

# Making Promises

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## Part 4: The Conquest

### Review

- The date of the conquest would have been approximately between the years of 1406 and 1399 BC.
- Though the Egyptians had control over the region, their lack of interest in foreign policy coupled with the regional powers preoccupation with each other, led to a power vacuum in the area. Israel was able to wrestle control away from the small city-state kings in Canaan.
- Christians can readily acknowledge that the Old Testament text itself is not claiming an ideal or ultimate ethic, but God as creator has the right to judge humanity in whatever way he chooses. The conquest is a picture of the final judgment to come.

### Joshua

- The command of the Lord at **Horeb** for Israel to set out for the Sworn Land and take it (**Deut. 1:6–8**) is about to be realized in Israel's youth who survived the wilderness.
  - The book of Joshua opens with Israel on the brink of **crossing the Jordan** to fulfill their destiny with the Land.
- The book of Joshua is divided into three parts: the first part describes the **conquest of the land (Josh. 1:1-12:24)**; the second part describes the **division of the land (Josh. 13:1-21:45)** among the twelve tribes of Israel according to their "clans;" The third part describes how Israel is to **retain the land (Josh. 22:1-24:27)**.
  - The book opens with the Lord's eightfold promise to give Israel **the promised land (Josh. 1:2, 3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 [2x])** and ends with reminders that the Lord has **faithfully kept his promises (Josh. 23:14; 24:8, 11, 13)**.
  - The book's three sections are marked off by a summary refrain: the Lord **gave the Land** and Israel **took it (Josh. 11:23; Josh. 21:43–45)**.
  - The theme of the book of Joshua is best summarized as The Lord's **faithfulness** and Israel's **required obedience**.
- The Lord will give the land to Israel on condition of **faith** expressed by Joshua in three ways: to cross the Jordan and set foot on the Land (**Josh. 1:2–5, 10–11**),

to be courageous to fulfill his task (**Josh. 1:6**), and to meditate on the Law (**Josh. 1:7-9, 13**).

## Conquest

- Joshua sends out spies much like Moses, yet this time it is the **Canaanites** who fear, rather than Israel (**Josh. 2:9-11**).
  - ◉ The spies make a treaty with Rahab, contrary to **the command of Moses (Deut. 7:2)**. However, the reason for Moses' command was because the ones shown mercy would lead Israel to follow other gods (**Deut. 7:4**).
  - ◉ Rahab's faith **strengthens** Israel's faith in the Lord. Her confession of faith in I AM stands in marked contrast to the Canaanites' dread of him (**Josh. 2:9-11, 24**).
- The **ark of the covenant**, carried by the Lord's priests, leads Israel into the swollen Jordan, dries it up, and protects the holy nation as they step into the Promised Land (**Josh. 3:14-17**).
  - ◉ The Lord teaches the Israelites and the Canaanites two lessons: First, the Lord, not Baal, is the true God **over the waters (Ps. 114)**.
  - ◉ Second, the Lord demonstrates his **rightful claim to the Land (Num. 5:16-28)**.
  - ◉ The historical and theological background explains the fear in hearts of **the Canaanite kings (Josh. 5:1)**.
- As Israel stops at Gilgal before for the conquest of the Promised Land, they go through a threefold ritual preparation: **circumcision (Josh. 5:2-9)**, **Passover (Josh. 5:10-12)**, and **reverence for I AM's** heavenly commander (**Josh. 5:13-15**).
  - ◉ Each of these ritual incidents displays a parallel between **Moses** and **Joshua**.
  - ◉ Both leaders **struck fear** in the hearts of their enemies (**Josh. 5:1; Exod. 15:14-16**); both initiated **circumcision** before fully entering the task (**Josh. 5:2-9; Exod. 4:24-26**); both celebrated **the Passover** as part of the march to the Holy Land (**Josh. 5:10-12; Exod. 12**); both **took their sandals off** before I AM (**Josh. 5:13-15; Exod. 3:5**).
  - ◉ It seems abundantly clear from this event that the "commander of the army of the Lord" is **the preincarnate Christ (Josh 5:15 cf. Rev. 19:10; Rev. 22:8-9)**.

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| <b>Deut.<br/>1:6-8</b>    | 6 "The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.'   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:2</b>      | "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:3</b>      | Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:6</b>      | Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.  |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:11</b>     | "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.' "   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:13</b>     | "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.'   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:14</b>     | Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them,  |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:15</b>     | until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>23:14</b>    | "And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.  |
| <b>Josh.<br/>24:8</b>     | Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you.   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>24:11</b>    | And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>24:13</b>    | I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'  |
| <b>Josh.<br/>11:23</b>    | So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.   |
| <b>Josh.<br/>21:43-45</b> | 43 Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. 44 And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands. 45 Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.  |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:2-5</b>    | 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.               |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:10-11</b>  | 10 And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, 11 "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.' "  |
| <b>Josh.<br/>1:7-9</b>    | 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." |
| <b>Deut.<br/>7:2</b>      | and when the Lord your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.   |

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| <b>Deut. 7:4</b>     | for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.   |
| <b>Josh. 2:9-11</b>  | 9 and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.   |
| <b>Josh. 2:24</b>    | And they said to Joshua, "Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."   |
| <b>Josh. 3:14-17</b> | 14 So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.   |
| <b>Josh. 5:1</b>     | As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.   |
| <b>Josh. 5:2-9</b>   | 2 At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time." 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. 4 And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. 5 Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. 6 For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord; the Lord swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8 When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. 9 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. |
| <b>Josh. 5:10-12</b> | 10 While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. 11 And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.   |
| <b>Josh. 5:13-15</b> | 13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15 And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.  |
| <b>Ex. 15:14-16</b>  | 14 The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. 15 Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. 16 Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.   |
| <b>Ex. 4:24-26</b>   | 24 At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. 25 Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" 26 So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.   |
| <b>Ex. 3:5</b>       | Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."  |
| <b>Josh. 5:15</b>    | And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.   |

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| <b>Rev.<br/>19:10</b>  | Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.  |
| <b>Rev.<br/>22:8-9</b> | 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." |