



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

#9 – Culture – What is Your Role?
 Joshua 1:6-9; 24:15

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Bible Verses: Joshua 1:1-18; Joshua 24:15; Joshua 20:1-6; Joshua 21:41-45; Galatians 3:15-29; Hebrews 2:17; Jeremiah 29:4-9; Matthew 26:52, 53; Matthew 15:30-32; John 17:11-20
Videos: How Should Christianity Engage in Culture?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIeVp20GWj0>

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.
Music: Marvin Gaye - What's Going On
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0xitQKNsQY>

JOSHUA: The Provision of God – Joshua 20:1-6; 21:41-45.

1. _____ → Joshua 20 tells us how Joshua designated the cities of refuge in Israel in keeping with the provisions of the law. Six cities are named, three on the west side of the Jordan River and three on the east side. No place in the land of Israel was more than one day's journey from at least one of these cities, so God graciously provided ample opportunity for preserving the life of the one who killed without intent. God showed grace without compromising the value of human life when He provided the cities of refuge for those who committed manslaughter. When we do not support appropriate penalties for the taking of human life, we show disdain for other people and for the Lord in whose image we are made. The law is a gift of God's grace in that God gave the law to show us our need of grace (Gal. 3:15-29). See Hebrews 2:17.
2. _____ → Joshua 1–21 details the initial conquest under Joshua and the division of Canaan. In Joshua 21:41-45, the author stresses the faithfulness of God in delivering the promised land into the hands of Israel. Not one of His promises failed to come to pass, and the people enjoyed rest from war. What Joshua accomplished in obedience to the Lord was an occasion for celebrating that God had kept His promises. What He had promised to Abraham centuries earlier had finally come to pass (Gen. 12:1–9; 15). The Christian faith is founded on the promises of God and testifies to the fact that the Lord has kept His promises and will keep all His promises.

Land—Manhood: Culture – Claim Your Corner for the Glory of Christ. – Jeremiah 29:4-9.

1. _____ → The big question for the Christian man about culture is, "Where in my community is my influence as a Christian needed most? It could be any of the issues in our culture: addiction, teen pregnancy, serving single moms, etc.
2. _____ → "God wants each of us to go find some unredeemed corner of culture and claim it for the glory of Christ." This idea goes to the heart of both the cultural mandate and the Great Commission.
3. _____ → Jesus expressed no desire to *overthrow or replace* the existing culture. See Matthew 26:52, 53). Nor did he seek to embrace or withdraw from the culture. Instead, the stance of Jesus was to engage culture. Jesus took this stance: he met the practical needs of people while explaining how the gospel applied to every aspect of their eternal and temporal lives. See Matthew 15:30-32; John 17:11-20.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What are your thoughts about the value of human life?
2. What concerns you about the culture?
3. What is God wanting you to do to influence others?

Bible Verses – The Message

Joshua 1:1-18 - 1 After the death of Moses the servant of God, God spoke to Joshua, Moses' assistant: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Get going. Cross this Jordan River, you and all the people. Cross to the country I'm giving to the People of Israel. **3** I'm giving you every square inch of the land you set your foot on - just as I promised Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon east to the Great River, the Euphrates River - all the Hittite country - and then west to the Great Sea. It's all yours. **5** All your life, no one will be able to hold out against you. In the same way I was with Moses, I'll be with you. I won't give up on you; I won't leave you. **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 **10** Then Joshua gave orders to the people's leaders: **11** "Go through the camp and give this order to the people: 'Pack your bags. In three days you will cross this Jordan River to enter and take the land God, your God, is giving you to possess.'" **12** Then Joshua addressed the

God. It was arranged by angelic messengers through a middleman, Moses. **20** But if there is a middleman as there was at Sinai, then the people are not dealing directly with God, are they? But the original promise is the direct blessing of God, received by faith. **21** If such is the case, is the law, then, an anti-promise, a negation of God's will for us? Not at all. Its purpose was to make obvious to everyone that we are, in ourselves, out of right relationship with God, and therefore to show us the futility of devising some religious system for getting by our own efforts what we can only get by waiting in faith for God to complete his promise. For if any kind of rule-keeping had power to create life in us, we would certainly have gotten it by this time. **22 23** Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. **24** The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for. **25** But now you have arrived at your destination: **26** By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. **27** Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe - Christ's life, the fulfillment of God's original promise. **28** In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you

Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. He said, **13** "Remember what Moses the servant of God commanded you: God, your God, gives you rest and he gives you this land. **14** Your wives, your children, and your livestock can stay here east of the Jordan, the country Moses gave you; but you, tough soldiers all, must cross the River in battle formation, leading your brothers, helping them **15** until God, your God, gives your brothers a place of rest just as he has done for you. They also will take possession of the land that God, your God, is giving them. Then you will be free to return to your possession, given to you by Moses the servant of God, across the Jordan to the east." **16** They answered Joshua: "Everything you commanded us, we'll do. Wherever you send us, we'll go. **17** We obeyed Moses to the letter; we'll also obey you - we just pray that God, your God, will be with you as he was with Moses. **18** Anyone who questions what you say and refuses to obey whatever you command him will be put to death. Strength! Courage!"

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."

Joshua 20:1-6 - 1 Then God spoke to Joshua: **2** "Tell the People of Israel: Designate the asylum-cities, as I instructed you through Moses, **3** so that anyone who kills a person accidentally - that is, unintentionally - may flee there as a safe place of asylum from the avenger of blood. **4** "A person shall escape for refuge to one of these cities, stand at the entrance to the city gate, and lay out his case before the city's leaders. The leaders must then take him into the city among them and give him a place to live with them. **5** "If the avenger of blood chases after him, they must not give him up - he didn't intend to kill the person; there was no history of ill-feeling. **6** He may stay in that city until he has stood trial before the congregation and until the death of the current high priest. Then he may go back to his own home in his hometown from which he fled."

Joshua 21:41-45 - 41 The Levites held forty-eight towns with their accompanying pastures within the territory of the People of Israel. **42** Each of these towns had pastures surrounding it - this was the case for all these towns. **43** And so God gave Israel the entire land that he had solemnly vowed to give to their ancestors. They took possession of it and made themselves at home in it. **44** And God gave them rest on all sides, as he had also solemnly vowed to their ancestors. Not a single one of their enemies was able to stand up to them - God handed over all their enemies to them. **45** Not one word failed from all the good words God spoke to the house of Israel. Everything came out right.

Galatians 3:15-29 - 15 Friends, let me give you an example from everyday affairs of the free life I am talking about. Once a person's will has been ratified, no one else can annul it or add to it. **16** Now, the promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant. You will observe that Scripture, in the careful language of a legal document, does not say "to descendants," referring to everybody in general, but "to your descendant" (the noun, note, is singular), referring to Christ. **17** This is the way I interpret this: A will, earlier ratified by God, is not annulled by an addendum attached 430 years later, thereby negating the promise of the will. **18** No, this addendum, with its instructions and regulations, has nothing to do with the promised inheritance in the will. **19** The purpose of the law was to keep a sinful people in the way of salvation until Christ (the descendant) came, inheriting the promises and distributing them to us. Obviously this law was not a firsthand encounter with

are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. **29** Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous "descendant," heirs according to the covenant promises.

Hebrews 2:17 - 17 That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins,

Jeremiah 29:4-9 - 4 This is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God, to all the exiles I've taken from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 "Build houses and make yourselves at home. "Put in gardens and eat what grows in that country. **6** "Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that you'll thrive in that country and not waste away. **7** "Make yourselves at home there and work for the country's welfare. "Pray for Babylon's well-being. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you." **8** Yes. Believe it or not, this is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God: "Don't let all those so-called preachers and know-it-alls who are all over the place there take you in with their lies. Don't pay any attention to the fantasies they keep coming up with to please you. **9** They're a bunch of liars preaching lies - and claiming I sent them! I never sent them, believe me." God's Decree!

Matthew 26:52, 53 - 52 Jesus said, "Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords. **53** Don't you realize that I am able right now to call to my Father, and twelve companies - more, if I want them - of fighting angels would be here, battle-ready?"

Matthew 15:30-32 - 30 They came, tons of them, bringing along the paraplegic, the blind, the maimed, the mute - all sorts of people in need - and more or less threw them down at Jesus' feet to see what he would do with them. He healed them. **31** When the people saw the mutes speaking, the maimed healthy, the paraplegics walking around, the blind looking around, they were astonished and let everyone know that God was blazingly alive among them. **32** But Jesus wasn't finished with them. He called his disciples and said, "I hurt for these people. For three days now they've been with me, and now they have nothing to eat. I can't send them away without a meal - they'd probably collapse on the road."

John 17:11-20 - 11 For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; They'll continue in the world While I return to you. Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life That you conferred as a gift through me, So they can be one heart and mind **12** As we are one heart and mind. As long as I was with them, I guarded them In the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a night watch. And not one of them got away, Except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture). **13** Now I'm returning to you. I'm saying these things in the world's hearing So my people can experience My joy completed in them. **14** I gave them your word; The godless world hated them because of it, Because they didn't join the world's ways, **15** Just as I didn't join the world's ways. I'm not asking that you take them out of the world But that you guard them from the Evil One. **16** They are no more defined by the world Than I am defined by the world. **17** Make them holy - consecrated - with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth. **18** In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. **19** I'm consecrating myself for their sakes So they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission. **20** I'm praying not only for them But also for those who will believe in me Because of them and their witness about me.

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