

The Book of Joshua



The Twelve Tribes of Israel
Temple Israel, Cliffside, New Jersey

The Book of Joshua

Bible Study – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Collinsville, Illinois

Chapter Twenty Two

Joshua's First Farewell Sermon, Blessing & Dismissal (22.1-9)

How is Joshua's sermon related to the theology of the land?

The Land provides the place for God's salvation. Israel's possession of the land is tied to their faithfulness and obedience. Their failure to maintain faithfulness and obedience results in expulsion from the land. However God ultimately responds with the new covenant.

Jeremiah prophesied to the very bitter end of Israel's rebellion. In 22.29 he says,

"O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD..."

This followed by the acknowledgement that Israel will no longer rule in Judah.

However God will send another ruler:

^{NKJ} Jeremiah 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.



What are the five expressions of faithful obedience in 22.4?

Love, Walk, Guard, Cling, and Serve – Could you use these as prayerful goals of life as we read in Luther's Small Catechism... "that I might live with Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness..."?



What is the key element in every Biblical blessing?

The "Name of the Lord"

^{NKJ} Numbers 6:22 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

²⁴ "The **LORD** bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The **LORD** make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The **LORD** lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." ²⁷ "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

What role does "commendation" play in the community of faith? See 22.2-3

Words of encouragement, thanksgiving, and commendation are very important. We often hear Jesus and Paul saying similar things. So often we think that this is understood and that nothing needs to be said. At other times we avoid it because we think we're going to leave someone out.

What is Joshua concerned about in verse 5?

Israel is returning with a lot of wealth. Joshua knows that this is a recipe for spiritual degeneration. He emphasizes that faithfulness is more important than physical well-being. He certainly remembers that it was in the transjordan that many in Israel turn to Baal Peor. Paul also reminds us in 1 Cor 10.1-13 that Christians need to watch out for temptations that could cause them to fall.

What was David's rule when it came to dividing spoil? How does this illustrate salvation by grace?

In 1 Samuel 30.24 David required that the share of the man of war was to be the same as that of the man who stayed back to

guard the supplies. Isaiah 53.12 also speaks of Jesus' victory and the division of spoils. In the Parable of the Vineyard, Jesus points out that everyone receives the same reward for their labors (because the reward is really not based on their labors but on the promise of the owner of the vineyard). While the Bible does speak of different levels of glory in heaven, overall it emphasizes the one reward of salvation that Christ has earned for us.

A Different Altar Threatens Unity (22.10-12)



What major mistake did the Eastern tribes make in building this other altar?

They did not consult Joshua or Eleizer.

Why is the response of the western tribes to prepare for war not entirely surprising?

In Deuteronomy 13.12-18 we read that God not only required the destruction of the pagans in Canaan for their wickedness, He also required the destruction of Israelites who turned to that wickedness.

This commandment applied only to the inhabitants of Canaan and to the Israelites who were to possess their land.

The principle of this commandment, however, is still carried out in the work of church discipline. The church cannot condemn the

wickedness of the world and tolerate it in its own ranks at the same time.

How are we to handle divisions?

In 1 Corinthians we read about a divided church (Immorality, chps 5-6; Women leading worship, 11.2-16; 14.33-40; No unity in communion, 11.17-34; Misuse of spiritual gifts, chps 12, 14). Paul didn't ignore it. He painstakingly addressed each problem and sought Christ-centered resolutions. In Matthew 18.15-20 we read of Jesus' command that offenses be handled with care.

Three good lessons from Joshua 22: 1. Open and advanced communication. 2. Changes should be undertaken with caution 3. We should investigate before we retaliate.

A Delegation is Sent (22.13-20)

Why is the delegation concerned about the perceived sin of the transjordan tribes?

In 22.17 the delegation reminds the transjordan tribes what happened at Baal Peor. The sins of some brought havoc to all. The sin of Achan was of the same kind. While no one's spiritual relationship with God is undone by someone else's sin, it is true that we all suffer the physical consequences of each other's sins. One of Satan's best lies is "It's OK because I'm not hurting anyone..."

The word "plague" in 22.17 is the same used to describe the death of the firstborn in Egypt.

What generous offer do the cisjordan tribes make?

They offer to share their allotment on the cis side of the Jordan if that will prevent their brothers from forsaking the LORD. What is losing turf compared to losing the covenant?

Why is the issue of one altar so important?

There is only one place where God causes His name to dwell. For Israel it was with the tabernacle. Jesus is the new temple (John 2.18-22). His cross is the new altar, the one place where His sacrifice of sin is available to the whole world.

Explanation and Reconciliation (22.13-34)

How do the tranjordan tribe express their commitment to the one true God?

The transjordan tribes acknowledge the true names of God the one means of grace made available at the tabernacle. (Word and Sacrament)

El – Shortest name for God. Used 237 times in the OT. It means “mighty” or “strong.” It was also used by pagans. For this reason it is often accompanied by other names or words: El-Elyon “God most high,” El-Shaddai “God Almighty.” It is also sometimes the element in human names such as Elkanah (God creates or takes possession), Elijah (My God is Yahweh), Elisha (My God saves), Eliezer (My God helps), Israel (He strives – God), Daniel (My judge is God), Michael (Who is like God?), Gabriel (My strength is God).

Elohim – Used 2,602 times in the OT. It is similar to El and may be derived from the word for “fear, reverence.” The plural of majesty reflects the trinune nature of God. In creation Elohim creates through the Word (John 1.14) while the Spirit hovers over the waters. Also in Genesis 1.26 Elohim says, “Let us make man in our image...” Yet throughout the OT the verbs, adjectives and pronouns associated with Elohim are singular. This shows both the three personal nature of God as well as His one essence.



this is my name forever.

Yahweh – These are notes from Chapter One...

The importance of the name is explained in Exodus 3.14:

And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.' "

The first syllable of the name “Jesus,” and “Joshua,” “Je” is a shortened form of “Yahweh.” Both names mean “Yahweh Saves.”

Jesus applies the significance of the name to Himself in John 8.58:

^{NKJ} John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

That the Jews attempted to stone Jesus after He said this shows that they understood what He was saying.

How can the focus on Word and Sacrament save us from unnecessary division and dissention today?

Unity is the work of God (See the Highpriestly Prayer of Jesus in John 17). God does His work among us through the means of grace – Word and Sacrament.

Let us shun all vain contention
Touching words and outward things,
Whence, alas! So much dissension
And such bitter rancor springs;
Troubles cease where Christ brings peace
And sweet healing on His wings.

("We Are Called by One" ELH 421:3)