

A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

Bible passage - Joshua 1:1-18

Joshua Installed as Leader

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. **5** No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

10 So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: **11** "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.'"

12 But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, **13** "Remember the command that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you after he said, 'The Lord your God will give you rest by giving you this land.' **14** Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them **15** until the Lord gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the Lord your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

16 Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17** Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. **18** Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"

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Sermon Notes

Introduction:

- The book of Joshua is considered part of the 'Former Prophets'
- The message of Joshua is a warning and an indictment, in hope that ...

vv.1-9, What did God say?

- Transition, vv.1-2
- God's promises, vv.3-6
- What God requires, vv.7-9

vv.10-18, What did they do?

- Prepared physically, logistically (v.11)
- Prepared mentally, attitude (vv.12-15) ... rest but not yet
- Spiritually committed, obedience that comes from faith

Application

- What God promised them was through Abraham and Moses (old covenant)
- What God promises us is different (new covenant)
- But some things remain the same
- For us at Grace Church ...

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you more concerned about '**Who's the next leader?**' or '**What is God saying?**'
2. Do you know what God is saying; to you personally, and to us as a church? How can you know?
3. What blessings has Jesus promised to Christians? What are some blessings we wrongly expect, that actually He has not promised us?

SCANDALOUS GRACE

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2021 | DANIEL WONG

Bible passage - Joshua 2:1-24

Rahab and the spies

1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

2 The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” **3** So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. **5** At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” **6** (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) **7** So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof **9** and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. **10** We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. **11** When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

12 “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign **13** that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.” **15** So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. **16** She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

17 Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us **18** unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. **19** If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. **20** But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

21 “Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.” So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

22 When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. **23** Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. **24** They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

SCANDALOUS GRACE

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2021 | DANIEL WONG

Sermon Notes

Key Point: God is a Promise Keeper!

Introduction:

- God keeps His covenant with His people
- God goes before His people in fulfillment of the promise
- God grants salvation to those who seek refuge in Him

vv.1-7; 22-24, God Moves Ahead of His People in Fulfillment of His Promise

- Spies in Jericho "Go look over the land..." (v.1)
- God has gone before ... "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands..." (v.24)

vv.8-16, Looking Ahead to the Promise

- Rahab and the Canaanites have heard of God and the Israelites: "We have heard how the Lord..." (vv.9-11)
- In faith, Rahab sought safety for family and self: "... swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness ..." (vv.12-13)
- Acting in faith, looking ahead (Hebrews 11:1, 31)

vv.17-21, Stepping Into the Promise

- The scarlet cord (v.18)
- Saved in the marked household (vv.18-19)

Application

- Personal knowledge of God gives courage to move ahead in faith, and experience spiritual conviction and strength.
- Kinship with God is not based on background, race, position, but on faith in Jesus Christ!
- When we accept that Jesus covers our sins with His blood, we step into God's saving grace.

Reflection Questions:

1. Recall how and when you have claimed God's promises in the Bible. Share your experience.
2. Reading and knowing what God has done for the people of Israel and for Christians you know, how has it strengthened your own journey of faith?
3. Knowing that God extended grace to us through the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross, what does it mean to you personally? How has it moved you to share the significance of this grace to your household and neighbours?

DON'T YOU FORGET

SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible passage - Joshua 3 - 4

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3

1 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. **2** After three days the officers went throughout the camp, **3** giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. **4** Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it." **5** Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." **6** Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. **7** And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. **8** Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'" **9** Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. **10** This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. **11** See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. **12** Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. **13** And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." **14** So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. **15** Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, **16** the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. **17** The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 4

1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, **2** "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, **3** and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." **4** So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, **5** and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, **6** to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' **7** tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." **8** So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. **9** Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day. **10** Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, **11** and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. **12** The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. **13** About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war. **14** That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses. **15** Then the Lord said to Joshua, **16** "Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan." **17** So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan." **18** And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before. **19** On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. **20** And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. **21** He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' **22** tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' **23** For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. **24** He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

DON'T YOU FORGET

SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Sermon Notes

Introduction: Needing Reminder

1. Fear God's Power

2. Follow God's Presence

3. Faith in God's Promise

Conclusion: Trust Jump

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. Do you recall a time in your life when God was clearly at work? Share it with your group.

2. "We're not experiencing God's presence, and power in our life, because we depend too much on ourselves." What might be some things that you have too much control of and is preventing you from seeing God's work?

3. How does the Gospel make us more obedient?

FALSE STRONGHOLDS AND TRUE SALVATION

SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2021 | FRANCIS KHOO

Bible passage - Joshua 5:13 - 6:27

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 5:13-15

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

14 "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

15 The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Joshua 6:1-27

1 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. **2** Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. **3** March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. **5** When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." **6** So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." **7** And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord."

8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. **9** The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. **10** But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" **11** So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. **12** Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. **13** The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. **14** So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. **16** The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! **17** The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. **18** But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. **19** All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury."

20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. **21** They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. **22** Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." **23** So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel. **24** Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. **25** But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

26 At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the Lord is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: 'At the cost of his firstborn son, he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest, he will set up its gates.'" **27** So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

FALSE STRONGHOLDS AND TRUE SALVATION

SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2021 | FRANCIS KHOO

Sermon Notes

1. Whose Side are you on? (Joshua 5:13-15)

2. What Strongholds do you face? (Joshua 6:1-21)

3. Which Salvation do you seek? (Joshua 6:22-25)

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. Think of one stronghold that you may have built in your life that has been holding out against the will of God. What will it take to break down those walls and what could such a victory mean for you?

2. The Lord made the Israelites march around Jericho for seven days and for seven times on the seventh day. Share about your experience with perseverance in waiting patiently for the Lord.

THE SIN OF ONE MAN

SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021 | SOO CHUAH

Bible passage - Joshua 7:1-6, 10-13, 16-26; Joshua 8:1-2, 30-32, 35

Joshua 7:1-6

1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. **2** Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai. **3** When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there." **4** So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, **5** who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water. **6** Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

Joshua 7:10-13

10 The Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? **11** Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. **12** That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. **13** "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.'

Joshua 7:16-26

16 Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. **17** The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. **18** Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. **19** Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

20 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: **21** When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.

23 They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord. **24** Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. **25** Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. **26** Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

Joshua 8:1-2

1 Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land. **2** You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

Joshua 8:30-32

30 Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, **31** as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses — an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. **32** There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses.

Joshua 8:35

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.

THE **SIN** OF ONE MAN

SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021 | SOO CHUAH

Sermon Notes

1. Victory to Defeat

- God's anger (v 1)
- The reason (vv 2 - 6)
- His instruction (vv 10 - 13)

2. The Sin of One Man

- Trouble onto self
- Trouble onto the whole nation

3. Lessons Learned

- Victory at Ai
- An altar to the Lord

4. Application

- What can we learn about God and sin?
- What is different?
- What about us at Grace Church?

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. A problem of the kind created by Achan is not only an Old Testament problem. A similar story is that of Ananias and Saphira in Acts 5. Discuss on the seriousness of sin within God's people and ways to overcome the problem.

2. Vital to the life and health of God's people is His continued presence and favour. When relationship with God is broken, it can be repaired - but only by God's way. How?

3. No one sins in isolation. How might your sins affect others?

SCAMMED

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible passage - Joshua 9:1-27

The Gibeonite Deception

1 Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things – the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites) – **2** they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel.

3 However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, **4** they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. **5** They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. **6** Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

7 The Israelites said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us, so how can we make a treaty with you?”

8 “We are your servants,” they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”

9 They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the Lord your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt, **10** and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan – Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth. **11** And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.”’ **12** This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is. **13** And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.”

14 The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. **15** Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

16 Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. **17** So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim. **18** But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, **19** but all the leaders answered, “We have given them our oath by the Lord, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now. **20** This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God’s wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.” **21** They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers in the service of the whole assembly.” So the leaders’ promise to them was kept.

22 Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, “Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us? **23** You are now under a curse: You will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”

24 They answered Joshua, “Your servants were clearly told how the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this. **25** We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you.”

26 So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. **27** That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide for the needs of the altar of the Lord at the place the Lord would choose. And that is what they are to this day.



SCAMMED

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Sermon Notes

Intro: Changing to the Winning Team

1. The Bad Decision

2. The Good Concession

3. The Sealed Redemption

Conclusion: Betrayal

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back in your life, would you say you've made good life decisions? How do you discern between good and bad decisions?

2. How do you determine God's will in your life? What do you think happens if we mistakenly choose what God did not plan for us to do?

THE KING OF KINGS

SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021 | MARK LO

Bible passage - Joshua 10:1 - 12:24

Key readings

Joshua 10:40-43

40 So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. **41** Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. **42** All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. **43** Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

Joshua 11:16-23

16 So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills, **17** from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and put them to death. **18** Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. **19** Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. **20** For it was the Lord himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

21 At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. **22** No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive. **23** So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

Joshua 12:1

1 These are the kings of the land whom the Israelites had defeated and whose territory they took over east of the Jordan, from the Arnon Gorge to Mount Hermon, including all the eastern side of the Arabah:

THE KING OF KINGS

SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021 | MARK LO

Sermon Notes

Introduction and Context of Joshua 10:1 - 12:24

- The God who fought for us
- The God who listens to a human

1. Joshua, the Old Testament Jesus?

- Saviour
- Conqueror
- Life Giver

2. Who is the King of Kings?

- His titles (Isaiah 9:6-7 and Revelation 19:11-16)
- His claims

3. His relevance and our rightful response

Discussion Questions:

1. In your walk as a Christian, recall if/when God has 'fought' for you. Share your experience.

2. Contemplate on the two titles "King of kings" and "Lord of lords". Discuss how the two relate to each other.

3. What might your reaction be, if your spouse, son/daughter or very close friend told you one day that they are praying and considering giving up their current vocation and enter full-time ministry or mission work wherever God leads?

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE OFFICE

SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible passage - Joshua 13 - 19

Sermon Notes

Introduction: The hardest place to be a Christian

1. What it means to be Faithful

2. Why it's hard to be Faithful

3. How we remain Faithful

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for you to be a faithful Christian in your home, workplace, and church? What are some of the challenges you face in staying faithful in your current life situation?

**2. Christianity is a 'long obedience in the same direction'.
What are some Christian disciplines that will help us persevere in our faith?**

FINAL PROVISION

SUNDAY 16 MAY 2021 | DANIEL WONG

Bible passage - Joshua 20 - 21

Joshua 20

1 Then the Lord said to Joshua: **2** “Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, **3** so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood. **4** When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them. **5** If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbor unintentionally and without malice aforethought. **6** They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled.” **7** So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. **8** East of the Jordan (on the other side from Jericho) they designated Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau in the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead in the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan in the tribe of Manasseh. **9** Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.

Joshua 21:1-4

1 Now the family heads of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the other tribal families of Israel **2** at Shiloh in Canaan and said to them, “The Lord commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock.” **3** So, as the Lord had commanded, the Israelites gave the Levites the following towns and pasturelands out of their own inheritance: **4** The first lot came out for the Kohathites, according to their clans. The Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest were allotted thirteen towns from the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin.

Joshua 21:1-4

41 The towns of the Levites in the territory held by the Israelites were forty-eight in all, together with their pasturelands. **42** Each of these towns had pasturelands surrounding it; this was true for all these towns. **43** So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. **44** The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. **45** Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.



FINAL PROVISION

SUNDAY 16 MAY 2021 | DANIEL WONG

Sermon Notes

God is our Refuge

1. Provision of Refuge (Joshua 20)

2. Provision of Identity (Joshua 21:1-42)

3. Provision of Rest (Joshua 21:43-45)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the term 'royal priesthood' mean to you? How can you live out the requirements of a 'royal priesthood' on a daily basis at home, at work and in your community?

2. How is Jesus the promised refuge? What does that mean to you personally?

RETAINING PARADISE

SUNDAY 23 MAY 2021 | MARCUS WONG

Bible passage - Joshua 22 - 24

Sermon Notes

- 1. Why do we say "yes" to things we don't commit to?**
- 2. A good ending (Joshua 24:31) or a bad ending (Judges 2:10-11)?**
- 3. Why did things go wrong for Israel?**
- 4. Is faithfulness not a problem for Christians? Maybe not (Hebrews 10:26-27), but there's a difference (Hebrews 10:39)!**

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Do you find it difficult to remain faithful to God? What things make this difficult?**
- 2. How could you invite a remarkable God into the unremarkable parts of your life?**

WE ARE FAITHFUL TO WHO (OR WHAT) WE WORSHIP

WORSHIPPING GOD IS THE UNREMARKABLE DRAWING NEAR TO THE REMARKABLE