

Joshua: Week 2

The Land Conquered: Joshua 6-12

Day 1

1. Read **Joshua 6**.
2. Israel is camped at Gilgal in the plains of Jericho after crossing the Jordan, being circumcised, and celebrating their first Passover in the land that God promised Abraham and all their descendants around 500 years earlier (cf. Gen 12:4-7). They have been told repeatedly by God that he will give them this land and that he will lead them and fight for them. We will see God clearly do so in regard to Jericho, whose people had retreated behind their impenetrable walls. Verses 2-5 describe God's plan to destroy the walls; summarize it below.
3. Just as with the crossing of the Jordan, God was with the people. What was the visible symbol of God's presence (accompanied by priests and guards) as they went around the walls (vv 6-7)?
4. Though the priests would be continuously blowing their trumpets while they walked around the city, what command did God give the people in verse 10? Imagine what this silent marching and trumpet blowing would have done to the people's level of fear!
5. On the final day of marching, Joshua finally commanded the soldiers to shout after the seventh rotation around the city. What reason did they have to shout, according to verse 16?

6. From verse 17 through the rest of the chapter, the writer jumps back and forth between telling of the complete destruction of the city and the sparing of Rahab and her family. This contrast ends in verse 25, highlighting what about God?

7. The walls did flatten, allowing Israel to enter the city and destroy every living thing (except Rahab and family), as ordered by God. In verses 18-19 God warned the people about not doing what and instructed them to do what with all items of silver, gold, bronze, and iron?

8. Hebrews 11:30-31 gives us some insight into this event. What do we learn about Israel and Rahab?

9. After having cursed any who rebuilt Jericho, Joshua is said to have the Lord's presence and fame in all the land. Joshua was beginning to experience what God had said in Josh 1:1-8. He had God's presence with him, he was careful to obey God's commands in circumcising the people, observing Passover, and following God's exact battle plan (to his knowledge; chapters 7-8 are yet to come!). This obedience resulted in God's continued presence as well as success in their military endeavor.

Day 2

1. Read **Joshua 7-8**.
2. Chapter 6 concluded with what seems to be a summary of complete obedience. Then verse 1 of chapter 7 throws out a contrast: *But . . . the people broke faith regarding the devoted things (expressly forbidden in 6:18). The following story clearly illustrates what happens when Israel is not careful to obey all God's commands and how unsuccessful their endeavors are because they have broken God's covenant.*
3. In 7:1, what was God's response to Achan's sin?

4. The story moves to Joshua—unaware of Achan's sin and God's anger (only the reader was made aware in v. 1)—as he sends spies to Ai. He continues to make plans to conquer, and he follows the spies' advice to send 3000 men to fight Ai. What was the result of this military endeavour? How did the people respond?

5. After having been promised that God would give Israel the land and having had such an overwhelming victory at Jericho, the defeat by insignificant Ai was a blow and a shock to Joshua and the elders of Israel. As they mourned before the Ark and questioned God's allowing this to happen, God's anger at Israel's sin now became known. What reason did God give for Israel's failure at Ai, according to 7:12?

6. God told Joshua to consecrate the people. They had been "dirtied" by the theft and presence of the devoted things, and these things and the culprits needed to be removed if God was to again fellowship with them. The thief and all he had was to be burned with fire because he had transgressed the covenant of the Lord and done an "outrageous thing in Israel." When Achan was chosen by lot as the culprit, what did Joshua encourage him to do?

Day 3

1. Read **Joshua 9**.
2. When the kings of the six nations listed in verse 1 heard of Jericho's and Ai's defeat and destruction, what did they plan to do?
3. The plans of these nations are contrasted in verse 3 with what Gibeon planned when they heard of Jericho and Ai. What was their plan?
4. When the author tells of Israel's questioning the travelers, he refers to them as Hivites in verse 7. Perhaps the author used this name to remind the reader of what that had God said about them and the rest of the nations in Joshua 3:10?
5. What reasons did Gibeon give for their desire to make a treaty with Israel?

Day 4

1. Read **Joshua 10**.
2. According to verses 1-2, what was the response of Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, when he heard of Gibeon's treaty with Israel? Why did he respond this way?
3. What did Adoni-zedek plan?
4. Gibeon called on Israel for help in defending themselves. What words did God encourage Joshua with as he went to fight for Gibeon?

Day 5

1. Read **Joshua 11-12**.
2. Another coalition was formed by Jabin, king of Hazor, after hearing of all these Israelite victories. Josh 11:4-5 gives quite a staggering description of the armies that is probably meant to make Israel's defeat seem probable. Describe the group that came against Israel.
3. In light of this description of their enemies what assurance did God once again give Joshua? In a very brief description of the battle, how did God's words prove true?
4. Joshua turned to Hazor, a prominent city and leader of the coalition against Israel. He destroyed all its inhabitants and its king and burned the city. In the other cities, the people were destroyed, but Israel was able to plunder its goods and livestock, and the cities themselves were not burned. Josh 11:15 makes it clear that in doing this, Joshua was doing what?

5. Josh 11:16-23 summarize Israel's conquests. Gibeon was the only city to make peace with Israel. The text tells us that these increasingly wicked peoples (cf. Gen 15:16) chose to attack God's people. Why did they do this? What was the result?

6. The last verses of chapter 11 describe the Anakim whom Joshua cut off from all of Israel's land (except for in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod, land the OT describes later as the land of the Philistines). The Anakim's destruction is a fitting end for this section if you recall their presence initially scared off the spies and Israel from entering the promised land (cf. Num 13:28). What was the result of these victories, according to verse 24?

7. The first six verses of chapter 12 list the two kings that Moses led Israel to defeat and their land that was given to Gad, Reuben, and half of Manasseh. The rest of the chapter lists the 31 kings by name that Joshua defeated and destroyed. Instead of viewing this chapter as a "boring list of names," how can we view this passage of Scripture, in light of what God has already spoken and done in the book?