

“POSSESSING THE PROMISED LAND”

Joshua 1-8

March 25, 2012

The Word of God: 2012 Sermon Series

I. GOD GIVES HIS VISION (1:2)

- A. Possession of the Promised Land
 - A.1. Creator God owns all the land (Gen. 1:1)
 - A.2. Grace gift- God promised to give the land to Abraham’s offspring (Gen. 12:7)
 - A.3. The gift will be accepted by possessing the Promised Land (Joshua 1:6)
- B. God is the Lord of history
- C. God gives Israel a seasoned leader-
 - C.1. Moses’ aide
 - C.2. A war hero (Ex. 17: 9-14)
 - C.3. Indwelt by the Spirit (Num. 27:18)
 - C.4. Followed the Lord fully (Num. 32:12)
 - C.4.a) Be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6)
 - C.4.b) Do everything written in the Book of the Law (Joshua 1:8)

II. RAHAB AND THE SPIES (2:1-24)

- A. Joshua sends two spies secretly to check out Jericho (2:1)
 - A.1. They met and stayed with Rahab, a prostitute (2:1)
 - A.2. The king of Jericho is informed of the spies’ visit
 - A.3. Rahab lies to protect the spies
 - A.4. She has heard of The Red Sea Crossing and “what you did to Sihon and Og, two kings of the Amorites
 - A.5. Rahab sees that the Lord is God in heaven and on earth. (2:11)
- B. The Agreement
 - B.1. Israel would spare Rahab and her families lives (2:12-13)
 - B.2. Rahab would tie a scarlet cord in the window through which the spies will be let down. (2:18)
- C. The Intelligence Analysis (2:24)
 - C.1. “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands.”

III. GOD OPENS THE DOOR TO THE PROMISED LAND (3:1-4:24)

- A. Follow the ark of the covenant. (3:11)
- B. The priests step into the Jordan and the river stops flowing. (3:15-16)
- C. The priests stood in the middle of the Jordan until all the people crossed. (3:17)
- D. The Lord exalted Joshua. (4:14)
- E. Joshua set up a memorial of 12 stones at Gilgal. (4:24)
 - E.1. Peoples of the earth: the hand of the Lord is powerful.
 - E.2. Israel: “that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

IV. OPERATION JERICHO (5:13-6:26)

- A. The Commander of the Army of the Lord (5:13-15, 6:2)
- B. The Battle Plan (6:2-11)
- C. The Plan is set in motion (6:12-25)
 - C.1. The people shouted and the wall collapsed. (6:20)
 - C.2. Rahab and her family are saved. (6:22-23)
 - C.3. The city was devoted to the Lord and destroyed. (6:21,24)
- D. The sin of Achan
 - D.1. Ai attacked unsuccessfully (7:2-5)
 - D.2. Joshua and the elders ask God what caused the defeat.
 - D.3. “Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant...” (7:11)
 - D.4. Achan is identified and confesses; I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid them. (7:21)
 - D.5. “Devoted things” –
 - D.5.a) The land will be defiled (Lev. 18:20-25)
 - D.5.b) You will turn away from following me to serving other gods (Deut. 7:1-6)
 - D.6. Achan and his family was stoned and then their bodies were burned to purge the evil from the land. (7:25)
 - D.7. Ai is destroyed (8:1-29)

V. LESSONS FROM JOSHUA

- A. God is active and controls human history according to His will.
- B. God desires for His people to live in a healthy environment.
- C. God sent Jesus so we can be cleansed from our sin and have a personal relationship with Him.
- D. God showers us with “**grace gifts.**” (Rom. 8:32)