



Joshua – Take the Land – Be the Man

The Book of Joshua is the book of conquest. The battlefield is Canaan, and it is where God keeps His promise that He made with Abraham. In this study, we will use the land possessed by Joshua and the People of Israel as a metaphor to understand how we take possession of what it means to be a Christian man. We will exam 10 issues that men face every day. Every day is a battle to be fought. You must fight! Will you?

A Man will fight for what God promised.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

FOCUS: Name Your Priorities?
 Joshua 1:6-9; 24:15

February 18, 2021

Bible Verses: Joshua 1:6-9; Joshua 24:15; Acts 3:19-26; Galatians 2:11-16; Romans 4:16-25; Romans 4:1-3; Romans 9:6-9; Romans 11:25-29; Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 7:12; Galatians 5:13-15; I Peter 4:7-11
Music: Randy Travis Promises
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoiCre_xyLY

Resources: *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History* by Francis A. Schaeffer.
The Christian Man – A Conversation About the 10 Issues Men Say Matter Most by Patrick Morley.
Videos: We Were Soldiers - Moving Into the Valley of the Shadow of Death
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu77LGPAIPA>

Joshua – Ready to Lead – The Spiritual Portion of the Promise!

1. _____ → #1 - Spiritual Promise: All the world would be blessed through Abraham. That promise pointed to Christ coming to crush the serpent's head through Abraham. #2 - National Blessing: The promise of being a blessing to the whole world and the promise of the land.
2. _____ → You have a part in what was promised to Moses and Abraham (Acts 3:19-26; Galatians 2:11-16). Not every Jew is under the spiritual portion of the promise merely because he is a citizen of the nation. Each individual must make a personal decision with regard to the Messiah (Romans 4:16-25).
3. _____ → When we believe the promises of God as Abraham did, we become Abraham's spiritual children (Romans 4:1-3). There were two Israel's: those who were born into the national line only, and those who believed God and His promises (Rom. 9:6-9; Romans 11:25-29).

The Land—Manhood: Biblical Priorities?

1. _____ → Loving God is what matters most (Matthew 22:34-40). We are to love God with the totality of our being, every ounce of our energy, and the sum of our strength. St. Augustine said, "Love, and do what thou wilt." Paraphrased: "Love God and do what you want." How =
 1. **Know God** – "I will search for the God of the Bible, inviting Him to change the core affections of my heart."
 2. **Self-Examination** – "I will examine my heart, think deeply about my life, and make needed changes based on how I understand God's larger purposes for my life."
 3. **Bible** – "I will make the study of God's Word a daily habit."
 4. **Prayer** – "I will make intimate conversation with God a part of each day's actions and decisions."
 5. **Community** – "I will seek ways to be involved and connected to others in order to Build His Kingdom community – His church."

The Land—Manhood: Biblical Priorities?

2. _____ → The priority of loving people captures the essence of everything taught in both the Old and New Testaments (Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 7:12; Galatians 5:13-15; I Peter 4:7-11). Who do you love =?
 1. **Wife** → "I will seek to live a life that demonstrates that she is the most important person in my life after God, but before all others."
 2. **Children** → "I will be deliberate about offering my children my Blessing and seek to be their spiritual mentor, greatest fan, encourager, cheerleader, champion, and example."
 3. **Friends** → "I will live my life on a TEAM of four—me and three others."
 4. **Strangers** → "I want to Welcome all who may feel alone." God wants us to have that sense that we are at home, that we are in the land of the living. Our father has not only made us sons, but citizens. We are not strangers, we have rights, we have privileges, and we have responsibilities, and that, as evil wishes and designs to see us as aliens in a foreign land, that we are beloved, and we have power in our capacity to love. Love changes everything."

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What is your focus for Today?
2. What resources will you rely on Today?
3. Do you believe in the promises of God?

Bible Verses – The Message

Joshua 1:6-9 - 6 Strength! Courage! You are going to lead this people to inherit the land that I promised to give their ancestors. 7 Give it everything you have, heart and soul. Make sure you carry out The Revelation that Moses commanded you, every bit of it. Don't get off track, either left or right, so as to make sure you get to where you're going. 8 And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed. 9 Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take." The Taking of the Land

Joshua 24:15 - 15 "If you decide that it's a bad thing to worship God, then choose a god you'd rather serve - and do it today. Choose one of the gods your ancestors worshiped from the country beyond The River, or one of the gods of the Amorites, on whose land you're now living. As for me and my family, we'll worship God."

set him right." 23 But it's not just Abraham; 24 it's also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. 25 The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God.

Romans 4:1-3 - 1 So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? 2 If Abraham, by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. 3 What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and that was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own."

Romans 9:6-9 - 6 Don't suppose for a moment, though, that God's Word has malfunctioned in some way or other. The problem goes back a long way. From the outset, not all Israelites of the flesh were Israelites of the spirit. 7 It wasn't Abraham's sperm that gave identity here, but God's promise. Remember how it was put: "Your family will believe the One who

Acts 3:19-26 - 19 "Now it's time to change your ways! Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you, **20** and send you the Messiah he prepared for you, namely, Jesus. **21** For the time being he must remain out of sight in heaven until everything is restored to order again just the way God, through the preaching of his holy prophets of old, said it would be. **22** Moses, for instance, said, 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet just like me from your family. Listen to every word he speaks to you. **23** Every last living soul who refuses to listen to that prophet will be wiped out from the people.' **24** "All the prophets from Samuel on down said the same thing, said most emphatically that these days would come. **25** These prophets, along with the covenant God made with your ancestors, are your family tree. God's covenant-word to Abraham provides the text: 'By your offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed.' **26** But you are first in line: God, having raised up his Son, sent him to bless you as you turn, one by one, from your evil ways."

Galatians 2:11-16 - 11 Later, when Peter came to Antioch, I had a face-to-face confrontation with him because he was clearly out of line. **12** Here's the situation. Earlier, before certain persons had come from James, Peter regularly ate with the non-Jews. But when that conservative group came from Jerusalem, he cautiously pulled back and put as much distance as he could manage between himself and his non-Jewish friends. That's how fearful he was of the conservative Jewish clique that's been pushing the old system of circumcision. **13** Unfortunately, the rest of the Jews in the Antioch church joined in that hypocrisy so that even Barnabas was swept along in the charade. **14** But when I saw that they were not maintaining a steady, straight course according to the Message, I spoke up to Peter in front of them all: "If you, a Jew, live like a non-Jew when you're not being observed by the watchdogs from Jerusalem, what right do you have to require non-Jews to conform to Jewish customs just to make a favorable impression on your old Jerusalem cronies?" **15** We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over "non-Jewish sinners." **16** We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it - and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good.

Romans 4:16-25 - 16 This is why the fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God's promise arrives as pure gift. That's the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father - that's reading the story backwards. He is our faith father. **17** We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. **18** When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!" **19** Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. **20** He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, **21** sure that God would make good on what he had said. **22** That's why it is said, "Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to

brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. **25** The right." **8** That means that Israelite identity was never racially determined by sexual transmission, but it was God-determined by promise.

9 Remember that promise, "When I come back next year at this time, Sarah will have a son?"

Romans 11:25-29 - 25 I want to lay all this out on the table as clearly as I can, friends. This is complicated. It would be easy to misinterpret what's going on and arrogantly assume that you're royalty and they're just rabble, out on their ears for good. But that's not it at all. This hardness on the part of insider Israel toward God is temporary. Its effect is to open things up to all the outsiders so that we end up with a full house. **26** Before it's all over, there will be a complete Israel. As it is written, A champion will stride down from the mountain of Zion; he'll clean house in Jacob. **27** And this is my commitment to my people: removal of their sins. **28** From your point of view as you hear and embrace the good news of the Message, it looks like the Jews are God's enemies. But looked at from the long-range perspective of God's overall purpose, they remain God's oldest friends. **29** God's gifts and God's call are under full warranty - never canceled, never rescinded.

Matthew 22:34-40 - 34 When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. **35** One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: **36** "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?" **37** Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' **38** This is the most important, the first on any list. **39** But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' **40** These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

Romans 13:8-10 - 8 Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. **9** The law code - don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of - finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. **10** You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love.

Matthew 7:12 - 12 "Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

Galatians 5:13-15 - 13 It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. **14** For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. **15** If you bite and ravage each other, watch out - in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

1 Peter 4:7-11 - 7 Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. **8** Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. **9** Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless - cheerfully. **10** Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: **11** if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything - encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!

"Promises" by Randy Travis

Cheap perfume, and painted faces...
fallen angels fill the places where I go when my troubles bring me down.
All the lies, I know they'll tell me,
and the time that they will sell me...
for a while, I'll be the biggest man in town.
Back at home...in bed, she's crying. For her love for me is dying.
But she'll pray I make it safely through the night.
When the morning sun starts showing, to her bedside I'll be going,
And she'll hold me while I face the morning light.
And I'll make promises...promises to change. I'll make her promises,

swear I'll rearrange, and I'll start giving all the
love she needs, if only she will stay.
Once again, she'll reassure me. And I believe her love will cure me,
and I'll fall asleep with tears on my face. And I know she's just a woman,
and her love can't last forever.
And someday soon, I know she'll leave without a trace.
For, broken promises will tear her dreams apart.
Just token promises will someday break her heart,
and for the last time, she'll hold me when I cry, and while I'm sleeping...
she'll quietly say goodbye...

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