

IMMERSE: KINGDOMS

Week 1 - INTRO; JOSHUA – Pt. 1

June 12, 2022

Daniel set his heart to understand God's Word – Dan. 10:12.

The aim of the Immerse Bible Reading Series is for us to know how the books of the Bible work together to proclaim God's story of His creation's restoration.

God will restore His creation according to His original plan!

The PLOT of the entire Bible can be summarized in four words:

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

How are we moving from the Torah to the “history books” (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, and I & II Kings)? We read of the land, the land of Canaan, being promised to the Jewish people in Genesis. In Exodus God delivered them from bondage in Egypt, and set them on their way to the land of promise. The children of Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness toward that land of milk and honey (Ex. 3:8; Num. 14:8). At the end of the book of Deuteronomy, two million plus Jewish people are positioned on the east side of the Jordan River looking over to the land of promise. The true story of Scripture which unfolds God's plan and promises continues!

JOSHUA

What leads us into Joshua? God's promise to make of Israel a great nation and His promise of the land (Gen. 12:1-3).

Deut. 6:21, 23 - you shall say to your son: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;... 23 Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.

Even though the children of Israel continued to veer from God, why did God give them the land? BECAUSE GOD PROMISED!!

The book of Deuteronomy underscores LOVE!

Deut. 5:29 - Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

Deut. 6:5 - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deut. 30:1-3-6 - Now it shall come to pass,(WHEN?) when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, (the timeframe is THE FUTURE!) 2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you...6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your

descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

2

Deut. 34:9 - Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. Moses passed the leadership on to Joshua before he/Moses died. Joshua did NOT take Moses' place.

Deut. 34:10-12 – ¹⁰ But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. The children of Israel were told to anticipate a greater Prophet

Deut. 18:18-19 - I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. The people waited and watched for the Greater Prophet, the Greater Deliverer, the Greater King – JESUS.

Joshua's name is Yeshua in Hebrew which means "God is salvation"! How appropriate for the one who was given the responsibility/privilege of leading the children of Israel into the land of promise following Moses' death...to be named "Yeshua"! Is this a foreshadowing of the work of THE Messiah, Whose name is Yeshua, Who is the way into the ultimate land of promise? We read in Joshua 21:44 that under Joshua/Yeshua, for a short period, the children of Israel experienced rest...foreshadowing the greater Yeshua who will bring His followers into eternal rest!

The purpose of Joshua affirms God's plan to fulfill the land promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. God is faithful!

The first task given to Joshua was to destroy Canaanite power in the land by destroying their key cities. Secondly, Joshua was to divide up the land among the tribes of Israel. Once the land was parceled out among the tribes, it became the responsibility of each individual tribe to enter its territory and eliminate all the Canaanites left in that territory. Joshua obeyed the Lord and completed his assigned tasks. Israel did not complete their task.

The promise of the land that God gave to the Jewish people...the land that they own but do not yet possess...will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom (Eze. 48).

Josh. 1:1-9 – appears to be the preamble to the whole book containing the basic principles that were to guide Joshua and Israel so they could obtain all that God had promised their forefathers – which would include all the covenant blessings noted in Lev. 26 and Deut. 28. *Be strong and of good courage...be strong and very courageous...be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

Josh. 1:10-11 - Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess."

Josh 2:1 - Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, 'Go, view the land, especially Jericho. So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

3

“Especially Jericho”...WHY?

- Jericho was five miles west of the Jordan River.
- Jericho was strategically located as a border city.
- Jericho was a secure fortress with high, formidable, intimidating walls. Jericho caused fear, dread, and apprehension. Intentional planning!
- Num. 33:49-53 – God, manifesting Himself as the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, brought the children of Israel to this specific location across from Jericho. God had a purpose. Jericho was the first city standing in Israel’s way to take possession of the land of promise.
- Additionally, ancient Jericho controlled important migration routes between the north and south, and the east and west within the land of Canaan. Jericho controlled the flow of the Canaanites – the people, their trade, their communication, and their supply lines.
- Taking Jericho would split the forces of the Canaanites by coming into Canaan in the middle of the land of Canaan and dividing their supply lines.
- Conquering Jericho would give the children of Israel a strong foothold into the land.
- God intended for the Israelites to be faced with what they could NOT conquer!

**

STUDY TIME:



Schematic cross-section diagram of the fortification system at Jericho.

What Archaeologists unearthed at Jericho tells us that Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The retaining wall was approx. 12-15 feet high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall six feet thick and

about 20 to 26 feet high. At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 46 feet above the ground level outside the retaining wall. This is what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city each day for seven days.

...especially Jericho....

Within the upper wall was an area of approximately six acres, while the total area of the upper city and fortification system was 50% larger, or about nine acres. Based on the archaeologist's rule of thumb of 200 persons per acre, the population of the upper city

4

would have been about 1,200. However, from excavations carried out by a German team in the first decade of this century, we know that people were also living on the embankment between the upper and lower city walls. In addition, it is thought that the Canaanites living in surrounding villages would have fled to Jericho for safety. It is assumed that there were several thousand people inside the walls when the Israelites came against the city.

AND, the citizens of Jericho were well prepared for a siege. A bountiful spring provided much water. At the time of the attack, it was harvest time (Josh. 3:15). The citizens had an abundant supply of food. This has been borne out by many large jars full of grain found in the Canaanite homes by John Garstang in his excavation in the 1930s and also by Kenyon. With a plentiful food supply and ample water, the inhabitants of Jericho could have held out for perhaps several years.

**

...especially Jericho... “Because I have a plan!”

...because the two men sent to Jericho as spies were to meet Rahab, the harlot, a Gentile! (Gen. 12:3 - ...through Abraham's descendants, all the families of the earth will be blessed. Gen. 18:18 – an instrument of blessing for the world)

Josh. 2:2-7 - *So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.* This meeting was appointed by God. Jericho was fortified by a double ring of walls: An outer wall—6 ft. thick and an inner wall—12 ft. thick. Heavy timbers were laid across these two walls on which houses were built. Rahab lived in one of these houses... a prostitute, a citizen of Jericho, a Gentile. Rahab would know MUCH about the city and individual men in her profession.

God doomed the city of Jericho to destruction (Josh. 6:17, 21, 24). Only Rahab and her relatives were delivered (Josh 6:17a, 22-23). God's grace reaches down to the lowest of the low!

Josh. 2:9-12 - Rahab told the two Israelite spies, *I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.* ¹⁰ *For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt (40 YEARS AGO!), and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side (the east side) of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.* ¹¹ *And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, **He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*** (Rahab declared a confession of faith. It appears that all in Jericho knew – but in the text we see that only Rahab is confessing) ¹² *Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token,* ¹³ *and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death* (Rahab's family would need to make a confession of faith as well). (READ Heb. 11:31)

5

Josh. 2:16-18 - *Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way.* ¹⁷ *The men said to her, "We shall be free from this oath to you which you have made us swear,* ¹⁸ *unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather to yourself into the house your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father's household.* The Hebrew word for "cord" is *Tikvah* which means hope – it is a noun. We might say that the cord in Rahab's window was a sign of her deliverance as she was not destroyed with the rest of Jericho. Was Rahab accepted by the Jewish community?

Matt. 1:5-6 – In Jesus' genealogy we read that *Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king!!* Are we grasping the extent to which God goes in bringing a Gentile, the least likely to come to faith, and her family to salvation?

Josh 2:22-24 – the two spies *departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. ...* ²³ *So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them.* ²⁴ *And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."*

Israel Crosses the Jordan

Josh. 3:1 - *Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove (valley of the acacia trees – 7 miles east of the Jordan River) and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.* Joshua rose early in the morning. THEN, following the good report from the two spies, they set out from Acacia Grove and all the children of Israel, and lodged near the east bank of the Jordan River.

Josh. 3:2-4 - *So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; ³ and they commanded the people, saying, ‘When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. ⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.’* Their focus was the ark of the covenant. Prior to this time, God, manifesting Himself as the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud led them.

Josh. 3:5 – *Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

Josh. 3:7 - *And the LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. WHO would be exalted at the Jordan? Jesus! YESHUA! Are we reading a foreshadowing in the Joshua account – looking forward to a greater Joshua, a greater Yeshua? Joshua is a type of Jesus! Where was Joshua? On the east side of the Jordan River.*

It was on the east side of the Jordan that John the Immerser baptized/immersed the Jewish people flocking to him – who went through purification – who repented because the kingdom of heaven was at hand – because the King of the Kingdom of God was in their midst – JESUS! Jesus’ ministry was announced to Israel on the east side of

6

the Jordan. Matt. 3:17 – God the Father declared at Jesus’ immersion – *This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

The Jordan is connected to God’s plan for Israel. John baptized/immersed in Bethabara, beyond the Jordan (east of the Jordan River). Bethabara means “place of crossing,” “passage” – an unfolding of the next event in God’s plan. And, this crossing was specifically for Israel. “To cross the Jordan” became an expression concerning passing through something that stands in the way!

Josh. 3:12-16 - *Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. ¹³ And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap. ¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the*

priests who bore the ark dipped (“plunged” in Hebrew) in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), ¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan. The Jordan is one of the fastest flowing rivers of its size. “Jordan” means “to descend” or “go down”. The river drops significantly in elevation – beginning at the foot of Mount Hermon which stands 9,000 feet above sea level to the Dead Sea which sits at 1,400 feet BELOW sea level.

AND, aside from the banks overflowing in the spring, are you aware that WILD BEASTS INFESTED the area during this time of the year? The river in flood stage overflowed its banks into a plain that grew up as a thicket, the Zor. The Zor was a narrow depression 150 ft. deep. It was labeled as the “jungle of the Jordan.” The waters flooding into this deep depression during the spring drove out ferocious animals that had been occupying the Zor. *Jer. 49:19 – Behold, he (the enemy – Babylon in this passage) shall come up like a lion from the floodplain/thicket of the Jordan* (Jer. 12:5 – speaks of the floodplain/thicket of the Jordan; Jer. 50:44). And, God told the priests *When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall STAND in the Jordan* (this is a most RAPIDLY FLOWING river!! RAPIDS!) (Josh. 3:8) *And it shall come to pass, as soon as the SOLES of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD...shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off* (Josh. 3:13) – FROM THAT POINT, NOT BEFORE!

What were the residents of Jericho watching and thinking? They were looking down upon 2M+ people, their enemy, coming their way. And the RAGING JORDAN was in a moment HEAPED up – 15 MILES UPSTREAM at the city of Adam (Josh. 3:16). And, the residents of Jericho see that dry ground is now exposed underneath the Jordan River as the pathway for these 2M+ foreigners!

7

How could 2M+ people cross the Jordan? The waters were heaped up to the city of Adam – 15 miles upstream. What does that mean?

CONSIDER with me – hundreds or thousands WALKING ABREAST across this dry river bed!!!!

Josh. 4:10 tells us that the people hurried and crossed over!! They were on a mission! Think of all the Canaanites stretching from Jericho to the city of Adam who had a front row seat...BEHOLDING GOD’S MIGHTY PRESENCE AND POWER!