

Summary of Readings

Day One: Joshua 1:1-2:4

Joshua begins right where Deuteronomy left off. God establishes his relationship with Joshua; unique to Joshua, different than Moses. “Be strong and courageous” Joshua prepares Israel for the crossing. Spies again sent into Jericho where they stay with Rahab. Rahab hides the spies because of her faith in Israel’s God and she makes a covenant with the spies which will save her life and the lives of her family.

Day Two: Joshua 3:1-4:18

Israel crosses the Jordan River into the Promised Land. The Ark is the tangible “power” that ceases the flow of the river. [a bit different from Exodus] Joshua is instructed to choose twelve men to pull twelve stones out of the riverbed as a way to remember this moment. Joshua’s leadership is being affirmed. “What do these stones mean?”

Day Three: Joshua 6

Jericho’s strength was its walls. Joshua is instructed to march around Jericho for seven days with all the army. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times and then God makes the walls of Jericho collapse. The army storms into Jericho which has been devoted to destruction and kills every person inside, also destroying everything except for the gold, silver and bronze which is to be given to God’s treasury. Rahab and her family are the only people who are spared death from Jericho.

Day Four: Joshua 8:1-35

Chapter seven records the sin of Achan who decides to keep some silver from himself. Also in ch. 7, Israel sends a force to attack Ai which is soundly defeated because of Achan’s sin. It is eventually discovered that Achan has “stolen” from God and he along with his “possessions” are marched outside the camp and stoned. Joshua is crushed by the defeat. God sends Israel against Ai a second time with a much larger force and a clever strategy to bring about Ai’s defeat. Israel is also told that they will be allowed to keep the possessions of Ai. The King of Ai is captured and hung. The covenant is renewed.

Day Five: Joshua 10:1-11:23

The King of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek, gets wind of the defeat of Ai and begins to grow concerned about the Israelite army. His concern is elevated because of the treaty that has been established between Gibeon and the Israelites. Adoni-Zedek recruits four other kings to join him in his attack on Gibeon. Gibeonites send word to Joshua for support. The entire Amorite army is defeated and routed as the Lord throws down large hailstones on the retreating forces. The sun stands still during this battle for “about a full day” while Israel routes the Amorite forces. All five Kings are captured and in front of the entire army, Joshua kills the five kings. Joshua’s force continues to route the southern cities leaving no survivors in their wake. Joshua then turns towards the North and destroys everyone in the cities that he attacks there as well. Today’s reading ends with the words, “Then the land had rest from war.”

Day Six: Joshua 13:1-7; 21:43-45; Hebrews 11:29-40; 12:1-2

As Joshua nears the ends of his life, we find that there are other “large areas” of land still to be conquered. Joshua begins apportioning the land to the twelve tribes of Israel. The Hebrews text recounts many of the actions we have already read about in the Old Testament and some we have yet to discover crediting those as

acts of faith by God's people. These many instances of faithfulness are lifted up as a means of encouraging the recipients of Hebrews to "throw off sin," and "run their race with perseverance."

Day Seven: Joshua 23:1-16; 24:14-31

Joshua offers his final speech to the people of Israel which follows much of the same theme as the last speech of Moses. Remember what the Lord has done. The Lord has given you victory. Do not associate yourselves with idolatry of those who participate in idolatry. Be faithful to the covenant and the commandments which God has given and you will be blessed. In chapter 24, Joshua utters the famous words, "Choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." After a final word of warning against falling away from faithfulness to the covenant, Joshua dismisses Israel to their apportioned inheritance. Unlike the end of Moses' life, there is no successor prepared by the end of Joshua's life.