

The Old Testament – Questions to Consider

Week 17: Joshua 12-24 ~ Judges 1-2

Small Group Warm Up Question:

Would you rather be more famous, wealthier, more athletic, or more intelligent?

1. Watch the Bible Project's 9 minute video on Joshua if you have the time. While some may seek to characterize the Israelite takeover of the Promised Land as "genocide", the reality is that all of the inhabitants (minus the Hivites/Gibeon) refused to make peace with Israel (Joshua 11:19–20). God was punishing the inhabitants of Canaan for their sexual immorality, murder of children, and false worship. While this calling of God for war was for a particular time and people, it demonstrates God's holiness and justice. What sorts of evil stand out to you in your country and society today? How can we reach people in those sins so that they find peace with God thru Jesus?
2. Have you or any of your family experienced war? What was that like? How does a time of war give you greater appreciation for when you have "rest from war" (Joshua 11:23)? How can we best pray for people in warzones today? For military deployed into conflict? For times of peace?
3. While there are impressive victories listed in Joshua 12 & 13, it also quickly becomes evident that Israel did not fully drive out the pagan inhabitants as God had instructed them. Why do you think they only partially obeyed God? How do you think they justified their disobedience? What are some ways we might be tempted to partially obey God? How do we try to justify disobedience?
4. While the listing of boundaries in Joshua 13-21 may seem boring to us today, it evidences the accuracy of the Scriptures as many of these seemingly insignificant towns and cities have been archaeologically discovered. Why do you think God gives us so much evidence for the accuracy of the Bible?
5. Read over Genesis 15:13-16, 18-21. How does it grow your faith to see how God both specifically foretold and upheld His promises to Abraham over 600 years later?
6. Caleb, who along with Joshua had been faithful "spies" earlier in the exodus journey, courageously requests the hill country of Hebron (Joshua 14:12) despite its occupation from the Anakim giant people. How does Caleb's confidence in the Lord's power and presence inspire and encourage your faith with your future battles?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/discussion-guide

www.TrustworthyWord.com

www.Bible.video

Enjoy Your Perfect Father's Love & Avoid His Parental Punishment

Joshua & Judges (ESV)

Judges 17:6 & 21:25 - "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

God Is A Faithful Father - To His Promises & His Punishments - R_____ & Honor Him

- Joshua 21:45 "Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed"
- 1 Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful"
- Joshua 23:14–16 "...not one word has failed..."
- Joshua 24:13 "I gave you a land on which you had not labored & cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards & olive orchards that you did not plant."
- Joshua 24:20 "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good."
- Romans 3:3–4 "What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? [4] By no means"

God Is Clear with His Expectations - Pay A_____ to Him

- Joshua 23:6–8 "do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, [7] that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them"
- Judges 2:1–2 "Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, [2] and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?"

May 5, 2024

God Warns Us of the Cycle of Sinful Rebellion - Becoming Like the World Around Us - Don't R_____ the Past!

- Joshua 23:11–13 “Be very careful, therefore...”
- Joshua 24:15 “choose this day whom you will serve...”
- Joshua 24:21 “And the people said...‘we will serve the LORD.’”
- *Judges 17:6 & 21:25 - “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*
- Judges 2:3–5 “I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.”...all the people of Israel...wept.”
- 2 Timothy 2:11–13 “The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; [12] if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; [13] if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.”

God Gives Us a Choice & Our Choices Matter - Will You R_____ the World or Will You R_____ the World?

- Judges 1:28 “...did not drive them out completely.”
- Judges 2:11–15 “And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. [12] And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger...[15] Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.”
- 1 John 2:16–17 “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

God Is Patient and Merciful - God Sends Flawed Human Deliverers to Deliver Israel from Themselves - S_____ to Jesus

- Judges 2:16–20 “[18] Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. [19] But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.”
- 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

God Is Amazingly Loving to Send An Ultimate, Perfect Deliverer - Far Above Any Previous Prophet, Priest, Judge, or King - L____ for Jesus

- Acts 13:20–23 “...he gave them judges ...”
- 1 Timothy 6:13–16 “...keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”
- Revelation 19:11–16 “On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

This Next Week's Old Testament Reading Plan:

Week 18: Judges 3-17

- **Read the Old Testament w/Us:** www.southfork.church/2024
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcd devo

Our Perfect Father's Love & Discipline

Joshua & Judges (ESV)

Judges 17:6 & 21:25 - "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

God Is A Faithful Father - To His Promises & His Punishments - Respect & Honor Him

- Joshua 21:45 "Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed"
- 1 Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful"
- Joshua 23:14–16 "And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. [15] But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you, [16] if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you."
- Joshua 24:13 "I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant."
- Joshua 24:20 "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good."
- Romans 3:3–4 "What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? [4] By no means"

God Is Clear with His Expectations - Pay Attention to Him

- Joshua 23:6–8 "Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, [7] that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, [8] but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day."
- Judges 2:1–2 "Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, [2] and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?"

God Warns Us of the Cycle of Sinful Rebellion - Becoming Like the World Around Us - Don't Repeat the Past!

- Joshua 23:11–13 “Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God. [12] For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, [13] know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the LORD your God has given you.”
- Joshua 24:15 “And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
- Joshua 24:21 “And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, but we will serve the LORD.’”
- *Judges 17:6 & 21:25 - In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*
- Judges 2:3–5 “So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” [4] As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. [5] And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.”
- 2 Timothy 2:11–13 “The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; [12] if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; [13] if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.”

God Gives Us a Choice & Our Choices Matter - Will You Resemble the World or Will You Resist the World?

- Judges 1:28 “When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.”
- Judges 2:11–15 “And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. [12] And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. [13] They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. [14] So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. [15] Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.”
- 1 John 2:16–17 “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

God Is Patient and Merciful - God Sends Flawed Human Deliverers to Deliver Israel from Themselves - Submit to Jesus

- Judges 2:16–20 "Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. [17] Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. [18] Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. [19] But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. [20] So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he said, 'Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice'
- 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

God Is Amazingly Loving to Send An Ultimate, Perfect Deliverer - Far Above Any Previous Prophet, Priest, Judge, or King - Live for Jesus

- Acts 13:20–23 "All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. [21] Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. [22] And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' [23] Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised."
- 1 Timothy 6:13–16 "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, [14] to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen."
- Revelation 19:11–16 "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."