance, something that stops us from going on with God. For each of us there is something different; something that always seems to hinder us from giving ourselves fully over to God. It always remains a fortress in us, whether it is worldliness, a character trait, principalities and powers, or a weakness in our character. It is something that stands opposed to us going on and going in to our inheritance and it remains securely shut up. So how did Israel actually do it?

### **The Lord gives victory**

**Joshua 6:2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.**

The first thing you need to see is whose battle is it? It is the Lord's battle and He declares to Joshua 'See I have given Jericho into your hand, its king and its mighty men of valor'. So the first step when entering into any type of battle or confronting any fortress is to realize that God is the one who is active. And God is the one that can actually bring you victory in the area that is holding you back. Bear in mind what Hebrews says about this passage concerning Jericho. We read 'By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled seven days.' So this whole thing for the nation of Israel was a walk of faith. It is about God building faith into their hearts but it is God who is the One that is active. How did you start your Christian life; you looked toward the Lord Jesus Christ to do something for you that you couldn't do for yourself. It doesn't mean that that is all you do according to faith. Just as you received Him continue to live in Him as Colossians says. In other words, in the same way you received Him, looking to Him in faith you are to walk in faith and go on and obtain everything that God has for each of us.

### **One strange plan... it seems!**

**Joshua 6:3-11 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. (4) Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. (5) When you**

hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in.” (6) So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” (7) And he ordered the people, “Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.” (8) When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD’s covenant followed them. (9) The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. (10) But Joshua had commanded the people, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” (11) So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there.

So here you have God giving Joshua, from verses 3-5, the instructions, and then Joshua tells the priests what to do. Apparently there were two types of trumpets that the Israelites used. They had silver trumpets and they had rams horns which were considered to be something to be used in representing God, in battle or for worship. They were used at the time of jubilee, and for war, those two events. Also rams horns were something which God has made and the silver trumpets were manmade and used for different purposes. Armed men went before the seven priests who blew on the trumpets (ram’s horns) and the people of Israel came after it, but in the midst was the presence of God dwelling in the Ark.

The first thing they had to do concerning faith was to be obedient to God’s directions and to God’s instructions. I am not a history teacher, but I don’t know of any other army in the world that has gone up to a city and walked around it and then gone back to camp and done that for six days. Had you been on the inside of that city what do you think you would have done? Apparently it was a two hour journey from where they were, from

Gilgal up to Jericho and back, so it is a fair walk. If you had seen them coming, what would you have thought? Here they come, they come right up to the mound and then start going around the outside so you would marshal your forces around the outside and then they would go around a little bit further and then just start heading back to camp. If you were on the inside what would you think? You would probably have been at a complete loss to understand it. So the first thing that they had to do was to be obedient to God's commands even though it may have appeared stupid. It is interesting that when you read through scripture God always uses the weak and the insignificant and the things that don't look much in the eyes of the world to show Himself strong on their behalf. They had to walk around Jericho for six consecutive days with the walls looking the same; the seventh day was different, this time it was seven times around Jericho in one day. So they actually walked around thirteen times. The second thing they had to do is in verse 10.

**Joshua 6:10 But Joshua had commanded the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!"**

So there had to be obedience but there also had to be the discipline of faith. They had to keep their mouths shut. That's a really hard thing for most of us...you have a two hour journey and you can't say a word! The only noise that was allowed was the priests blowing the trumpets. If they had been allowed to talk there would have probably been dissention; like 'what are we doing this for' or 'this is stupid, why don't we just go on in and attack?' But they have to remain absolutely silent; they are not allowed to say anything. That is actually the discipline that God is requiring of the nation to act out their faith by remaining silent and letting Him work. When thinking about that, I realized that God often requires the same thing of us, that we keep our mouths shut. We don't moan about His methods. We don't moan about His ways. Had they been allowed to speak, before long you would have had a committee set up. Someone would go and see Joshua; perhaps ten men, and tell him they think that this strategy should be changed because this just seems ridiculous. But the nation had to also be patient because thirteen times around a city is a

long slow journey, and every time they came around the walls of the city still looked the same. There had been no change. God declared to Joshua at the beginning what the plan was. I don't know if Joshua outlaid it to all the people. There is no indication to say that he did. He just gave the priests instructions.

### **Blow that trumpet and shout in faith!**

Joshua 6:12-16 Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. (13) The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. (14) So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. (15) On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. (16) The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!

So the next part in their walk of faith was actually 'a shout of faith.' This is an outward expression of their faith in God and they had now reached the point where something different was required of them. One scripture I did think of was when the Lord shouts. In 1st Thessalonians 4:16 it says that when the Lord returns He will descend from heaven with a shout, and with the trump of God, so there is shout and a trumpet and the dead shall rise first and then we who are alive will be caught up. It may be the same sort of imagery.

Joshua 6:17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

One little thing you have here is a picture of what happens in Jericho and in the book of Revelation. You have seven priests here and you have seven days and you have seven times

around the walls and then there is complete silence. In the book of Revelation you have seven seals and when the seventh seal is opened there is silence. There is silence in heaven for about half an hour the bible tells us. When the seventh seal is opened there are seven more trumpets, and seven angels. This is the same imagery that is going to be replayed in the last days. Whatever Israel confronted here in this stronghold is again going to be replayed, whether it is the fall of Babylon as a world system, or whether it is a spiritual happening, what happens here happens in the book of Revelation with all the numbers of seven and the silence which occurs.

### **Is God fair to destroy these people?**

Joshua 6:18-21 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. (19) All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.” (20) When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. (21) They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

Then at the shout of faith the outer wall just fell down flat so that the armies of Israel could walk straight in. This is something that only God could do. One of the things people say is ‘how can you serve a God of love when He commands a nation to destroy everything’ and they take offence against the God that we serve. I want to just have a little look at that because God declared to Abraham right back in the beginning in Genesis 15 what would happen.

Genesis 15:7-16 He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” (8) But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” (9) So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each

three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” (10) Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. (11) Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. (12) As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. (13) Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. (14) But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. (15) You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. (16) In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

So Abraham is in the land of Canaan, he has come out of Ur and he wants to know what God’s plans are for him and God said ‘I am going to bless you and make of you a great nation and this is what is going to happen. Your seed will actually be afflicted for 400 years. You will go down into Egypt and you will serve the Egyptians for that period of time. After this they will come out with great possessions; but there is a time period here. God gave the nations who were living in the land 400 years to clean up their ways but things got worse until the cup of iniquity was full and they were ripe for judgment. No one gets away with anything. When you read the book of Jude there is one theme that comes out of that book and that is that God judges sin. He doesn’t let people get away with anything; whether it is angels that left their abode, or people. When Sodom and Gomorrah reached a point of complete wickedness God judged them. Whether it’s Cain, whether it’s Balaam, or whether it’s Korah’s rebellion in the desert, or the nation of Israel in the wilderness, they paid for sin with their lives. They wandered forty years and they all died off. At some point God judges sin. The Amorites, the Canaanites are part of a confederacy of seven nations that God said He was going to destroy, but there was a time period for this. He had waited 400 years for the cup of iniquity to be full, and now we see that this had



happened and He was actually going to use Israel to bring judgment upon these nations.

Now, the other problem that you have is that in Genesis 6, we see that there are angels who left their abode and intermarried with women. It says that they tried to wreck the seed of women; tried to change what a human actually was. You had this strange breed of giants or people with super human abilities, called men of renown. It happened in the days of Noah, and part of the flood was to actually destroy Satan's attempt to corrupt the seed of woman on earth. But it also says that this also happened afterward as well. So there wasn't just one event where these angels left their abode.

In Numbers 13 the spies went in to the land and brought back the report that they had seen the descendants of Anak there and they were like grasshoppers in their sight; this made them really afraid. So when the nation is about to inherit all which God has for them you have this spiritual opposition to them coming in again, there are giants in the land! There were giants in the land in the time of David too; Goliath was one foe that David had to conquer. So you have this Satanic opposition, and we understand that these things happen time and time again until the final opposition in the last days. A lot of bible teachers believe that what happened back then will be replayed in the end time. Is part of what happens in Revelation due to this influx again of the nephilim within humanity?

Look at what is pumped out of Hollywood. When you think of movies, everything is about humans with super human abilities. Even what your kids watch, it is all the same sort of line, humans with super human ability. Whether it be Twilight or Thor, x man, mutants etc. It is all part human and part something else. I do believe that it will be replayed in the last days.

So these giants were a part of these nations. When you hear people say 'how can you serve a God who wipes out the whole human race? If He is a God of love, why does he wipe these people out?' You need to remember that the race had become completely sinful - apart from Noah and his family. There were

many people who were part human and part fallen angels, which Genesis 6 tells us produced this race of giants who were called Nephilim which means 'Fallen ones.' They were also called 'mighty men of renown,' and God was not going to allow that to continue.

### **Protected by Grace and Faith**

Joshua 6:21-23 They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. (22) Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." (23) So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

So you have this wonderful picture when the whole city was doomed to destruction, of God's grace to someone who believed in the God of Israel, that He was the true God. Grace is given to Rahab; and you have this little gem in amongst all this wickedness. Obviously, her house was not destroyed where it was on the wall.

### **A curse upon the city**

Joshua 6:24-27 Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. (25) But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho--and she lives among the Israelites to this day. (26) At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates." (27) So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout

the land.

So Joshua put a curse on anyone who would rebuild that city. 500 years passed from the time that Joshua put that curse upon the city and no one dared to rebuild it for 500 years--until you get to the time of Ahab, who was a wicked Godless king and he was happy for someone called Hiel to rebuild it. This prophecy came to pass when he was laying the foundations; his first born died and when he set up the gates at the end of his building project, his youngest died as well. It took 500 years for someone to actually do it but they did it and they paid for it. So Jericho was destroyed. It was rebuilt by Hiel, and then apparently the Herodians destroyed it in 3 B.C. And then a guy called Ackhileas rebuilt it, which was around the time of Christ. It was destroyed again by some person called Vispassean in 68 A.D just before 70 A.D destruction of Jerusalem where the Jews had all their troubles and the city and temple were destroyed by the Romans.

So there you have Jericho.

CHURCH WIDE

# Thanksgiving Fellowship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 · NOON  
IN THE GYMNASIUM



**LUNCH  
IN THE  
GYMNASIUM  
FOLLOWING  
THE MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER**

**8**

*Christmas*  
**CANTATA**

**5:00 P.M.  
IN THE SANCTUARY**





Be **STRONG** and  
**COURAGEOUS!**

Do not be

*Afraid*

Do not be

*Discouraged*

For the **Lord**

**Your God**

will be

**WITH YOU**  
wherever you go

**Joshua 1:9**



## Joshua Chapter 7: Ai and the sin of Achan by F Gordan

Last time we saw that Jericho was the first stumbling block to Israel's walk going into the Promised Land and this pictured the world and the enemy. It hindered them entering into all that God had for them in His inheritance and His promises. We looked at how Joshua had to come under new instructions, how he met the man with the sword in his hand who said 'you are not going to do it your way but it has got to be my way that this is done' Everything was about a walk of faith. They had to circle the city thirteen times, they had to keep their mouths shut the whole time and the walls came down and in they went. So they had a great victory over Jericho. Chapter 7 is obviously after this great victory. The city has fallen, God has got all the glory and honour and all they had to do was be obedient to what He commanded and keep walking in faith and dependence upon Him.

But when you get to chapter 7 you have a very different scene and this is really their first defeat when they come into the Promised Land. It is their first falling. Before you actually get into chapter 7, in verse 18 of chapter 6, Joshua actually warned the nation about certain things. He said:

Joshua 6:18-19 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. (19) All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

So Joshua had already given the people a warning saying 'this is God's battle. It has got to be done in God's way and you are to keep your hands off the booty. None of this is for



you for it has all got to go into the treasury of the Lord'. So it is God's victory, God's booty, His treasures. With this as a background, let's now look at chapter 7

### **From a spiritual high to a great low...**

Joshua 7:1-3 But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel. (2) Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai. (3) When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there."

Jericho was a massive victory for the nation. They are on a great high. And in verse 2 Joshua sends men from Jericho to Ai. Now where was their base camp supposed to be? Gilgal. And when we looked at what Gilgal stood for we saw it was a picture of self judgement. It was in that place that they circumcised themselves and it was there that they took stock of what they were. It was in that place that they looked at the monuments that they had come through in the Jordan... monuments of death and resurrection. It was in that place that they received new instruction and the good food of the land. Gilgal was supposed to be their base camp. When you carry on through this book you will see they go out from Gilgal to their battles. So the picture that you have got here is that they go from this battle at Jericho into the one at Ai but instead of coming back to Gilgal, where there would have been self judgement, they just go straight up. In some ways, after a great victory can be our weakest most vulnerable point. When

God has actually done something for you or you have been victorious in some aspect or manner, going straight into the next battle can be a real tipping point. One man I thought of was Elijah. Elijah obtained a tremendous victory over 450 false prophets and then the Spirit comes upon him and he outruns a horse and chariot back to the city, yet at the threat of one woman - Jezebel, he falls horrendously. How can you go from victory to victory and then all of a sudden there is a great failing?

So what comes out of it is that when you are really victorious in some aspect, pride comes in, self confidence comes in, and this is what is happening with the nation of Israel. They say in verse 3: 'Look all the people don't need to go. There are only a few people there.' In other words 'this battle is easy-peazy compared to what we have just faced. Jericho was momentous but this is just a small one.' So you have this whole picture here that they have just come from a massive victory and they are self confident. They don't need all the people; this is going to be easy for us to do.

### **Beware of the two foes - fear and self-confidence**

Self-confidence is a real aspect of the flesh that we need to be careful about. You have these two aspects, first you fear which governs them through the wilderness. What fear does is make situations, problems and enemies bigger than what they actually are. It builds the situation up to be bigger than what it actually is. But self-confidence does the opposite. It makes the situation seem smaller or more insignificant than what it really is and this is the picture you have here with the nation of Israel. 'We don't need all the people to go and fight this battle. We have just defeated Jericho and the people of Ai are only a few, so only a few of us need to go.'

It is interesting when you look at the whole self confidence because in God's economy, He actually chooses the weak and those that aren't full of themselves, who don't think that they have got what it takes. It is very different to the way the world's system works. In the world's system, if you take sport for example, you come from a great victory and it is all about you believing in yourself and that you have what it takes. You go into the next battle with that same mind set - you have to believe in yourself. That is what we are taught, whether it is playing golf, or a rugby game or whatever it may be. You go in there believing that you have got the ability to win. And there is a true aspect in that for sports, but in the Christian life it is actually the opposite. Remember this is a walk of faith so your belief and your confidence has to be in somebody and not yourself. It is actually in the God who goes with you into whatever you are facing just as they did with Jericho. So God is after men and women that really take Him into account and when everything is spiritually really high and really good and we are victorious, that is our vulnerable point because right there comes a feeling of self confidence and pride. I do have what it takes and yes I am right up there. So the first thing that comes out of this passage is that they were confident in themselves and didn't take stock of the enemy they faced.

The second thing is that there doesn't seem to be any prayer from Joshua through this passage. When he met the man with the sword in his hand, he received instruction about what to do. But here there is no account of him asking God what to do. He just goes straight into it. He sends out the men, they come back and say 'look, we don't need to take everyone' so there is no record of Joshua asking God 'how do we fight this next battle.' He just did what was natural to him. He just sent out the spies and he had no idea what God had seen - that there was actually sin in the camp. So we need to be careful of prayerlessness because the victory that we get today is actually not enough for tomorrow. We always think that if we

are on the heights that will be enough to carry us on to the next battle but it is actually not. Just like the manna in the wilderness, they were given enough for that day. Every day they had to receive it anew. It is exactly the same for us. It is a walk of faith where our dependence upon God does not carry on just because you depended on Him one day. It is a day by day walk of faith where we look to God to meet the obstacle... whether it is a big one that we are facing in our lives, or whether it is only a little one, that dependence needs to be there. So we need to be careful of self confidence and we need to be careful of thinking we have got what it takes. It is a little bit like the whale that said to the baby whale 'when you get to the top and you start to blow be careful because that is when you get harpooned.' It is exactly the same for us, when you get to the top be careful of self confidence and self pride. When you think you have got what it takes, look out. It can be a small little thing like Ai that will defeat you.

### **A time to act**

Joshua 7:4-10 So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, (5) who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water. (6) Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell face-down to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. (7) And Joshua said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! (8) O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? (9) The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the

earth. What then will you do for your own great name?  
(10) The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?”

Here you have Joshua and straight away he knows that something has radically changed. Something isn't right. Israel has been defeated and so he falls on his face and he entreats God in the same way that Moses used to. 'What are the nations going to say, why have we just suffered this defeat?' So what is God's response? It is interesting when you look at that because you think Joshua's response is a good one. However, when you read it, it almost sounds as if God is rebuking him. He is saying 'What are you doing moaning?' 'Quit all this whining, get up off the ground.' Now there is no record of Joshua praying prior to this about the instructions in going. It is only after the fall that he actually prays and he wouldn't be on his knees here if he had prayed in the beginning because God would have revealed to him that something was wrong within the camp. But he is praying afterwards and God said to him 'There is sin in the camp, I want you to get up and I want you to act. Don't just moan and whine about it, you have actually got to do something'.

When I was thinking about that, I thought, sometimes there are things in our lives, or sin in our lives that is just like that. You know we can whine and moan at God about something that keeps tripping us up or something that we keep doing that causes us to fall, when sometimes all that is actually required is to stop moaning and whining and entreating God about the same thing but to actually act and get rid of that which is causing you to stumble. Some things can be got rid of, just don't go there.

## Beware the little leaven...

Joshua 7:11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.

Notice here that God doesn't single out Achan. He actually says 'Israel has sinned' rather than Achan has sinned. You would think that He would just hone right to the point and say who it was that had caused the trouble for the nation, but He doesn't. He says 'Israel has sinned.' So whatever one member did, the whole body became responsible. Israel was really only as strong as its weakest member. Most of us, when we think about sin, think about it individually. When you think about sin, you think 'how is my life, how is my record?' But God here is dealing with the nation... He sees them as a corporate body. And we don't often think about sin in terms of how it affects us as a corporate body of believers. Do you think of sin in that way? That we are a body of believers and that if one member is sick, like Paul tells us in the New Testament, the whole body suffers because we are part of one body. It is a different thought here. In the New Testament you have an issue that highlights this. Yes, this was under law, but under grace Paul still carries it over. In 1st Corinthians 5 Paul says 'there is sin that is causing the Corinthians witness to be brought down'. And he is saying too 'I have heard, and it has been reported, that you have got a man in your congregation who has taken his father's wife.' Do you remember that story? And he says 'Even though I am not present with you I judge this man and this action.' And he condemns them for tolerating it. And he says 'I want you to get rid of him and I want you to cast him out, and I want you to give him over to Satan so that he may be saved in the day of Christ Jesus.' He goes on to talk

about the scripture where it says 'A little bit of leaven, leavens the whole lump.' A little bit of sin filters through and actually destroys the whole lot, it brings about a bad witness. This is what God is saying here. There is a time to act, there is a time to get rid of that which is causing you trouble. Yes, a little leaven spreads right through.

### Pinpointing the problem

Joshua 7:12-19 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. (13) Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it. (14) 'In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD takes shall come forward clan by clan; the clan that the LORD takes shall come forward family by family; and the family that the LORD takes shall come forward man by man. (15) He who is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done a disgraceful thing in Israel!' " (16) Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was taken. (17) The clans of Judah came forward, and he took the Zerahites. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was taken. (18) Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. (19) Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

What a horrendous thing to actually go through! What you have got here is God bringing this sin which is hidden into the open, where it can be fully seen. He does this in a very public way, among the whole nation. Something had happened here, there was an accursed thing in their midst and God was opening it up so that the whole nation would be involved in this process and would see what sin had caused them to fail. I bet Achan thought he was safe... at the start! You have got a couple of million people and I suppose that at the beginning he thought the chances of getting found out are slim. But as it whittled down, I bet he began to get the old knocking knees! Firstly his tribe is selected and then all the families are taken out and his family name is taken. Then it goes down even further when his father's name is taken. That would have been quite a scary process if you had been the one that had actually committed the act. It is amazing that he didn't come out right at the beginning but he doesn't. He holds out right to the end hoping that he was going to get away with it. Like every good thief, in their mind they are not guilty until they are caught!

I was called up to do jury service a couple of months ago and I was just thinking about this process of what it was like. Now nobody wants to do it. There was probably 120-150 of us. Out of that they take 30 and my name was called in that 30. Then out of that 30 they take 10 and again my name was called. You feel like you have received the sentence yourself! So when I was thinking about Achan, I thought it would have been a scary process to go through for him when sin is actually exposed. Before I was a Christian I used to get away with pretty much most things. I got caught a bit but I also got away with a lot. But there was a day when my sin actually caught and found me out and I came to see what the extent of my sin really was. I am glad that what happened to Achan didn't happen



to me because his sin is brought right out into the open and his sin sure does catch him out.

## **The stages of sin**

Joshua 7:20-21 Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: (21) When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

I am amazed that he could even speak in the first place! I bet his heart was about to pop out of his shirt after undergoing all of that interrogation. His confession is straight forward. It is concise - ‘indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel.’ There doesn’t seem to be any guilt about the men that had died or the trouble that he had brought upon the nation. But he does confess that he has sinned against the Lord God of Israel. So he is honest about his sin. Then he mentions the process that led to his sin. You have got these three steps really in his sin. He saw, he coveted and he took. And in James chapter 1, he talks about sin really in this sort of order, three steps.

James 1:14-15 ‘...each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (15) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.’

So he is talking about the progression in sin. Every one is tempted, but you are drawn away by your own desires. When that takes hold then the sin grows and it brings forth death. Achan said ‘When I saw the spoils I coveted them.’ He wanted to take some of the booty from God’s victory;

he coveted the wealth there, and he took it. You have got that three stage progression. You see the same three stage progression with Eve right back in the beginning. She saw the fruit, she wanted something from it, she coveted it and she took it. You have got the same three steps with David and Bathsheba: He saw, he coveted and he took.

## **Beware attempting to take God's glory**

Joshua 7:22-23 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. (23) They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD.

Achan took something out of God's victory. Jericho was God's victory and all of the spoils were His. And that was a God given victory to them. They just had to walk by faith and be obedient and God did it all for them. And here you have a man taking some of the treasures out of something that God had done and which was all to go to God. We also need to be careful with the things that God does in our lives that we don't take any of the glory, any of the credit, from something that is God's work in and through us.

An example of this would be Hezekiah when he is given an extra 15 years to his life. He brings in the Babylonian messengers into the treasure house of the palace and it says that he didn't withhold anything from them. He showed them all that God had done for him; all the treasures, all the stuff that he had acquired. Straight away after that the prophet comes to him and says (as a paraphrase) 'Why did you show them everything and why did you almost claim that you had done all this.' As a result he

said 'Your sons are going to be taken away captive.' Hezekiah was a good king, but in this regard he was completely wrong and he said 'Well, that's okay, as long as there is peace in my day.' Well, hello! He didn't give a hoot about his kids and what was going to come upon them, as long as he was okay! He's taking credit or glory for something that God had actually done for him.

A contrasting example is that of Abraham. Do you remember when Lot was taken captive by all those kings, and he gathers up his 300 men and he goes after them. He defeats them and rescues Lot and all the booty. That was a God given victory. He was up against 5 kings and God gave him the victory. When he is coming back from that victory he is met by Melchizedek, both priest and king, who is a type of Christ. He honoured Melchizedek by giving him a tithe and then all of the kings say to him 'look, you take some of the booty for yourself' and Abraham's response is really interesting. He said 'No, I am not going to take any of it, I don't want you guys to say that you made Abraham rich, I will only take what God actually gives me.' He would not take any of the spoil because he realised that he couldn't have done this without God's help.

So we need to be careful in our lives that we don't think we are more spiritual than we are. Or if God does something through us that we don't think that we are the one who did it, because it certainly isn't. I think it was George Whitfield who, having preached a really good sermon, had someone say to him 'Pastor, that is the greatest sermon I have ever heard, you are such a good speaker.' George Whitfield replied 'Yes, the devil has already told me that!' But it is like that, it doesn't matter wherever it is that God uses you, we just need to be careful that we don't take something for which God deserves all the credit and glory.

Judgment

Joshua 7:24-26 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. (25) Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. (26) Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

Swift and severe judgement. His whole family, everything that he owns are brought into this. In the New Testament your type for this would probably be Ananias and Sapphira. Here you have got really swift and severe judgement when sin is involved. When Israel entered into the land everything is new and He is dealing with them as a body as they are about to inherit their inheritance. In the New Testament, when the church is born, the Holy Spirit is upon them and everything is new, fresh and powerful and again you have got a really swift and severe judgement. What did Ananias and Sapphira do? They deceived. They made out they were giving more than they did. You may consider that not to be a bad sin, that they were giving a false impression, but they were deceiving. It is the same here - they have both stolen and deceived. But God judged it severely and so Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead. Achan and his family, they are all brought into this valley. When I read that it struck me that his whole family were involved... his wives, his daughters, his sons, his sheep, his donkeys, everything that he owned was brought out there.

When you read the commentaries there are two different thoughts about this. Some say that everything was

stoned, because the whole family knew about it. One man's sin had involved the whole family and they were all judged. Other people say that where it says 'So all Israel stoned him, Achan, with stones, and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones' some commentaries say that 'them' is all his goods because they say that under the law a man cannot be judged for his children's sin, or children cannot be judged for their father's sin. So in other words you are responsible for your own sin. So whether the whole family were stoned and everything burned or whether they were present to watch Achan himself, and all his goods be stoned and burned I am not sure. It is not clear. Going by the other laws, if the whole family were stoned then they must have been complicit in Achan's sin.

### **Mercy and a door of hope**

So Achan's sin brought trouble upon the whole nation and he is judged accordingly. And the place of judgement became known as the valley of Achor. Before closing, there is one other verse I want to look at because the valley of Achor is referenced elsewhere. It is interesting that Achor means 'trouble'. Achan brought trouble upon the nation. But in Hosea chapter 2 this valley is spoken of in a different way as Hosea speaks to Israel.

Hosea 2:14-16 Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. (15) There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. (16) In that day, declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.' "

In Joshua's day this valley of Achor meant trouble. It meant sin judged, but when you get to Hosea God says 'this valley

of Achor that means trouble for you, I am going to give to you as a door of hope.' So what does that mean? In its context, Israel had been cast away because of her sin and trouble had ensued. But here was this great promise that this valley of trouble would also be made into a door of hope. In other words he was going to restore them to a relationship with Him once again through the trouble that would come upon them. And it says 'You will sing in that day just like the day when you come up out of the land of Egypt.' In other words it is a deliverance from sin but it is a door of hope. God is going to make something that is troublesome to you as a door of hope for you. There was one man from Judah that brought sin and trouble to the whole nation, but that one man was judged, so also we know that there is another man, Christ Jesus, also from the tribe of Judah, who actually had no sin and did no sin and yet all of the sins of the world was poured out upon Him and He was judged in our place. The Just for the unjust, the Righteous for the unrighteous. And He was judged instead of us in this valley of trouble so that through His judgement there would actually be hope for all people, that we could receive the forgiveness of sins. And when you find yourself in trouble, when sin has actually found you out, as it does to everyone that is here today, it becomes a door of hope because the man Christ Jesus has been judged in our place. He has taken the judgement that was upon Him and it is now a door of hope for you and I.

## **Conclusion**

So, when we look at chapter 7 here are the things that spoke to me. The first thing was that they had a self confidence about themselves. They had gone from a victory straight into another battle without taking God into account. There was no prayer, and as it looked like an easy battle they just thought they could handle it without

God. The second point is that sin is always out in the open for God sees everything. That is very interesting because I have found that since becoming a Christian I don't get away with anything. This is actually a good thing. Quite often parents pray for their children 'Lord, don't let them get away with anything' and it is a good prayer. Finally you have got this whole picture of there being hope even in the valley of trouble. We might find ourselves in troubling situations or with sin weighing us down but there is a door of hope through the man Christ Jesus.

# JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:30-10:30 A.M.



**Room F109**  
**Teacher: JoAnn Malone**  
**Senior Adult Co-ed Class**



**Room F111**  
**Teacher: Clifford Isbell**  
**Senior Adult Co-ed Class**



**Room F104**  
**Teacher: Loretta Veasey**  
**Senior Ladies Class**



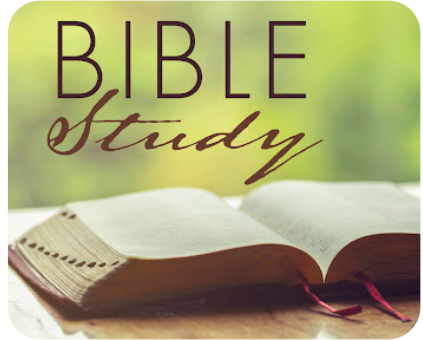
**Room A203**  
**Teacher: Annette Davenport**  
**Adult Co-ed Class**



*There's a place for everyone—birth  
to senior adults!*



**Room A206**  
**Teachers: Frank & Margaret Little**  
**Adult Co-ed Class**



**Room E201**  
**Teachers: Ed & Kathy Steele**  
**Adult Co-ed Class**



**Room CAB Classroom**  
**Teachers: Scott Harvey and Gary Linderman**  
**Young Adult Co-ed Class**



**Room E207 (Sept. 8-29)**  
**Teachers: George and Kim Keating for New Members**

## WORKS CITED

Week 1:

<https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua1>

Week 2:

<https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua2>

Week 3:

[https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua3\\_4](https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua3_4)

Week 4:

[https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua3\\_4](https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua3_4)

Week 5:

<https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua5>

Week 6:

<https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua6>

Week 7:

<https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Joshua7>

## COME BACK ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

There's something planned for everyone here at FBCL on Wednesday nights.



- Adult Bible Study, 6-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Young Adult Bible Study, 6-7:15 p.m., CAB Classroom
- Children's Choir and Mission Activities, 6-7:15 p.m.
- Nursery and Preschool Ministry (newborn-5K)
- ESL Classes
- 
- Pizza/Snacks/Drinks available in the CAB, 5:30 p.m. for Youth and SPARK students
- SPARK Ministry, SPARK Room (grades 5-6), 6:00-7:15 p.m.
- Student Ministry, Youth Room (grades 7-12), 6:30-8:00 p.m.