

Joshua 7-11 - Conquest & Covenant



Personal Preparation - before you meet...

This week, the personal preparation is easy. Read through Joshua 7-11.

First, write down your understanding of the covenant between God and Israel. (See Deut 28 if you're stuck.)

Second, from chapters 7-11, what are the strengths and weaknesses of this covenant?

In the personal preparation you'll have looked at chapters 7-11 of Joshua. We're not going to cover quite that much tonight, but we do want to puzzle out a few issues that these chapters raise. The issues have to do with God's covenant with Israel, Israel's entrance into the land and how the world perceives God.⁹

Let's start off in the middle of this section. **Read Joshua 8:30-35.**

1. What would be the content of the covenant that Joshua is renewing here?
2. Who was included in the covenant?

Let's now find out what's caused Joshua to renew the covenant. **Read Joshua 7.**

3. What's the connection in this chapter between the covenant & God's name?
4. How do we see the covenant working itself out in this chapter?

Once Achan is dealt with, peace is restored between God and Israel, and Ai becomes the next town destroyed by God through the Israelites (Chapter 8:1-29). But we see more of the strengths and weaknesses of the relationship between God and Israel in chapter 9-10.

Read Joshua 9-10:15

5. What loophole do the Gibeonites exploit? (See Deuteronomy 20:10-18 for a hint.)
6. What was Israel's mistake?

⁹ There's a lot of reading tonight. But it's good for you!

7. Looking at the flow of the story in both chapters, how does God's covenant with Israel work both for and against people - Israelite and Gentile?

8. From all that you've looked at tonight, what are the problems in the covenant for God, Israel & non-Israelites?

Below is printed the ESV version of Romans 3:21-26 (It's a little clearer). Have a read.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

9. How do we find in Jesus an answer to defending God's name, the problem with faithfulness in the covenant, and the inclusion of non-Israelites?

10. Discuss the implications of God's righteousness for our relationship with God (assurance, confidence, how God sees us etc.) and for our conversations with others (God's goodness, God's justice, God's patience etc.).