

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Dec 2016	Joshua 1:1-18
2) 11 Dec	Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
3) 18 Dec	Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
4) 25 Dec	Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
5) 01 Jan 2017	Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
6) 08 Jan	Judges 1:1 – 3:6
7) 15 Jan	Judges 3:7 – 5:31
8) 22 Jan	Judges 6:1 – 8:21
9) 29 Jan	Judges 8:22 – 12:15
10) 05 Feb	Judges 13:1 – 16:31
11) 12 Feb	Judges 17:1 – 21:25
12) 19 Feb	Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
13) 26 Feb	Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

INTRODUCTION

- Joshua picks up where Moses left off – the conquest of the Promised Land. We will deal with tough theological issues in this book, such as does God condone genocide? – the unmerciful annihilation of entire people groups
- Notice that Joshua was the oldest one in the assembly (85). God did not pick someone who could better relate to the younger generation. He picked someone who knew Him the best.

Passage	Comments
1:16-18	<p><b>The People Commit Themselves To Follow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv16-17. "We will obey you just as we obeyed Moses" (Oh Boy! Joshua had his 1<sup>st</sup> hint of trouble – they didn't do a good job obeying Moses over the past 40 years)</li> <li>v18. "We will execute anyone who disobeys"                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Taliban and Al Qaida live by this motto</li> <li>Since we are in the Age of Grace – How should we biblically treat family members and fellow believers when they stray from God's clear commands?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray for them</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Let them go unchallenged</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Throw them out of the house or church</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Challenge them to repent and return humbly</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gossip about them/Shame them from the pulpit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Every situation is different – proceed prayerfully, with wisdom, tact, love, and know when to be patient and when to act with expediency</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Note on Leadership	<p><b>Leaders Can Only Lead If Followers Want To Follow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No matter how good leaders are, they can't accomplish anything if they don't have loyal and willing followers</li> <li>Even God said He is not able to lead stubborn cows around – they must be good sheep.....Hosea 4:16</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Joshua 1:1-9	<p><b>God is Big on Motivation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v5. "No one can beat you – I will be with you – I will not leave you!" ..... Was this an unconditional promise?</li> <li>v6. The Lord's command was not "sit and relax at the beach", but to "be strong and courageous" mentally, physically, and emotionally – know what to do, when to do it, how to do it, and do it with vigor</li> <li>v7. "Carefully Observe" consists of 2 verbs – "to guard" and "to do" – so Joshua needed to figure out HOW                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option A – Joshua was not to be overly restrictive</li> <li>Option B – Nor overly permissive</li> <li>Option C – Proper obedience requires God's wisdom to achieve beneficial results in carefully observing God's commandments in every varying situation</li> </ul> </li> <li>v8. "Recite it day and night" – Joshua was to become so familiar with God's word he could use it effectively, which means he spent much of his mental energy throughout each day contemplating the significance and proper application of God's word while not neglecting his day job. .... How well do we do this?</li> </ul>
Note on Conditions	<p><b>Hermeneutic Principle:</b> Just because a passage doesn't state conditions doesn't mean it doesn't have conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We run into doctrinal problems when we think a passage of scripture has few or no conditions attached (i.e., Name It &amp; Claim It). <b>For example:</b> Mat 21:22 states "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." We have to consider the "whole counsel of God" to realize "believing" does have conditions beyond mental acknowledgement of God's willingness and eagerness to answer our prayers:                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One needs to have pure motives ..... James 4:3</li> <li>One needs to be righteous..... Prov 15:29</li> <li>It must be God's will.....Mat 6:10</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Joshua's Conditions	<p>God had some powerful promises for Joshua – but he had some conditions to meet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joshua had to be fearless (Strong &amp; Courageous) (If a leader shows fear/doubt – who would follow?)</li> <li>Joshua had to obey God's commands meticulously</li> <li>Joshua had to be in God's word DAILY / NIGHTLY</li> </ol>
1:10-15	<p><b>Joshua Prepares the People for Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv10-15. Joshua is decisive and doesn't mince words</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Lessons Joshua Learned Following Moses.** Before a person can become a good leader they must be a good follower. Joshua followed Moses faithfully for 40 years before he got promoted
  - Moses fought external and internal battles.
    - External battles** – the Amalekites, Canaanites, Edomites, Moabites, Amorites were relatively easy battles
    - Internal battles** – Unruly crowds of Jews; his own brother & sister; his kinsmen the Levites; and an assembly of several hundred tribal leaders – proved to be Moses' undoing
  - Joshua would inherit these troubles and more – but he was the man for the times as he was used to fulfill God's 700 year old promise to Abraham to settle his descendants into their own land
- Lesson for Us.** If we want to be great leaders at work, at home, at church, how frequent should we be in God's word and prayer?

NEXT WEEK: **Joshua 2-6.** The first spy agency (FSA) is created; Jericho is wasted; and Rahab and her family are saved



Jericho soldiers were initially amused by this circling army