

Making Promises

Part 4: The Conquest

Review

- God is establishing his kingdom on earth with the nation of Israel as they take possession of the land of promise.
- As part of the acquisition of the promised land, the children of Israel must purge the evil person from among them. This begins with the total dedication of the city of Jericho (except for Rahab and her family), and the destruction of the people of Ai.
- The children of Israel make their way through the promised land, conquering people who unite against them. Afterwards, they divide up the land amongst the tribes – with Levi and Joseph not getting any land, and Ephraim and Manasseh receiving territory.

Keep It!

- The narrator now relates **three scenes** to show that Israel must retain the Land in the same way they possessed it. However, the call to retain the Land by covenant fidelity creates tension with the reality of Israel's heart to be unfaithful.
 - **First**, Joshua releases the **Transjordan tribes** from further service in Canaan because they have fulfilled their obligations (**Josh. 22:1–8; 1:15–18; 21:43–45; Num. 32:20–22; Deut. 3:20**).
 - ▶ So that future generations in western Israel may not **bar** the eastern tribes from coming to worship the Lord west of the Jordan, they build an imposing altar at Gilead as a witness that The Lord has elected them also to be his people (**Josh. 22:10**).
 - ▶ The western tribes, fearing the eastern tribes have **apostacized**, confront them (**Josh. 22:16–18, 19–20**). The eastern tribes have to assuage the western fears (**Josh. 22:26–29**).
 - **Second**, Joshua gives a **farewell address** in which he charges the leaders of Israel to maintain covenant faithfulness to the Lord (**Josh. 23:6**).
 - ▶ Joshua presents to the people a **call to obedience** (**Josh. 23:6, 11**), **affirmations** that the Lord has kept covenant fidelity by dispossessing the Canaanites (**Josh. 23:5, 9, 14**), a **stern warning** against following the gods of Canaan (**Josh. 23:7, 12–13**), and a **prediction** that Israel will eventually be expelled from the Land (**Josh. 23:15–16**).

- ▶ Joshua's **farewell** asserts both a successful ending to subduing the Land and the beginning of Israel's failed history to retain it.
- **Third**, Israel's **leaders**, eyewitnesses of The Lord's amazing acts in the founding of the nation, seal and renew the covenant four times, twice under Moses (**Exod. 24; Deut. 29:1**) and twice under Joshua (**Josh. 8:30–34; 24:11–13, 18**).
 - ▶ Covenant renewal is necessary because Israel has again fallen into **idolatry** (**Josh. 24:14**).
 - ▶ Joshua gathers them at **Shechem** which is probably chosen because Jacob put away the foreign gods of his household beneath the oak at Shechem (**Gen. 35:1–4**).

The Land

- Whereas the Egyptians thought their land belonged to Pharaoh, the biblical writers regard the Lord as the **ultimate owner** of the earth, free to distribute it to whom he will (**Deut. 32:8–9; Pss. 24:1–2; 89:11; Acts 17:26**).
 - He has the sovereign right and power to **dispossess** old owners and replace them with new ones (**Amos 9:7**).
- The Lord chooses the places where **he dwells** with his people according to his good pleasure, and to enjoy his presence they must live holy lives as defined by Israel's covenant.
 - The Lord either **evicts** sinners from his presence, as in the case of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and of Israel's exile from the Land, or he will remove his presence, as he did from Jerusalem before handing it over to destruction (**Ezek. 8–10; 20**).
 - Those who keep the covenant uniquely enjoy his **protection** and **provision** at his sacred place.
 - In the end, the wicked will be **torn from the land**, and only the people of God will enjoy his presence in the regenerated earth (**Prov. 2:21–22; 1 Cor. 6:9–11; Rev. 22:14**).
- Unlike the Old Testament age, Christ does not authorize or commission the church to establish a **geopolitical kingdom** in the new age.
 - Paul writes that the apostles do not fight with the weapons of the world, rather, they take thought captive and establish a spiritual kingdom by **preaching the gospel** (**2 Cor. 10:4**).
- In the end, the **meek** will **inherit the earth** (**Matt. 5:5; Ps. 37:11; Rom. 4:13; Heb. 11:16**).

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<p>Joshua 22:1–8</p>	<p>1 At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, 2 and said to them, “You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you and have obeyed my voice in all that I have commanded you. 3 You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful to keep the charge of the Lord your God. 4 And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as he promised them. Therefore turn and go to your tents in the land where your possession lies, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan. 5 Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” 6 So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents. 7 Now to the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua had given a possession beside their brothers in the land west of the Jordan. And when Joshua sent them away to their homes and blessed them, 8 he said to them, “Go back to your tents with much wealth and with very much livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and with much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers.”</p>
<p>Joshua 1:15–18</p>	<p>15 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.” 16 And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses! 18 Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”</p>
<p>Joshua 21:43–45</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Numbers 32:20–22</p>	<p>20 So Moses said to them, “If you will do this, if you will take up arms to go before the Lord for the war, 21 and every armed man of you will pass over the Jordan before the Lord, until he has driven out his enemies from before him 22 and the land is subdued before the Lord; then after that you shall return and be free of obligation to the Lord and to Israel, and this land shall be your possession before the Lord.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 3:20</p>	<p>until the Lord gives rest to your brothers, as to you, and they also occupy the land that the Lord your God gives them beyond the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession which I have given you.’</p>
<p>Joshua 22:10</p>	<p>And when they came to the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size.</p>
<p>Joshua 22:16–18</p>	<p>16 “Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord, ‘What is this breach of faith that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away this day from following the Lord by building yourselves an altar this day in rebellion against the Lord? 17 Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor from which even yet we have not cleansed ourselves, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation of the Lord, 18 that you too must turn away this day from following the Lord? And if you too rebel against the Lord today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.</p>
<p>Joshua 22:19–20</p>	<p>19 But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the Lord’s land where the Lord’s tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us. Only do not rebel against the Lord or make us as rebels by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the Lord our God. 20 Did not Achan the son of Zerah break faith in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel? And he did not perish alone for his iniquity.’ ”</p>

<p>Joshua 22:26–29</p>	<p>26 Therefore we said, ‘Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, 27 but to be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, that we do perform the service of the Lord in his presence with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and peace offerings, so your children will not say to our children in time to come, “You have no portion in the Lord.” ’ 28 And we thought, ‘If this should be said to us or to our descendants in time to come, we should say, “Behold, the copy of the altar of the Lord, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you.” ’ 29 Far be it from us that we should rebel against the Lord and turn away this day from following the Lord by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering, or sacrifice, other than the altar of the Lord our God that stands before his tabernacle!’</p>
<p>Joshua 23:6</p>	<p>Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left,</p>
<p>Joshua 23:11</p>	<p>Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God.</p>
<p>Joshua 23:5</p>	<p>The Lord your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you.</p>
<p>Joshua 23:9</p>	<p>For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day.</p>
<p>Joshua 23:14</p>	<p>“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.</p>
<p>Joshua 23:7</p>	<p>that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them,</p>
<p>Joshua 23:12–13</p>	<p>12 For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, 13 know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you.</p>
<p>Joshua 23:15–16</p>	<p>15 But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the Lord your God has given you, 16 if you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 29:1</p>	<p>These are the words of the covenant that the Lord commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb.</p>
<p>Joshua 8:30–34</p>	<p>30 At that time Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, 31 just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. 33 And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.</p>
<p>Joshua 24:11–13</p>	<p>11 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. 12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. 13 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.’</p>
<p>Joshua 24:18</p>	<p>And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”</p>
<p>Joshua 24:14</p>	<p>“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.</p>

Genesis 35:1-4	1 God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." 4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.
Deuteronomy 32:8-9	8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. 9 But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.
Psalms 24:1-2	1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
Psalms 89:11	The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.
Acts 17:26	And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,
Amos 9:7	"Are you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel?" declares the Lord. "Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?"
Proverbs 2:21-22	21 For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, 22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.
1 Corinthians 6:9-11	9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
Revelation 22:14	Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.
2 Corinthians 10:4	For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.
Matthew 5:5	"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Psalms 37:11	But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.
Romans 4:13	For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
Hebrews 11:16	But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.