

A DEEPER DIVE

August 9, 2026

Joshua 12

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 12

Consider this– It's a summary!

Gordon Fee's book, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*, has this to say, "chapter 12 summarizes all the kings and their city-states that were destroyed." Short and sweet. What is the purpose of these kinds of summation chapters?

AI tells me this—The purpose of a historical summary in the Old Testament is to show God's active hand in human events, track His covenant promises, and teach spiritual lessons rather than just record neutral facts. These summaries remind the people of Israel who God is and how they should live based on past faithfulness and failures. This all points to the purpose of these summaries vis-a-vis the nation of Israel. But what can we, as modern readers, and gentiles, take from these kinds of historical summaries?

Tuesday: Reading– Joshua 12

Consider this– I don't want history!

The Gospel Coalition has this essay about these types of historical books, it's worth a read.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/historical-books/>

Wednesday: Reading– Joshua 12

Consider this– Lessons can be learned.

The historical books can teach lessons about the Lord that transcend time and culture. Think and discuss how these three things can be learned and what they show us.

God's power is revealed—

God's faithfulness is revealed—

God's justice is revealed—

Thursday: Reading– Joshua 12

Consider this— Applications to be made.

Besides learning lessons, we can apply these lessons to our lives today. Where in Joshua do we see these lessons?

Don't be afraid, the Lord is with you.

Don't be slow or resistant in turning back to the Lord

Don't despair for the future.

Friday: Reading– Joshua 12; 1:7-9

Consider this– Sit back and take the win! Or not.

Joshua had reasons that he could have taken a bow after all the victories he led, many of which were in battles where his army was way outnumbered. But if we go back through the first twelve chapters, what do we see?

>Before the battle of Jericho, how does Joshua act when he meets the commander of the Lord's army?

>After the loss in the first battle against Ai, what was Joshua's reaction?

>Keep the focus right. In what ways does Joshua keep the instructions in chapter 1 foremost in his mind?

>I deserve the best! I earned it! How did Joshua get rewarded for all of his leadership? Flip forward to Joshua 19: 49-51. What do these verses show us about when and why Joshua got his reward of land? Why didn't he claim the prime real estate?

>What did he have to do with the town that he got? What does this show us about Joshua? In light of this, how we should live?

Saturday: Reading– Joshua 12

Consider this– Trust in God, and make your plans.

It would be easy to think that we should just "wait" on the Lord. Is that what Joshua did? Is that what the Lord told Joshua to do? There is a lot of strategy and planning that went on during all of these battles.

Read through the following sets of verses and discuss/think about how they can both be true.

Wait– Psalm 27:14; 37:7 Isaiah 40: 31; Proverbs 16:9; James 14: 13-15.

Plan–Proverbs 6:6-8; 16:3; 21:5; 15:22; Luke 14:28.

From the Henri Nouwen Society–

Enemies are enemies by the way we exclude them from the love of God. When we love with God's love we can no longer divide people into those who deserve God's love and those who don't. When we come to know God's first love nobody can be excluded from that love.

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

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