

May 18-24  
Joshua 1-8; 23-24  
"Be Strong and of a Good Courage"



# Introduction - Destruction of Canaan

"The Hittites, Hivites, and Jebusites were direct descendants of Canaan. By the time Israel approached the promised land, these Canaanites had become an extremely wicked and idolatrous people....

"Sexual immorality had become religious practices to the point where the people were entrenched in depravity and proud of it. Their iniquity was 'full' or total. Accordingly, God sentenced them to death and made Israel the executioner." (Rushdoony, Institutes of Biblical Law, pp. 92–93.)" (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel)

# Introduction - Destruction of Canaan

Deuteronomy 9:3

3) Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee.

# Introduction - Destruction of Canaan

Deuteronomy 7:1-2,16

1) When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

2) And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and *utterly destroy them*; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

16) And thou shalt consume all the people which the Lord thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall *have no pity upon them*: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

# Introduction - Destruction of Canaan

1 Nephi 17:32,35

32) And after they had crossed the river Jordan he did make them mighty unto the driving out of the children of the land, yea, unto the scattering them to destruction.

35) Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one; he that is righteous is favored of God. But behold, this people had rejected every word of God, and they were ripe in iniquity; and the fulness of the wrath of God was upon them; and the Lord did curse the land against them, and bless it unto our fathers; yea, he did curse it against them unto their destruction, and he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it.

# Introduction - Destruction of Canaan

## Joseph Smith

"That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another. God said, 'Thou shalt not kill;' at another time He said, 'Thou shalt utterly destroy.' This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted--by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire." (TPJS, pg. 256)

# Joshua

Numbers 14:6-9

6) And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes

7) And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

8) *If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.*

9) *Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.*

# Joshua

## Josh 1:5-9

What does the Lord repeatedly command Joshua to do in this passage?

What blessings does the Lord promise Joshua if he is “strong and very courageous”?

How can we apply this counsel when we feel the Lord has asked us to do things that seem beyond our abilities?

## Young Men and Young Women General Presidencies

“In the space of four verses in the first chapter of Joshua, the Lord commands Joshua to be strong and courageous—three times! Then the Lord promises Joshua that he will succeed in bringing the Israelites to their land of inheritance, that strength and courage will come to him because of his obedience to all the law, and—most significantly—that the Lord will be with him wherever he goes.

“That same call to courage is yours. And the same promises are yours as well. With the Savior’s help, you too will succeed in your callings and in your life. You will have strength to withstand any temptation as you obey the commandments.”

“There were many unknowns facing Joshua. He didn’t know how he would be able to bring the children of Israel into the promised land, but he trusted in the Lord. You might feel uncertain about your future in these troubled times. But be of good courage. The Lord is with you. You can trust in Him. He will help you succeed. (“Facing Challenges with Courage.” New Era, Jan. 2010)

# Crossing the River Jordan

Josh 3:6-8,15-17

What does the priests' example teach us about acting in faith before seeing the miracle?

## Neal A. Maxwell

"We all have a need to understand that we must walk to the edge of the light, obediently going as far as the Lord has told us to go before expecting him to help us with the next step. Why not, in this connection, link the better known and far more dramatic crossing of the Red Sea with the episode involving Joshua and the children of Israel when the time came for them to cross the flood-swollen Jordan River. Notice that in the latter episode the Lord required them to get the soles of their feet wet first before he stopped up the swollen Jordan so dramatically." ("Teaching Opportunities from the Old Testament," Ensign, Apr. 1981)

# The Walls of Jericho

Josh 5:13-15

What in this passage suggests that the being who appeared to Joshua was the Lord Himself?

## Bruce R. McConkie

"Christ himself is the chief soldier in his own army; as Commander, he carries the title captain of the Lord's Host. By this name he appeared to Joshua, who seeing 'him with his sword drawn in his hand,' and hearing him say, 'As captain of the host of the Lord am I now come'.

"Among righteous messengers from the spirit realms, none but Deity will accept worship from mortals, and none but the Lord himself hallows a spot so that mortals are commanded to remove their shoes."

(Mormon Doctrine, pg. 112)

# The Walls of Jericho

Josh 6:2-5

What does the Israelites' response to these unusual instructions suggest about their spiritual state?

## Howard W. Hunter

"Joshua carried out the instructions he had been given by a messenger of the Lord. His commitment was to complete obedience. His concern was to do precisely as he was instructed, that the promise of the Lord would be fulfilled. The instructions no doubt seemed strange, but his faith in the outcome urged him on.

"As Joshua and his people approached Jericho, the instructions of the Lord were followed precisely, and according to the scriptural account, 'the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city' (Josh. 6:20.)." (CR, Oct. 1982)

Hebrews 11:30

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

# The Sun and Moon Stand Still

Josh 10:12-14

What does this account teach us about Joshua's faith and the Lord's response to it?

# Joshua's Final Admonition to Israel

Josh 23:11-13

What does the Lord say will happen if Israel fails to drive out these nations and instead adopts their ways?

# Joshua's Final Admonition to Israel

Josh 24:13-16

What does this passage teach about the importance of choosing whom we will serve?

## Ezra Taft Benson

“The Lord has given us the assurance that if we live righteously, if we keep his commandments, if we humble ourselves before him, all will be well. I turn to two passages of scripture today which I’d like to read:

“...Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest’ (Joshua 1:9).

“This was the Lord’s admonition to his son, Joshua, encouraging him to trust in God. Joshua answered that admonition in counsel to his people in these words:

“...choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord’ (Joshua 24:15).

“Embodied in these two passages of scripture are the two principal essentials for security and peace: first, trust in God; and second, a determination to keep the commandments, to serve the Lord.” (CR, Oct. 1950)

Next Week:

May 25–31

Judges 2–4; 6–8; 13–16

“The Lord Raised Up a Deliverer”

