

Chronological Bible Study

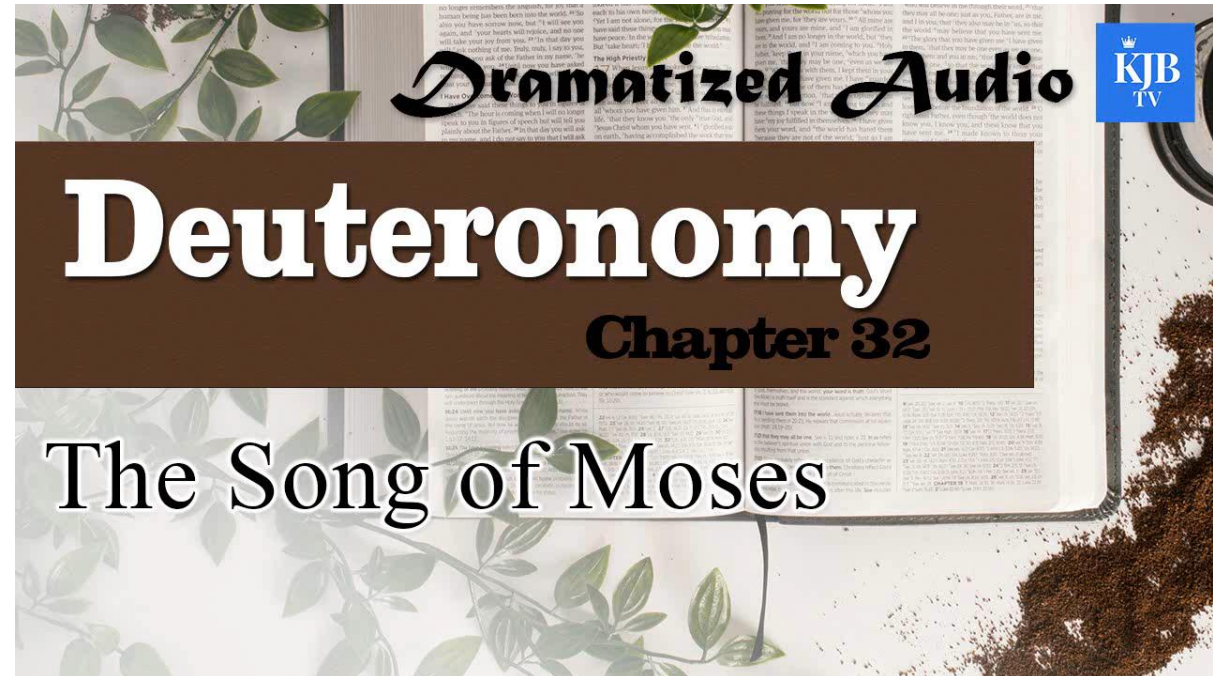
Week 8:

Victory Through Faith

Deuteronomy 27-34; Psalm 90;
Joshua 1:1-13-7

Opening Prayer

[Video Link](#)





Introductions

What book, movie or tv program have you seen/read recently that you would recommend? Why?

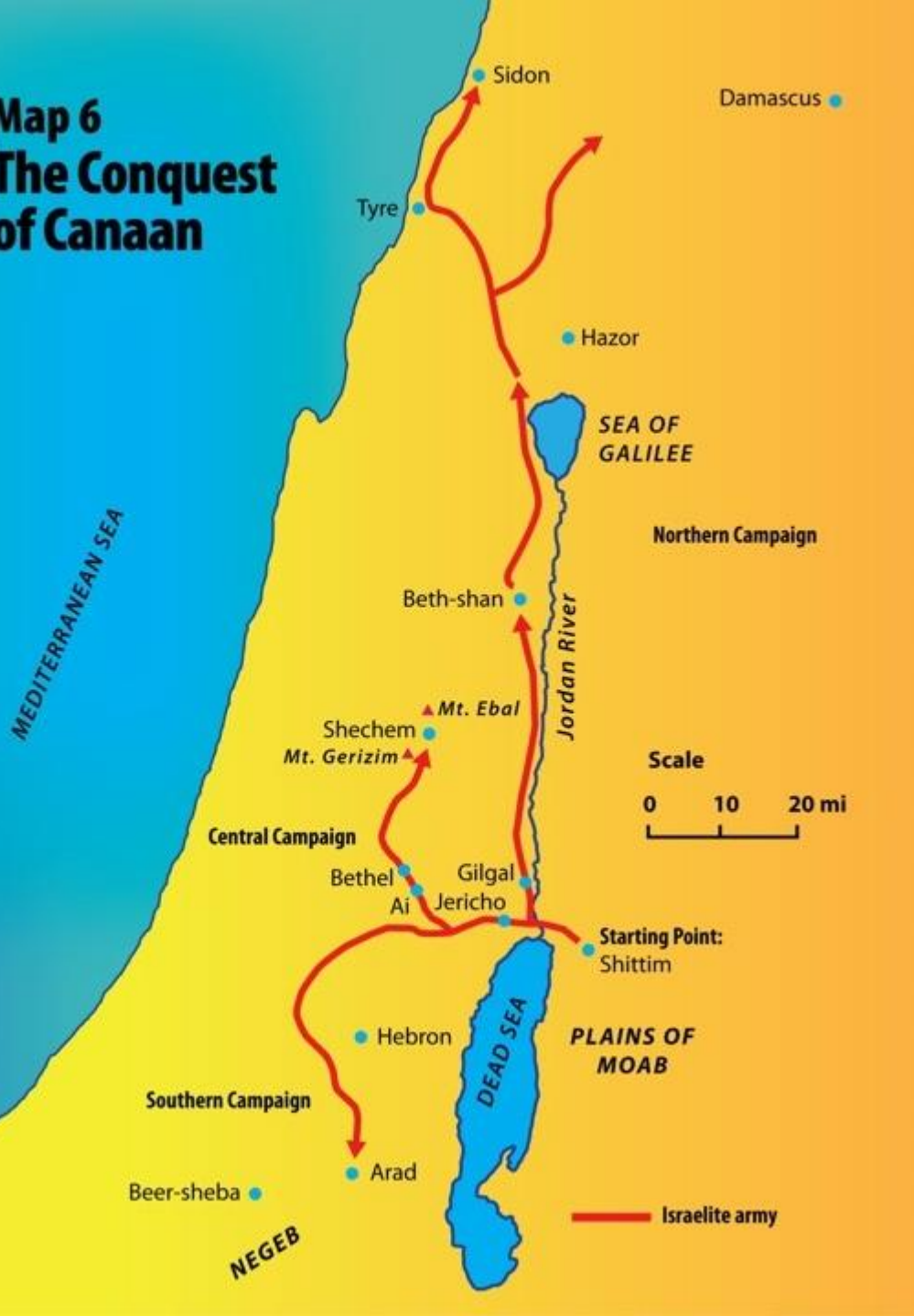
Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

- What God Will Do (Deuteronomy 27-34)
- Psalm 90
- Entering Canaan (Joshua 1-5)
- Conquest of Canaan (Joshua 6-13)

Map 6 The Conquest of Canaan



Key Locations

- Moses dies at Mt. Nebo
- Circumcisions occur at Gilgal
- Rahab and the spies in Jericho
- Crossing the Jordan
- Battle of Jericho
- Blessings and curses – Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim
- Achan's sin at Ai
- Defeated Amorites at Gibeon (an all-night march from Gilgal)
- Southern cities conquered in series of battles around Hebron
- Northern cities conquered in battles between Gilgal and Tyre

Blessings

- Be blessed in the city and country
- Be blessed with children, crops, and livestock
- Be blessed with bread and good crops
- Be blessed when you come in and go out
- Enemies will be defeated
- Blessing on barns and all work
- Be established as God's holy people

Curses

- Be cursed in the city and country
- Be cursed with lack of food and crops
- Be cursed when bearing children, crops, and livestock
- Cursed when you come in and go out
- God will send curses, confusion and rebuke to all work and you will be unsuccessful
- God will plague you with diseases, plagues, boils, sores, itches, madness, blindness, confusion
- There will be lack of rain and harvests will fail
- Enemies will prevail
- Children will be given to another nation
- Exile will occur and you will worship idols

All believers have God in their heart, but not all believers have given their whole heart to God. The question is not "How can I have more of the Spirit," but rather, "how can the Spirit have more of me?" -- Max Lucado

Moses Dies

- Moses pronounces a blessing on the tribes and then prepares for his death and burial.'
- Provided Israelites instructions on what to do when they enter the Promised Land.
- Climbed Mt. Nebo from the plains of Moab across from Jericho.
- Israel grieves for Moses.
- Joshua becomes the new leader.
- God predicts the fall of the Israelites
- Deuteronomy closes with a prophetic expectancy.



Preparation for Entering The Promised Land

- All the men were circumcised
- An altar on Mt. Ebal
- Command to destroy other places of worship
- Command to read the law every 7 years at the festival of Tabernacles to remind the Israelites of the law
- The Israelites will enter Canaan about 1405 BC



Opening Prayer

[Video Link](#)



Psalm 90

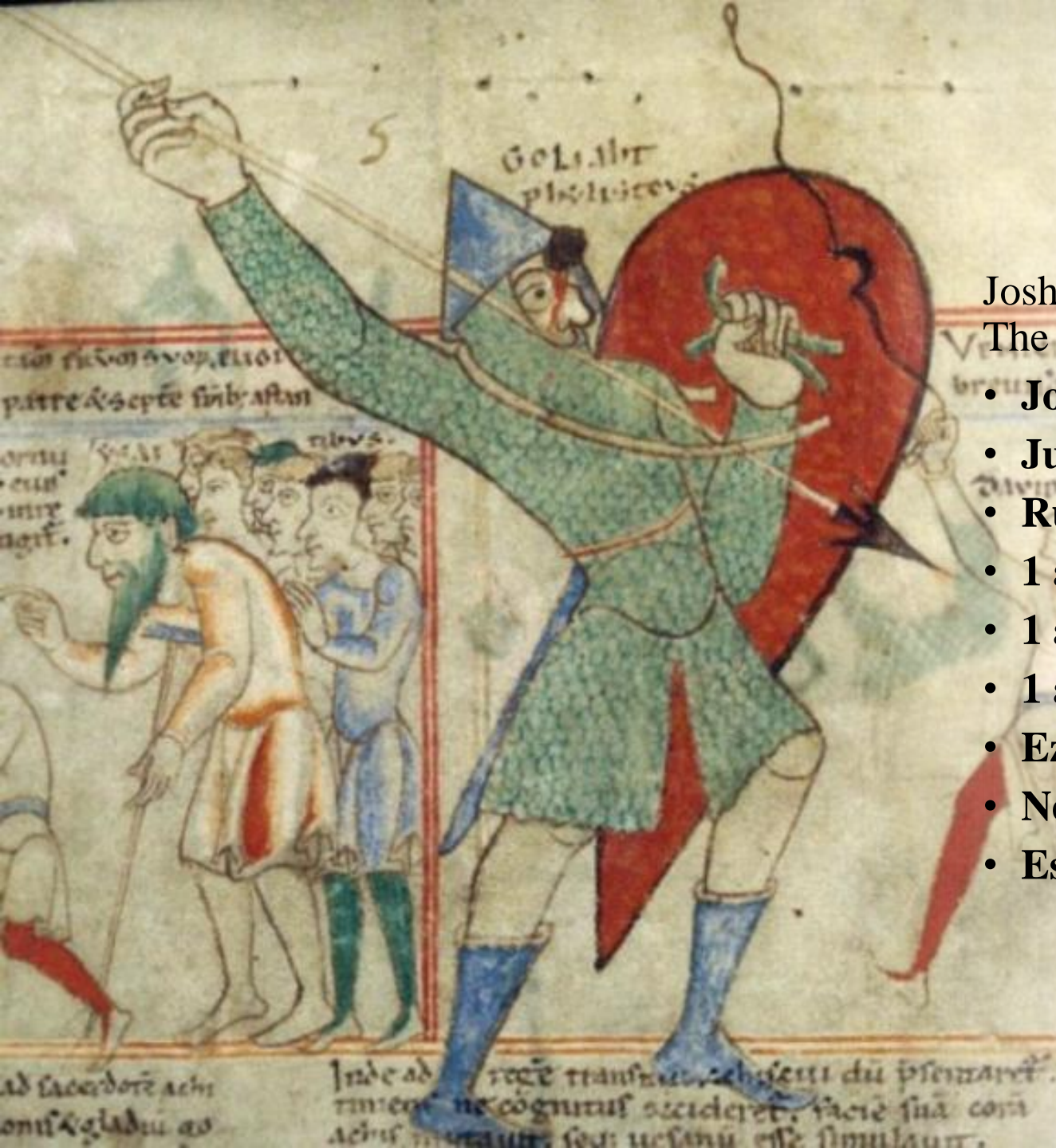
- The oldest of the Psalms. It is attributed to Moses
- Yahweh is the refuge and protection of his people
- God is everlasting. His perception of time is different than ours
- Moses and the Israelites have seen God's judgment
- Moses compares the eternal nature of the holy God with the frail temporary nature of sinful man
- Moses pleads with God to be present, compassionate, and merciful and for the permanence of the work of God's people



The Historical Books

Joshua is first of the Historical books of the Old Testament. The books include:

- **Joshua:** The capture and settlement of the Promised Land
- **Judges:** The nation of Israel rescued by a series of judges
- **Ruth:** Story of God's love and care
- **1 and 2 Samuel:** Early history of Israel
- **1 and 2 Kings:** A political history of Israel
- **1 and 2 Chronicles:** A religious history of Israel
- **Ezra:** The return of the Jewish people from Babylon
- **Nehemiah:** Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem
- **Esther:** God's care for His people under gentile rule



Book of Joshua

[Video Link](#)



Big Ideas in JOSHUA



God appoints a new leader, Joshua, to replace Moses

God demonstrates his power to his people

God is the ultimate warrior; he rescues his people from their enemies

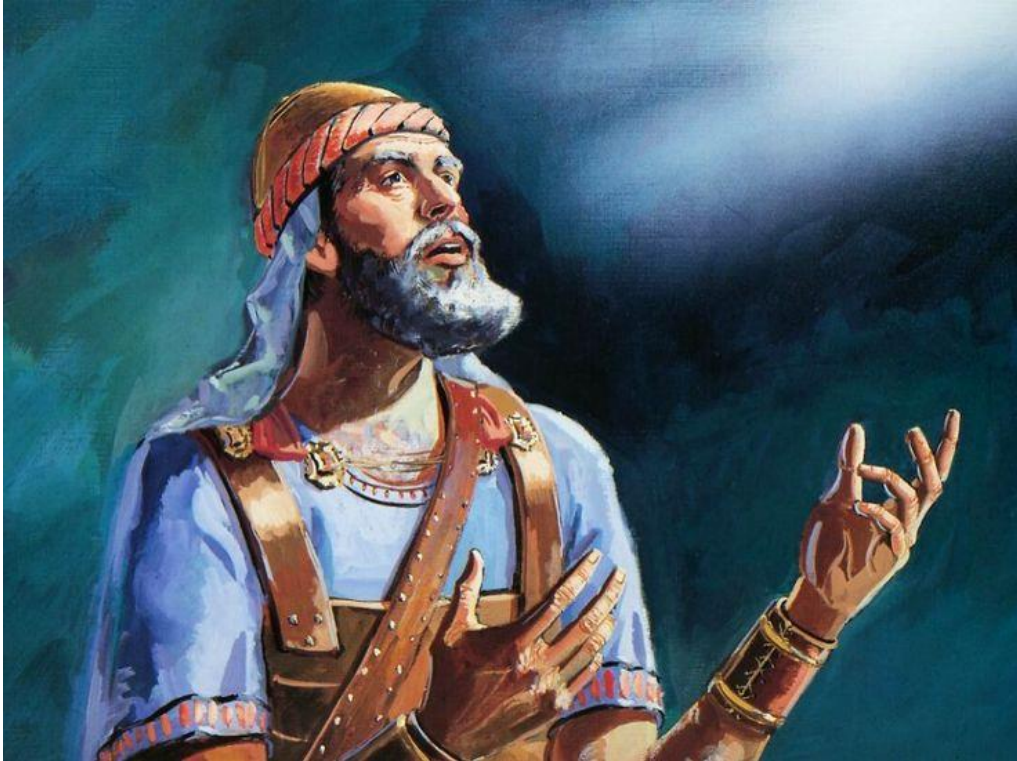
God keeps his promises

God wants his people to faithfully obey him

Overview of Joshua

- Israel learns that victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word
- Joshua's name means "Yahweh is salvation."
- Jewish tradition assigns authorship of the book to Joshua, except for the description of his death.
- The events in the book take place between the beginning of the conquest (1405 BC) until the death of Joshua (c 1390 BC)
- Two major divisions in the book: 1-12 record the conquest and 13-24 describe the assignment of tribal territories and the dispersal of the tribes throughout the land
- Themes:
 - conquest and occupation
 - God keeps His promises
 - God is holy and just
 - God blesses and provides for those who follow and obey Him

Joshua as Leader



- Joshua installed as leader to take the Israelites into the Promised Land
- God assured Joshua of success if he remembers the Law
- The land is divided up between the 12 tribes of Israel

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. [Joshua 1:9]

Joshua and Jesus

- The name Joshua is the Hebrew equivalent of Jesus
- Both leaders who follow God's law
- Both deliverers who rescue sinners
- Warrior who conquers enemies
- A prophet who speaks God's words
- Victor who shares the inheritance with his people
- Servant who faithfully enacts God's will



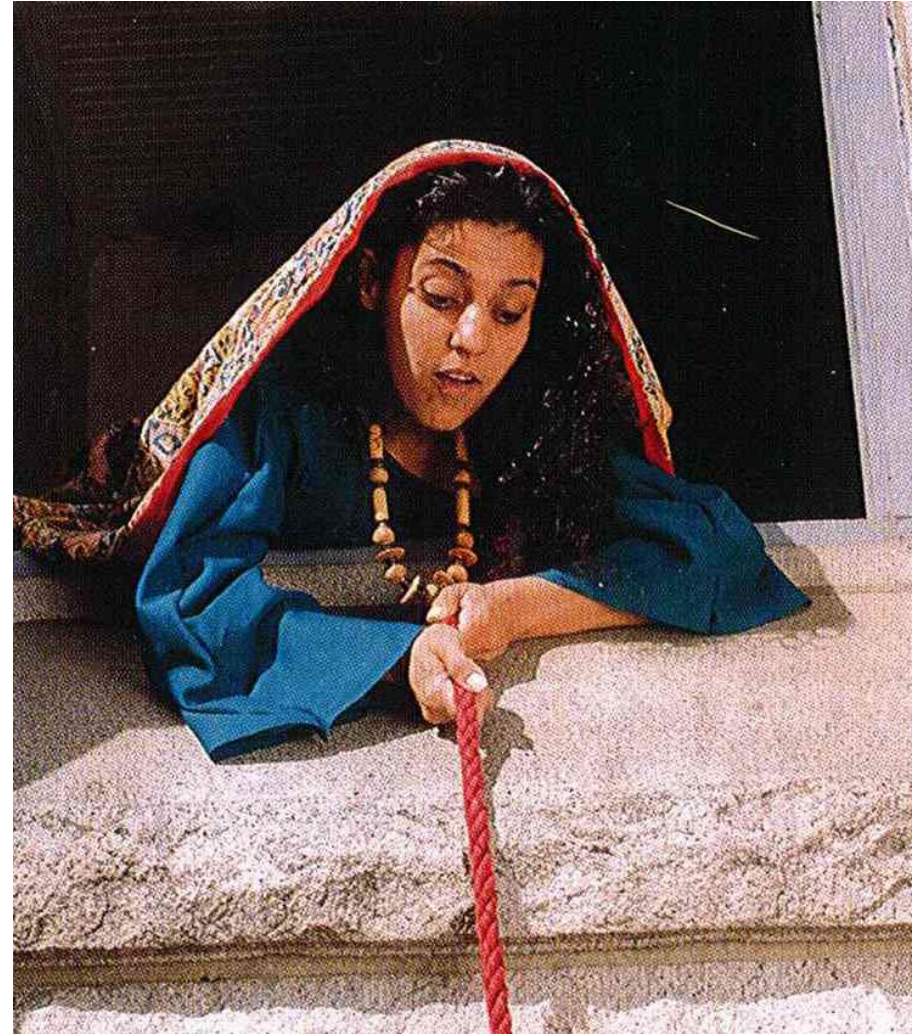
DISCUSSION

How does remembering, meditating on, and obeying God's Word benefit us in our daily lives?



Rahab and the Spies

- Joshua sends two spies to Jericho
- Rahab was an innkeeper and in the New Testament said to be a prostitute
- Rahab took great risk in protecting the Israelites
- Rahab negotiates for her extended family
- Rahab confesses her faith in the Israelite God



Rahab

[Video Link](#)



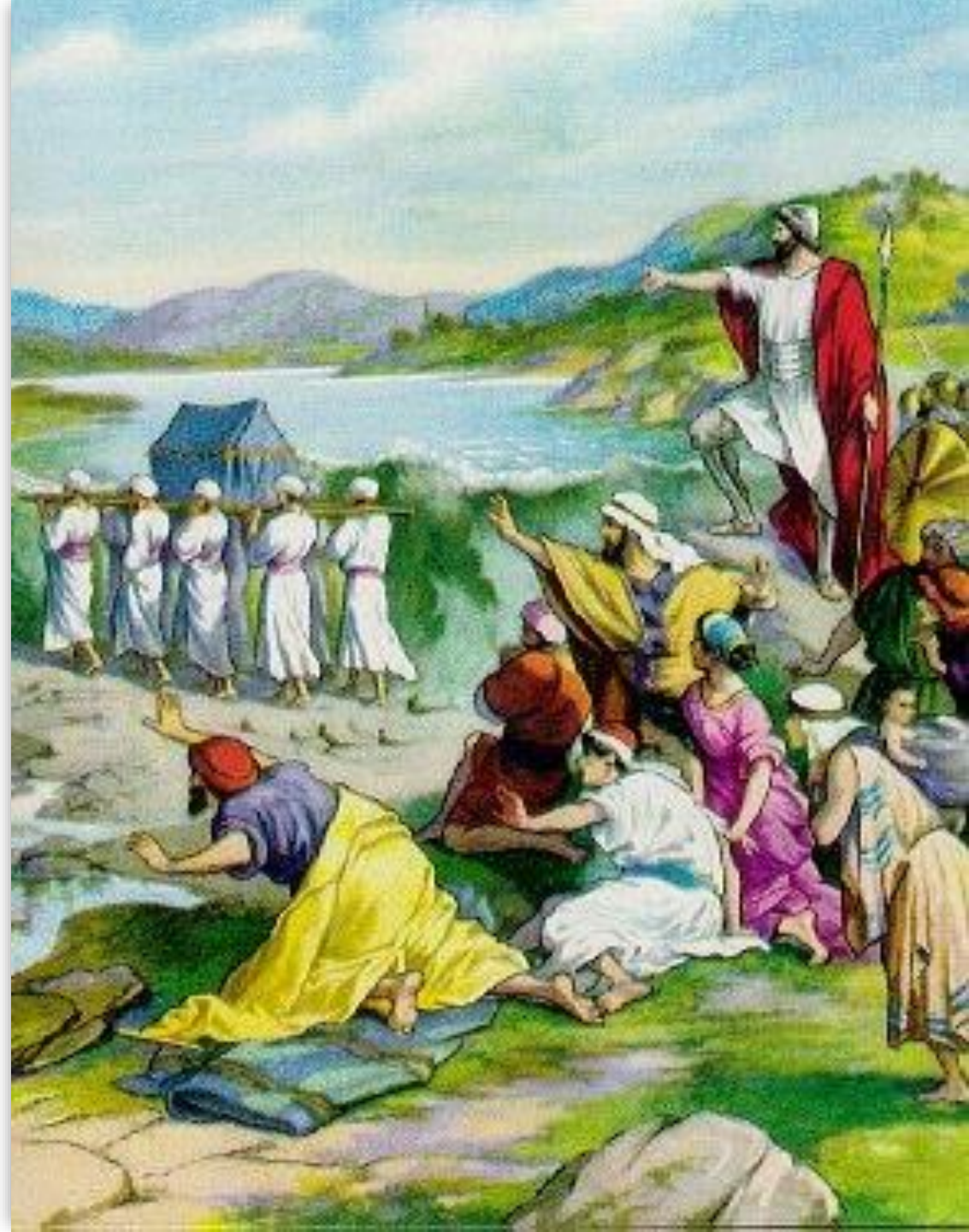


Crossing the Jordan

- A holy God leads his consecrated people across the last natural barrier
- The people consecrated themselves before crossing
- God present throughout the crossing
- A memorial of 12 stones commemorates their safe crossing
- The enemy reacts with fear
- No obstacle can stop the onward movement of God's presence, whether natural (the Jordan River) or man-made (Jericho)
- Missional goal that all people of the earth might know the power of the Lord

Obedience and Worship

- Once in the Promised Land, the Israelites camped at Gilgal west of the Jordan River
- God commanded Israel to resume the rite of circumcision.
- The Israelites celebrated their first Passover in the Promised Land at Gilgal



The Commander of the Lord's Army

- Just outside of Jericho Joshua encounters a “man” who said he commanded the armies of God
- The armies of God would include the angels and the Israelites
- Joshua recognizes him as God and worships him



The Battle of Jericho

[Video Link](#)





The Fall of Jericho

- Jericho was the first battle fought by the Israelites in the conquest of Canaan.
- The city is surrounded by walls with locked gates to keep out attackers.
- God gave Joshua specific instructions on what to do and Joshua followed these instructions.
- The story demonstrates the faithfulness and might of the Lord
- Some lessons:
 - Follow God, even if the journey seems impossible or unexpected. Obedience in God matters.
 - When we listen, we can hear God speaking to us
 - God is purposeful, not random. What God promises He will deliver.
 - Keep waiting on the Lord, the outcome may not be instant
 - We need God
 - God is at war with sin. The battle was a spiritual as well as military battle



Achan and the Battle of Ai

- Everything saved from Jericho was to go to the Treasury of the Lord.
- Spies predicted an easy victory over Ai.
- The Israelites were defeated and the first Israelites died in battle in the Promised Land
- Achan had stolen plunder from Jericho against God's (and Joshua's) command.
- Until Achan's sin was dealt with Israel would not conquer Ai.
- Under God's direction, the Israelites went on to conquer Ai.

DISCUSSION

How does God view “private” sin, based on the story of Achan?

Is any sin every really private? Does this story change any of your thinking about sin?



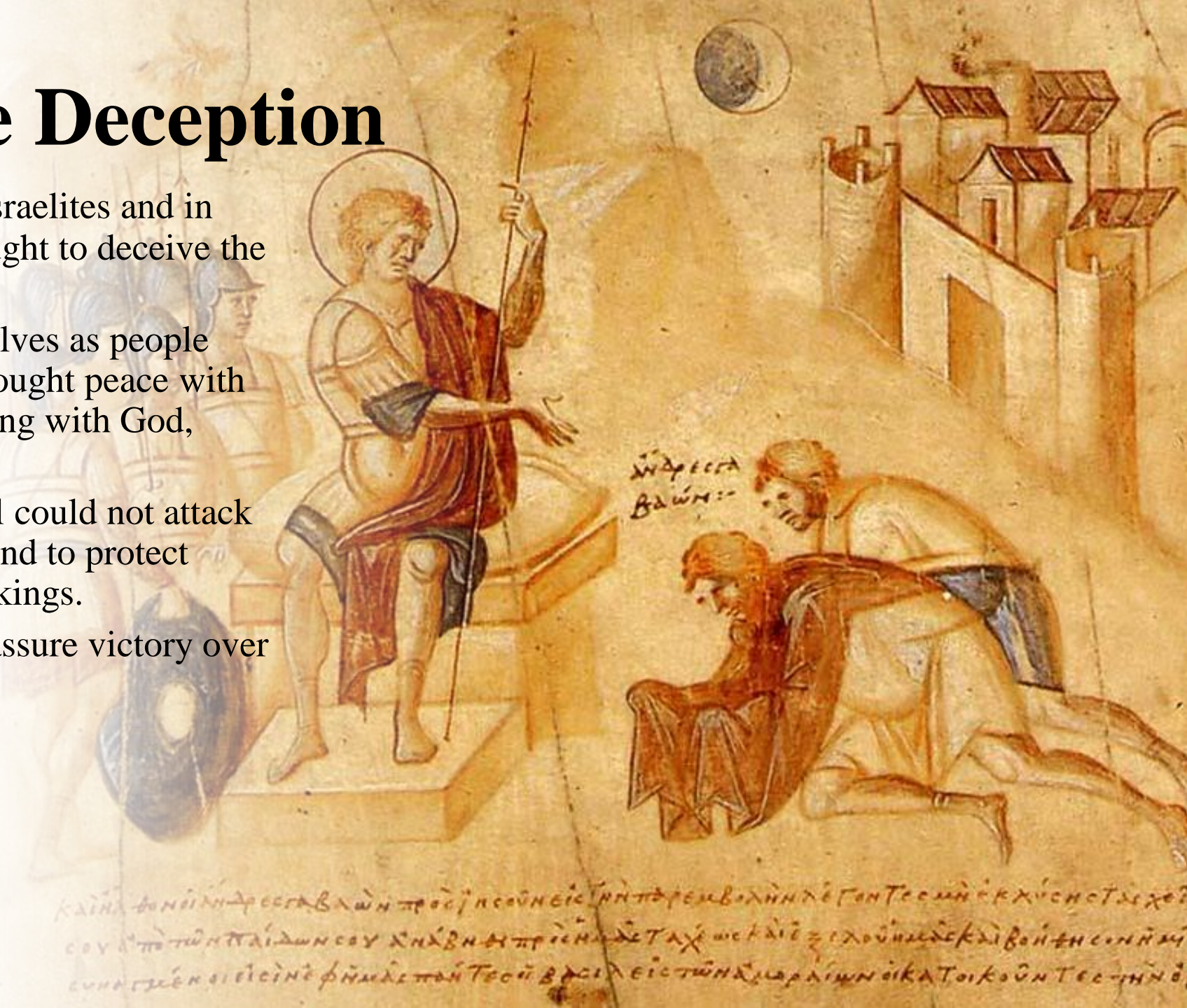
Shechem

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The Gibeonite Deception

- The Gibeonites feared the Israelites and in order to save themselves sought to deceive the Israelites.
- Gibeonites disguised themselves as people from a distant country and sought peace with Joshua. Joshua, not consulting with God, agreed.
- Since a vow was made Israel could not attack the Gibeonites and were bound to protect Gibeon against the Amorite kings.
- God performed miracles to assure victory over to Israel.





Other Battles

- Chapters 11-12 in Joshua provide much less detail of specific battles in Israel's conquest of Canaan.
- They won victory after victory . The opposing kings fought not only against Joshua's army but against God himself.
- Joshua and the Israelites defeated 31 kings west of the Jordan.

DISCUSSION

We aren't called to wipe out those around us today who are immoral or non-believers but we are called to purity and holiness.

How should we separate ourselves from sin and still resist blending in to our sinful culture?





- **NO CLASS Nov 13**
- We will meet again Nov 20
- Reading assignment: Joshua 13:8-24:33

Closing Song: Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

[Video Link](#)



Victory Through Faith

7-20 NOV 2023

DT 27 – 34; PS 90; JOS 1-13:7

Week 8

We end Deuteronomy with a transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua. Moses predicts what will befall Israel (blessing and curses) in the near future and Moses dies. In Joshua, we read of the preparation for and conquest of Canaan. The people of Israel, through this and later campaigns, learn a crucial lesson: victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word. In the conquest of Canaan we see God as a warrior who rescues his people from enemies. God's people still battle evil today and we can be confident that Christ has already assured the final outcome by his victory. If you are faithful to God you will be victorious in what matters.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: DT 27:1 –28:68
Day 2: DT 29:1 – 34:12
Day 3: PS 90
Day 4: JOS 1:1 – 5:15
Day 5: JOS 6:1 – 7:26
Day 6: JOS 8:1 – 9:27
Day 7: JOS 10:1 – 13:7

Outline

Ratification of the Covenant in Canaan [Day 1]
Transition of Leadership; Moses Final Words [Day 2]
Teach Us to Number Our Days [Day 3]
Israel is Prepared for the Conquest [Day 4]
The Conquest of Canaan by Israel [Days 5-7]

Key Characters

Moses
Joshua
Liam
Rahab
Ascah and Caleb
Achan

Key Locations

Shores of the Jordan river
Mount Ebal
Mount Nebo
Canaan
Gilgal
Jericho
Ai
Hazor

Key Terms

Covenant
Obedience
Disobedience
Judgement
Sovereignty
Providence
Redemption
Community
Strength
Courage

Key Verses

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them [DT 30:19-20]

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom [PS 90:12]

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.” [JOS 1:6}

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt27: Write the law on large stones. The Levites will say, "Cursed is anyone who does not keep the law," and the people will reply, "Amen."

Dt28: If you obey the LORD he will bless you above all nations; if not, you will be cursed and the LORD will send a nation to destroy you.

Dt29: You have seen all that the LORD has done so keep this covenant. If you break it the land will be cursed and the LORD will uproot you.

Dt30: When you return to the LORD he will have compassion; he will circumcise your heart. I have set before you life and death. Choose life.

Dt31: Joshua will cross ahead of you. Read the law every seven years. The LORD said, "The people will turn away. Write a song as a witness."

Dt32: Ascribe greatness to our God! The LORD's portion is his people; They turned away so he spurned them; But he will provide atonement.

Dt33: Moses blessed Israel before his death: Let Reuben live; bless Levi's work; Joseph's land is blessed. The eternal God is your refuge.

Dt34: Moses climbed Mount Nebo. There the LORD showed him the Promised Land. Then Moses died. No prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses.

Ps90: Lord, you have been our dwelling place. All our days pass away under your wrath. Return, O Lord! Have compassion on your servants!

Jos1: The LORD said to Joshua, "Arise, cross into the land. Be strong and courageous." So Joshua told the officers to prepare provisions.

Jos2: Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. A prostitute called Rahab hid them, so they promised to spare her family. They reported to Joshua.

Jos3: The Israelites camped by the Jordan. When the priests carrying the ark reached the river it stopped, so Israel crossed on dry ground.

Jos4: The LORD told Joshua to set up memorial stones from the Jordan. When the priests brought the ark up to the bank the waters returned.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jos5: The LORD told Joshua to circumcise the men. They called the place Gilgal. Joshua met the commander of the LORD's army and bowed down.

Jos6: The LORD said that the army should march around Jericho. On the seventh day they shouted and the walls fell. They destroyed the city.

Jos7: Achan took some banned items. When the army went against Ai they were defeated. The LORD identified Achan and the people stoned him.

Jos8: The LORD told Joshua to take the army against Ai. They set up an ambush and destroyed the city. Joshua read out the book of the law.

Jos9: The Gibeonites sent envoys. They pretended that they were from far away and made a treaty. The Israelites found out but spared them.

Jos10: Five Amorite kings attacked the Gibeonites. The sun stood still while the Israelites took revenge. Joshua defeated the whole region.

Jos11: The kings of the north joined forces to fight against Israel but the LORD gave Joshua victory. So Joshua took the whole land.

Jos12: Israel defeated the kings east of the Jordan under Moses and the kings west of the Jordan under Joshua. Thirty-one kings in total.

Jos13: Now Joshua was old. The LORD said, "Divide the remaining land among the tribes." Moses had given land to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh.

Teachings About God

- Idolatry is a serious affront to God’s glory that there are severe penalties against those who insult God by turning away from him.
- God provides both blessings and curses, based on obedience to him. There are consequences to not following God’s law.
- God is faithful to fulfill his promises.
- God is present in the lives of his people.
- Awe and respect an appropriate response to God’s holiness.
- God endures from everlasting to everlasting and is compassionate to mankind (PS 90)
- God is a righteous judge who brings judgement on evil.
- When food was no longer scarce the manna ceased. When we can God has us provide for ourselves.
- God’s kingdom triumphs at a time when nations were viewed as the creation of local deities. Israel’s God is the one true God.
- God uses the forces of nature to effect victory.
- God hardens the heart of evil people.

Teachings About Humanity

- Deuteronomy faithfully records Israel’s failures and gives solemn warnings of divine curses on disobedient and rebellious people.
- The Israelites renew their covenant with God—they are “the people of God.”
- Psalm 90 is a comment on Moses’ life and prayer for God’s help.
- Humans easily return to dust. We must count our days. (PS 90)
- Joshua was strong and courageous.
- God’s people can live in victory as they trust him and stay in unity with him.
- Joshua used a divide-and-conquer military strategy.
- Those who oppose God will not stand forever.
- Non-Israelites can serve God.
- The sin of an individual can place a whole community under God’s discipline.

Teachings About Salvation

- Redeemed people demonstrate their love and faith by their obedience.
- There is judgement for disobedience, but grace is available contingent on repentance. Despair can give way to hope.
- Sovereignty of God’s judgement over human sin in his time and his manner.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Joshua name means “the Lord is Salvation and the Greek equivalent is Jesus. Watch for parallels between Joshua and Jesus.
- The “commander of the Lord’s army who spoke with Joshua is thought to be Christ in preincarnate form.
- Jesus is a descendant of Rahab.
- Passover celebration following Joshua’s victory and Jesus’ Last Supper Passover.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Sermonic style using prose discourse.
- Song of Moses, blesses and curses, and Psalm 90 are poetic.
- Joshua historical narrative of military conquest.

Author/Date of Writing

- Events in Deuteronomy and Joshua occur just before Israel crosses the Jordan River and began conquest of the promised land c 1406 BC.
- Psalm 90 is attributed as “a prayer of Moses the man of God.” Author is undetermined.
- Joshua’s authorship is anonymous. Tradition holds that Joshua wrote it.
- Audience of Joshua was the Israelite nation.

WEEK 8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- What is the foundation for the blessings in DT 28:1-14? God's work or our obedience? How will God be glorified by blessing his people? How is holiness inseparable from the promise?
- How do the curses (DT 28:15-68) fit with your understanding of God. What if God were just a God of blessing?
- What does it mean that "God is your rock" (DT 32)?
- Why do you think God inaugurated Joshua's career with a miracle similar to the one he gave Moses (JOS 3:7-17)? Why did God have the people cross the Jordan at the flood stage?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Is it harder for people to follow God in times of prosperity or times of adversity? Why?
- What about Moses' relationship with God and his people made him unique? What does it mean to know God "face-to-face"?
- How do you think Rahab related to God? Why did she risk her own safety to protect the spies?
- What was the first thing Joshua did after the victory at Ai? [JOS 8: 30]? What does this tell you about the kind of man he was? Why do you think the children and aliens were included in the ceremony?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you feel blessed? How would you put DT 28:3-6 in modern language?
- What memories help keep you faithful to God? How are they like Israel's memories?
- What modern idols are popular right now in our culture? How do they subtly become like what we worship – good or bad? How can idols drive a wedge between us and God and make us drift away from the covenant community?
- How do you "number your days" (PS 90)? One day at a time? Make each one count? With a clock and calendar? Other?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- How did faith factor into the conquest of Jericho and how did the Israelites fight in a way different from other peoples of the time?
- Some Israelite conquest appear to have been peaceful assimilation of the native peoples into the Israelites' own group, such as with the Gibeonites (JOS 9). What is the danger of such assimilation? Why was so much emphasis in Israelite law focused on rejecting idols and multiple gods?