

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 Christmas Message Luke 1:26-38
- 5) 01 Jan 2017 Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
- 6) 08 Jan Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
- 7) 15 Jan Sanctity of Life Prov 24:10-12; Mark 10:46-49
- 8) 22 Jan Judges 1:1 – 5:31
- 9) 29 Jan Judges 6:1 – 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

- Whatever became of sin? Society now celebrates sin – Even the Pentagon has started celebrating “Gay Pride Month” every June
- Scripture presents sin as serious since it breaks our relationship with God, with people, and destroys lives, and even entire nations

Passage	Comments
Joshua 7:1-26	<p>Sin in the Camp Stops Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. Only 36 soldiers died – why the hoopla? Isn't this “acceptable losses” by most warfare standards? • Joshua's concern was for future battles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Israel's army would now be seen as beatable ♦ Israel's enemies would be emboldened and fearless ♦ Future battles would be harder to win • Why didn't God warn Joshua before the battle with Ai? • vv6-9. Joshua seemingly did the right thing to humbly fall before God and seek out the reason for the loss • vv10-13. But, God asked Joshua - “Why are you here?” - implying Joshua should've known the reason for the loss – there was sin in the camp to find and resolve • Doctrinal Issue. Seemingly, God spoke directly to Joshua regarding how to fix the problem. Is this God's method today? If not, how does God work today? • v24. Achan and his kids were stoned, burned, and buried along with his war booty and all possessions – with no chance to repent and make restitution WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God often used the 1st incidence of a major sin as an example to invoke fear & respect for His commands 1. Man picked up firewood on Sabbath . Num 15:32-35 2. Man cursed God Lev 24:11-16 3. Ananias and Saphira lied to God Acts 5:1-11 4. Christians abused Communion..... 1Cor 11:30
8:1-35	<p>Ai is Eventually Defeated by a Ruse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. ...and Israel could plunder its spoil and livestock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If only Achan had waited for this battle to keep some war booty. Our impatience often leads us to sin.
Note on War Booty	<p>Depending on the wickedness of a township, the command to Israel for what to destroy varied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destroy men, women, children, animals, and possessions Deut 7:1-6 • Destroy men, women, and children Deut 7:16 • Destroy men & women who slept w/ men Num 31:17 • Destroy men only..... Deut 20:13-14
9:1-27	<p>The Gibeonites Deceived the Israelites and Lived</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle #1. Taking the “Path of Least Resistance” always has an expensive price tag • v14. The leaders failed to consult the Lord and just casually looked at the evidence given • Principle #2. Always “Prove all things” and seek God's wisdom to prevent being deceived

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle #3. God takes vows seriously, and honoring God by keeping our integrity, even to our own hurt, has priority in life Psalms 15:4b • ? Why didn't God warn Joshua of Gibeon's deception? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If we fail to consult God, or we fail to follow His commands and principles revealed to us in His word, would we listen even if He gave us a phone call? ♦ Principle. Often times we learn through God's discipline (Job 5:17), through God-ordained catastrophes (2Chron 12:8), but fools & the wicked never learn (Prov 27:22, Isaiah 26:10)
10:1-43	<p>Sun Standing Still for 24 Hours – Mythical or Miracle? (i.e., earth's rotation slowed to a 48-hour day)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the Bible has proven to be reliable in many other incidences (historically, archeology, astronomy, behavior sciences, etc.) we should give it some leeway when unprovable incidences are presented. • Examples – 6 days of creation; 900-year longevity of man; global flood; Jonah swallowed by a fish; virgin birth, resurrection of Christ; and other wonders
Astro-nomical Note	<p>The urban legend that Princeton scientists or NASA computers have “discovered” Joshua's long day has circulated for more than 50 years, but it is baseless. http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/08/24/joshua-missing-day</p>
11:1-23	<p>Tough Statements on Genocide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:8b. They struck them down leaving no survivors • 11:11b;14b. Joshua left no one alive • 11:20b. They were completely annihilated w/out mercy
12:1-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:9;20a. Joshua treated them as God commanded – for it was the Lord's intention to harden their hearts • 11:23. After this, the land had rest from war
Wars Today vs Yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is interesting to note the U.S. Civil War lasted 4 years, WW-I lasted 5 years, and WW-II lasted 6 years, but modern wars now last for decades • One hypothesis for this seems to be our reluctance to annihilate entire towns. Is this biblical or not?

CONCLUSION/DOCTRINE/APOLOGETICS/APPLICATIONS

- How should we deal with sin – individually and corporately?
- We need to consider when it is OK to keep our heads in the sand about some sins and when it is appropriate to hit sin head-on?
- We live under different mandates today since we do not live in a Theocracy as Israel did

NEXT WEEK: Luke 1. Christmas study

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The sun stood still for 24 hours until Israel defeated their enemies. **Joshua 10:12-14**