

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (May 22) – Joshua 7

This chapter is a warning about unfaithfulness. Our sin is never just a solitary or private action that doesn't affect others. Even when we do something in secret like Achan, it will have ramifications, not only on our life, but on the lives of others. Achan gives a full confession of his sin to Joshua. He makes no excuses for what he did. But he still has to bear the earthly punishment for it (just like how a Christian may commit a crime and confess it to God and be forgiven, but that Christian will still have to face earthly consequences such as jail time, etc.). Dear Christian, remember that what you do has an impact on others. Be faithful to God, not just in your words, but in your life and in your example to others. Don't let your sins be the cause for the hurt of others. Instead confess them to Christ who covers them by His blood.

Tuesday (May 23) – Joshua 8

After dealing with Achan's sin, God tells Joshua that He has now handed over the city of Ai to them for destruction. God even gives them the battle plan for capturing the city. The Israelites were to rely on the power and wisdom of Christ. In the New Testament era this hasn't changed. We still rely on the grace of Christ in our lives as Christians and not on our own strength and power. We are also given the spiritual battle plan for being part of the Kingdom of God, as He conquers the darkness and spreads His light abroad. That battle plan is to make disciples of all nations by doing two things: baptizing them and teaching them all things in God's Word (Matthew 28:18-20). After the battle Joshua renews the covenant. This chapter is about how God gives His people complete and certain victory by "the obedience of faith" (Romans 1:5; 16:26). Obedience is produced by saving faith which relies on Christ.

Wednesday (May 24) – Joshua 9, 10

In Joshua chapter 9, The Gibeonites know that Israel's God is the true God and has ordered the destruction of the idolatrous nations in the land of Canaan. The Gibeonites devise a plan to deceive the Israelites into thinking they live somewhere else far away. Joshua and the leaders of Israel make the treaty with the Gibeonites without asking counsel from God (verse 14). This is a big mistake. Whenever we make important decisions in life we should first ask if this is something that is in accordance with God's Word and would be pleasing to Him or not. When Joshua and Israel discover the deception, they confront the Gibeonites who confess that they believe what God had told Moses (verses 24-25). The Gibeonites sinned but they also had a faith in what God's Word says. So Joshua and the Lord decide to spare the Gibeonites and they become servants in the tabernacle in drawing water and cutting wood for the sacrifices. Even in the weakness of our faith and out of bad situations, God can bring good out of evil.

In Joshua chapter 10, the unbelieving and hostile nations make an alliance and try to destroy the Gibeonites for making peace with Israel. Joshua and the Israelites honor their

covenant with the Gibeonites and go out to fight them. They are victorious only by the strength of Christ and because the Lord worked two great miracles: God rains large stones from heaven upon the enemy armies, and He causes the sun to stop moving so the Israelites will have more daylight to chase their enemies. The five enemy kings are captured and the chiefs of Israel put their feet on the defeated kings. The Bible says that Jesus will reign until all His enemies are made His footstool.

Thursday (May 25) – Joshua 11

In this chapter Joshua and the Israelites conquer the northern part of the land of Canaan. The Israelites devote all the inhabitants to destruction as God had told them. The reason for this is that the Canaanites refused to repent (they had over 400 years of warning). The destruction of the Canaanites is a picture of God's fair justice on the Last Day upon all who reject Jesus, our second and greater Joshua. But now is the time of grace and of repentance and faith. We call all people everywhere to repent and believe in Christ as we follow Jesus, our Joshua, who helps us do spiritual battle against sin and darkness.

Friday (May 26) – Joshua 12, 13

Even though there was much land still to conquer, Joshua was given the new assignment of dividing up the land. This is the rule in God's Kingdom: first the battle and then the inheritance and rest. As we spiritually fight against sin and the devil remember, that your heavenly inheritance in Christ awaits you.

Saturday (May 27) – Joshua 14, 15

The tribe of Judah receives a rich and large portion of land by lot. This is fitting, for from the tribe of Judah Jesus our second Joshua would be born. Also, we read about the faithfulness and boldness of Caleb of the tribe of Judah. He was one of the original twelve spies. He and Joshua remained faithful and fearless when the other ten spies told Israel to despair of trying to capture the land of Canaan. Caleb, despite being eighty-five years old, goes forth to defeat the Anakim (giants). Those who remain firm and faithful to Christ and His Word increase in the strength of the Lord. When we rely on Christ, He strengthens us as He did Caleb.

Sunday (May 28) – Joshua 16, 17

These two chapters are about the inheritance allotted to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. These two tribes neglect to destroy all the Canaanites in the land and instead make the Canaanites serve them. This will eventually result in them following the Canaanite idols. This serves as a warning to us. He who makes friends with this idolatrous world and wants peace and friendship from it runs the risk of his heart being turned away from Christ. Also, these two tribes complain that some of the Canaanite tribes had iron chariots and were thus too difficult to destroy. Joshua commands them to fight them, for our strength comes from Christ and not from our own arm or wisdom. Christ calls you to go forth in His strength and fight against sin, and He promises to give you victory.