

July 19 – Take a Deeper Dive—A devotional/reflective resource.

Micah 6:8—He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – NIV.

JOSHUA 10:28-43

Prayer Focus—Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading—Joshua 10:28-43

Consider this—What, when, where, really?

Joshua 10-11 poses some interesting difficulties for the modern reader. Not least of these is that, according to some people, the events apparently do not line up with archeological evidence. Now, this is not “anti-Christian” archeology; it is simply what the digs reveal. If you want to spend time with this idea look at the link below.

Here is a link to a rather lengthy and in-depth discussion of these chapters—

<https://biblicalhistoricalcontext.com/series/joshua-10-and-11/>

Tuesday: Reading—Joshua 10:28-43

Consider this—Why these cities.

Spend some time comparing the opening verses in chapter 10 with the campaign described in verses 28-43.

What crossover do you see? Why is it important that Joshua and the army attacked these cities?

Wednesday: Reading—Joshua 10:28-43

Consider this—What’s important to God?

Putting the military campaign to one side for a moment, what things strike you as important to God? What do the acts and the communication from God show about what He holds as important? Gordon Fee, in his book *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*, says that when we read Joshua there are three things that we should look for that are, “major concerns” to God. See if you can find these three things.

First, Fee says that God is concerned with the “engagement in the holy war.” How many times does this idea come through that the battle is the Lord’s, or that God is leading them in battle?

Second, (and we will see this in subsequent chapters) God is seeing to the fulfillment of his promise to Abraham. What promise did he make to Abraham, and how are the events of Joshua a fulfillment of the promise?

Third, and as Fee says, “most important, everything has to do with the Israelites covenant loyalty to the one God.” Did Israel always show this loyalty? What happens when they do and what happens when they don’t? To what extent do you think God is still holding these three things as very important for believers today?

Thursday: Reading—Joshua 10:28-43

Consider this—What’s the genre?

If you look this up, Joshua is categorized as a historical narrative, or a conquest account. I would say, narrative conquest account. Why is it vital to look at what we read in the Bible and determine the genre of the text before we start our journey of interpretation and application? I read somewhere from a commentator that Joshua was more propaganda than historical. What do you think this means? Joshua was written by someone (parts by Joshua himself) sometime after the events we’re reading now, and the later events of Joshua’s life. What does the text say that indicates it was written after Joshua died? This section in the book gives a rather truncated account of the various battles following the killing of the five kings. Other battles were told in detail, why not these? Finally, the whole of the story in this chapter is summed up in verses 40-43. Can you see why this can be read like propaganda?

Friday: Reading— Joshua 10:28-43; 2 Peter 3.

Consider this— God's judgement is a fearsome thing.

God pronounced judgement on the Amorites 420 years before the events we are reading about. What does this reveal to you about God, his promises, and his timeline? Noah was told to build an ark in Genesis. It is approximated that it took roughly 75 years to get the thing built. God didn't just strike out when he saw the sin of man, what did he do instead? Also, surprisingly, it does not say in Genesis that God acted out of anger or wrath. Read Genesis 6: 5-8 (use a few different versions). What were the emotions of God described in these verses? Remind yourself of something that Pastor Ron preached about some time ago and reread 2 Peter 3.

Saturday: Reading— Joshua 10:28-43

Consider this— Don't forget about Rahab.

There is an old heresy called Marcionism. Here is a brief summary of this heresy—*In the second century AD, a teacher named Marcion of Sinope proposed that the harsh, vengeful, and legalistic creator God of the Old Testament was an entirely separate, inferior deity from the loving, merciful, and forgiving Father of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Marcion rejected the Old Testament entirely and heavily edited the New Testament to fit this dualistic worldview.*

One way to read these chapters is to see God as vengeful. But a careful reading will show us more about God than that simple one. For example, God said to wipe out all the Canaanites (Deuteronomy 20:17). But when Joshua gets to Jericho, they spare Rahab's life and that of whoever was with her. Why does he spare them? Doesn't this violate God's orders? What do you think this shows about God? How can we harmonize the story of Rahab and the instructions in Deuteronomy? Are there other places in the Old Testament that show God's grace at work?

From the Henri Nouwen Society—

Christian community is the place where we keep the flame of hope alive among us and take it seriously so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us when we are together that allows us to live in this world without surrendering to the powerful forces constantly seducing us toward despair. That is how we dare to say that God is a God of love even when we see hatred all around us. That is why we can claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together. We affirm it in each other. Waiting together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment – that is the meaning of marriage, friendship, community, and the Christian life.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

For a copy of this document, and the hyperlinks, visit NUBF.ORG

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.