

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 6: "Warrior Part 1"

This is the first of three weeks where we will examine the genre of biblical narratives. Pastor Miles has titled this "Warrior", because these are books written to define the history of mankind, and to highlight the process of which God used His plan of redemption to bring man back to a right standing relationship with Himself. A lot of the stories, or narratives, we read will show that godly men were warriors fighting for the truth.

We hope that you grow in a better understanding of this genre this next week. In doing so we will examine:

- ▶ A brief review of Gen. 3:1-11, as discussed on Sunday by Pastor Miles.
- ▶ A closer in-depth look at Sunday's devotion in Joshua 1.
- ▶ Optional weekly challenges to help grow in devotion to Christ and His Word.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening:

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 5 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 5 Weekly Challenge:

1. Recite **1 Cor. 11:26**.
2. Discuss experiences of the participation of Communion from last week. Discuss any further things related to Communion anybody in the group may have learned. Also discuss any plans to do a Baptism in the future as group or corporately with the church.

Small Group Sermon Discussion:

1. List and discuss the (3) of the (6) different Narrative Observations.
 - ▶ Narratives are stories of God's attempt to redeem mankind to a right relationship with Himself.
 - ▶ Narratives involve real people, places, and times.
 - ▶ Narratives are stories about how God uses imperfect people who trust Him to accomplish extraordinary things by trusting Him.
 - ▶ Narratives explain what did happen, but not necessarily what will happen to you.
 - ▶ Narratives don't teach but illustrate doctrine and theological concepts.
 - ▶ Narratives illustrate how to be more like Jesus.
2. Using the (6) Narrative Observations, what new insights did you learn about Genesis 3:1-11 from the sermon on Sunday?
 - ▶ **Author:** Traditionally by Moses.
 - ▶ **Characters:** God, Satan (serpent), Adam, and Eve.
 - ▶ **Drama/Plot:** Mankind called to bear God's image on Earth and Satan is determined to destroy that image.
 - ▶ **Plot Resolution:** God punishes man and Satan and promises a Savior. Sets in motion a plan of redemption and restoring relationship between God and man.
 - ▶ **Dialogue:** Between God and Adam, and between Satan and Eve.

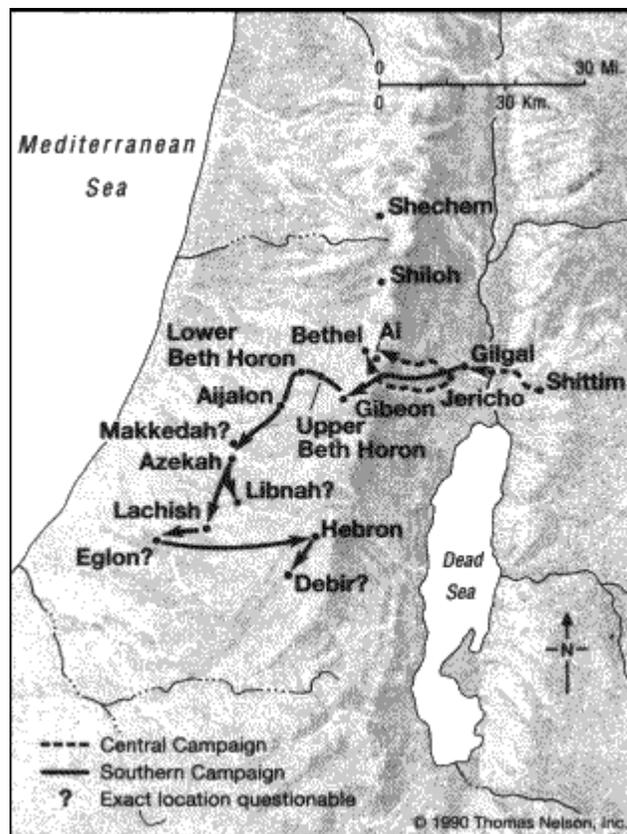
Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Joshua 1

Read Joshua 1:

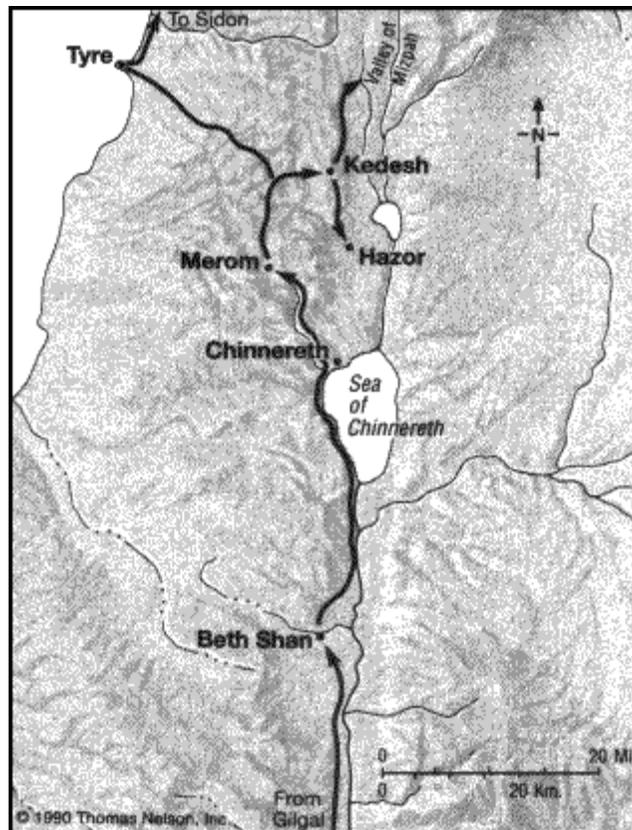
The book of Joshua continues where the Torah (first five books of the Bible) left off. So as always when reading the Bible, we have to understand the background or context of the book we are reading. Below are some pre-observations that will help us to understand what is going on in the book of Joshua:

- ▶ Joshua was the central figure, as he was the successor of Moses to lead Israel into the Promised Land (cf. 1:20).
- ▶ Joshua wrote the book of Joshua himself, citing many references to major battles that only a commander in a battle would have access to. This obviously excludes 24:29-33, the events listed after his death.
- ▶ The book covers a 25 year period, starting from the conquest to the final settlement of the land God had promised to Abraham.
- ▶ Special Note: The idea of abandoning all pagan and idolatrous worship is emphasized in chapters 6-7, when the Lord commanded the Canaanites be completely destroyed.
- ▶ Below are maps that highlight the conquests of Canaan, with all the cities listed in the conquests.

Central and Southern Campaigns



Northern Campaign



As we see in the pre-observation listed above that the Lord was serious about Israel entering the Promise Land. He was also quite serious about obedience to His Law. He promised prosperity for Israel should they keep obeying Him, but as we read throughout the Old Testament, this was not always the case. Keep this in mind when reading and studying Joshua 1, and the whole of the book of Joshua.

- ▶ Read Joshua 1 as a group.

Reflect Joshua 1:

The message for Israel is quite different than the message for us today for obvious reasons: We are not conquering a foreign land; we are not led in to battle after forty years of wandering in the wilderness, etc. But the similarities are very evident as well. Pagan and idolatrous worship is very much alive in our culture, as it was back then. While we may define idol worship as things such as electronics, people, and things of the like, they would define idol worship as the actual worship to false deities (gods), that people would worship and sacrifice to. The Lord forbade any participation of this worship, yet it would continue.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Joshua 1

(continued)

1. Four times in Chapter 1, the Lord commands Joshua “to be strong and courageous!” Discuss the obvious and not so obvious reasons for the Lord to encourage Joshua in such a way.

Obvious include:

- ▶ He is going into battle against nations that are mightier and stronger than Israel.

Non-obvious includes:

- ▶ Joshua was approximately 85 years old when commanded to lead Israel. He was old but he was obedient (cf. 24:29).
- ▶ Israel was disobedient and very difficult to control. Joshua was with Moses in the wilderness and was amongst the few allowed to possess the land. This is when Joshua was commissioned to replace Moses (cf. Num. 27:18-23; Deut. 32:23).

Respond Joshua 1:

1. What areas of your life are you lacking in strength and in courage?
2. In the areas that you lack in strength and courage in the Lord, how can you take steps to overcome this weakness?
 - ▶ This would be a great time to encourage solid prayer and study times in the Word. Challenge the group where they are at with these disciplines. Ask the group if they are participating in the devotions weekly.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (June 7-13)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” **Joshua 1:9 (NASB)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.icr.org or www.intelligentdesign.org and discover the great information you can study regarding Creation/Evolution.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

(continued)

- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Simplicity.**

Simplicity from the surface doesn't seem like it could be a discipline. But once we understand what it means, we see it is a discipline that should not be taken lightly. Simplicity is much like meekness, humility, and even submission. It is the act of which we separate ourselves from power, greed, possessions, etc. We need money and certain possessions to help us function in society, but we do not need to worship it. So with this simple definition, challenge yourself with the following:

- ▶ What things in your life can realistically live without?
- ▶ Are you lacking in simplicity, humility, and meekness because of a clinging to monetary things?
- ▶ Is there someone in your life that could learn from this discipline as well? If so, pray for them, and lovingly minister to them, by showing them that Christ and the hope that comes from Him is more than enough.

We pray your understanding of the biblical narrative and discipline of simplicity is fruitful for you in your walk with Christ.