



MONDAY 11 JUNE 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 13

Plug In...

At this chapter we take a big jump forward in time. Joshua is now old. Probably around 85 years of age given his age when first scouting the land (Numbers 13-14).

Part one of this story shows God has taken the Israelites into the Land and they have subdued the occupants. It finishes on the note: "So Joshua took the entire land just as the LORD had directed Moses" (12:23).

Part two advances forward and says, "There are still very large areas of land to be taken over" (13:1). This is not incoherent, the land is definitely Israel's now; there is no serious opposition left. The statement of 'taking the entire land' is to highlight the different position Israel is in now compared to Abraham, where there were just a few kids burying him in a plot that he had to buy off the Canaanites ([Genesis 23](#)).

Chew It Over...

An interplay that appears here occurs throughout the next batch of chapters. On the one hand, there is the assurance that the LORD will drive out the rest of the people (v.6) and then on the other, notes from the narrator that the Israelites failed to drive them out (v. 13). [It occurs again in [Joshua 15:63](#); [16:10](#).]

We learn that God promises success. We also see that God's promised success comes to those that take up what God says to do and actually do it. God will indeed make sure the inhabitants will be driven out, but the Israelites actually have to get up, move, take the land, and push the inhabitants out.

Likewise in our battle against sin, God doesn't bypass involving us in the daily fight as He promises success. John Piper says, "The new creation in Christ is a fighter". He goes on to say that new birth given by Jesus creates a 'divine-like DNA'. Our DNA now wants and wills not to go the way of sin. So we are fighters – daily – and we fight hard against sin – not letting it reign in our bodies ([Romans 6:11-12](#)).

How can you fight off sin this week? Some ideas: confess sin in prayer each day; listen to God's voice each day; use alarms, reminders, prompts to get you to pause before moving – sort out motivations, pray, then step forward; pick your bones up and get to church, get to growth group; be involved in act of forgiving.

Prayer Suggestion

Directly ask the Spirit to wage war within your heart ([Romans 8:13](#)).



TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 14

Plug In...

The detailed boundaries, the maths, the lists don't make for the most dramatic reading in the following chapters. Still, interspersed are short pauses to tell a story or give a brief comment. In lists, genealogies, maps, it is these comments that often tell you what it all means.

Caleb is 85 years old. He came out of Egypt with God's promise 45 years ago. He spied the land with Joshua and they were the only ones who believed God would give it to them – they're the only ones from the first generation now in the Promised Land.

After praising God for his strength, Caleb asks Joshua to give him the hill country of Judah (v.12). Just like last time when he gave a good report on the land, here Caleb says even though there are Anakites (giants) and fortified cities (strong armies), the LORD will help and so he will have success.

Chew It Over...

Consider Jesus, who fixed His eyes on what God had promised and stepped out in faith ([Hebrews 12:2](#)). What things did He have looming large and scary that He needed to look beyond, trusting God?

Step out in faith is used rather loosely by many. But when it is something God has absolutely promised, then we can step out in faith. [NB: We don't just step out, we step out upon the promises God has articulated. Anything else could be as crazy as stepping off a cliff in faith!] With God's promises, we can say the same as Caleb, "With the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as the LORD said".

Look around, what in your life are you not doing that the Lord has asked you to do?
Explore the reasons? Are they excuses? (Too old, too scary, too unlikely?)

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God like Caleb for whatever abilities, resources you have been given to step out in faith. Ask God to be with you. Ask God to motivate your first steps.



WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 15

Plug In...

The allotting of the new land, the land across the Jordan, allots Judah first. There is a pause to tell of the faith of one man from Judah and his loyalty to God – Caleb.

At the end of Judah's allotment another insert about Caleb. This time we read of Caleb's faith in action. Despite the giants, despite the big armies, Caleb takes the hill country. He trusts the Lord.

Vignettes about Caleb's faith wrap around the details of Judah's allotment. Caleb is the model of how people should be. For all that get allotted land he's the paradigm of faithful attitude and action. If God allots, then nothing will stop them. Go up and take the land.

Chew It Over...

We need to grasp things like Caleb. What God has allotted to you, it is yours.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul speaks to Christians that ended up parading their fears and insecurities through doing things in a worldly way. The world says you need acceptance, profile, kudos to get it all. Many of the Israelites, unlike Caleb, concluded you needed to do things the world's way to have success – so they avoided driving out the inhabitants of the land despite being allotted it by God (see: [Joshua 13:13](#); [15:63](#); [16:10](#)).

Remember, Caleb saw the promise to Abraham as a 'given'. Caleb came out of Egypt and waited and wandered for 45 years before seeing the land. All this time, he acted in attitude and action in the belief that *all promised to him was his*. Paul says to us, "All

things are yours” ([1 Corinthians 3:22](#)). Why? For God has placed everything under the feet of Christ (every moment of history, every problem, every good and great thing, even the presence of evil, taking the gospel to other nations, having breakfast in the morning – every nano second, the minutest particle, EVERYTHING exists to bring glory to God ([Colossians 1:15-18](#))). And, “You are of Christ, and Christ is of God” ([1 Corinthians 3:23](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that you will live out in action a faith that believes everything has been allotted to you in Christ. Ask for strength and courage in God’s promises even if they seem crazy now, crazy to the world.



THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 16-17

Plug In...

The house of Joseph, made up of Ephraim and Manasseh, are in contrast to Caleb. Caleb acted in faith. The house of Joseph pull back, lack confidence, carry unbelief.

They complain to Joshua, the area allotted is too small, we're numerous. Joshua says, well if you're that big, go take more of the land, you'll succeed under God. They then reply, but there are Rephaim (giants) and Canaanites with *iron chariots*. Joshua reiterates again, they will have success despite the giants and the armies.

Chew It Over...

The house of Joseph complain about Joshua's allotment. Really it was God who allotted the space. Let us look more closely at our complaints. They may be levelled at an individual, but are we actually complaining about God? Does our complaint say more about our trust in God?

How are we going with pessimism? Do we constantly say "can't", "couldn't", "no way"? Do we only see obstacles and then give up?

Christian optimism runs on God's prior promises. We don't make it up, we don't wish. We see obstacles, but we see them shrink under the weight of God's promises and guarantees.

With the following Scriptural promises, think of people and scenarios coming up and weigh your heart's optimism:

So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. ([Matthew 6:31-34](#))

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ([Acts 1:8](#); cf. [Acts 2:38-41](#)).

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. ([Romans 1:16](#))

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. ([Philippians 4:19](#))

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ([1 Peter 4:10](#))

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ([James 1:5](#))

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ([James 4:7](#))

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ([1 John 1:9](#))

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); cf. [Joshua 1:5-9](#); [Hebrews 13:5-6](#))

Prayer Suggestion

Meditate on the Scriptures above. Ask the Lord to build your strength, courage, and optimism in those promises. Ask that you'll begin to see yourself taking positive actions in the name of those promises.



FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 18-19

Plug In...

Joshua blasts the remaining seven tribes. They're sitting back and not taking the land they've been allotted (18:3-4).

The rest of these two chapters give the dimensions of the zones allotted to those tribes. All that remains is for them to get up and take it.

The final scene in the whole section about allotments (chapters 13-19) is that Joshua, son of Nun, receives his inheritance.

Chew It Over...

Chapters 13-19 cover the allotments. They keep indicating that many tribes didn't get moving. They held back from completely removing the Canaanites. They showed apathy, lack of faith, fear. In contrast, we see Caleb's faith and loyalty to God at the start of the allotments – he gets up as an 85 year old man and takes on the giants of the hill country. At the end of the allotments, the other man of faith, Joshua, around 85 years of age, takes up his inheritance.

This is the theme of Joshua: have faith, have courage, God leads, God gives, so move, take up what has been given to you.

Read [Hebrews 4:1-11](#). Following Jesus, we stand in the same position. In Christ we have entered our eternal rest, it has started. But we must press on towards the final completion. Hebrews follows the pattern of Joshua's conquest to explain our rest. We who believe enter that rest. Still, we must make every effort to enter that rest.

Prayer Suggestion

A prayer based on [Philippians 3:7-14](#).

Lord we thank you for the richness of knowing Christ. For the complete righteousness that comes from faith. I want to know Christ. I want to know the power of His resurrection. May I go through the battle, the hardships of this life, trusting that I will attain resurrection from the dead.

Help me Lord to take up all that you have given me. Holy Spirit empower me to press on until the end. Make me strain forward. Take me from this position to completion – to stand with Jesus, resurrected, at rest, in heaven.



WEEKEND 16-17 JUNE 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 20

Plug In...

After the allotments of inheritance to the tribes, the very next thing attended to is setting up the cities of refuge.

The city of refuge was a safe place where justice would be fair. It removed power of determining guilt and punishment from the avenger. If the person was found to be guilty of manslaughter they could remain in the city.

That the designating of these cities is first-order business after the allotments reminds Israel of its calling and purpose ([Exodus 19:5-6](#)). They are to be different from other nations. Their way of life is after the character of God ([Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 18:9-13](#)). The nations are the audience to what God is doing through Israel ([Deuteronomy 14:2](#) [NB: 'treasured possession' is something a king shows off to people]. Israel is at the centre of the world ([Deuteronomy 32:8](#)), existing for the benefit of the world ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)).

Chew It Over...

Consider how God is showing off the children of God now to a watching world ([Philippians 2:12-18](#)). Showing off the church to all the supernatural powers ([Ephesians 3:7-11](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Ask that God will fulfil His purpose in you. Ask that Jesus will send His Spirit and make you sparkle by His grace. Praise God for His salvation and the inscribing of His character upon our lives.