

MURPHY ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 9th, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study at the Quinns July 21st

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jenny Spradlin

Gloria Ferrell

Millie Broussard

Leola Weathers

John Cash

Austin Wilburn

Donna Meeks

Pat Andress

Jonelle Wilcox

Julian Barkoh

SHUT IN

Bess Pollock

TRAVELING

Karl and Dawn

Mary Canales

Vanessa and children

Meeting Times:

Sunday: 9:30 Worship

Sunday: 10:30 Bible Class

Sunday: 5:00 Worship

Wednesday 7:30 PM Bible Class

Looking for opportunities to serve?

- Talk to an elder about teaching a Bible Class.
- Ask an elder about specific needs that can be met.

Interested in further Bible study?

- Speak with our full time evangelist. Nathan Quinn can be reached at (402) 304-5699.

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”*

1st John 4:7



Reading Your Bible Series

Joshua

By Nathan Quinn

After the books of the Law, the next section of the OT are the books of History. The first book of history is named Joshua. It primarily deals with the fulfillment of the land promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12. In Exodus, the children of Israel began their journey to the land. In the book of Deuteronomy, they are waiting on the other side of the Jordan, near the land. Now the book of Joshua tells of the conquest of the promise land, as God's people claim what God had given them. This book also focuses on Joshua's role through all of this, which is why the book is called Joshua. Joshua's name means Jehovah saves, which was actually the name the prophet Moses gave him (Numbers 13:16). Jesus is a variant of the name Joshua and also means Jehovah saves. When you read of Joshua's role in conquering the promise land, you see a shadow of Jesus and His role in leading God's people in their conquest.

The first five chapters of Joshua deal with the nation's preparation to cross the Jordan into the promise land. The first order of business deals with the transfer of leadership from the recently deceased Moses to the new leader, Joshua. Moses, "the servant of the Lord" had been a great leader and one could only imagine the tremendous pressure Joshua would have felt in assuming the responsibility of leading God's people. As the Lord calls Joshua to replace Moses, he does so with multiple admonitions to "Be strong and courageous" (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9). The Lord reassured Joshua that He would make sure the people knew that as He had been with Moses, He would be with Joshua (1:5, 3:7). Once again spies are sent into the land and we are introduced to Rahab. All of this precedes the crossing of the Jordan as Israel prepares for the conquest.

In chapters 6-12 we have the conquest of the land of Canaan. This begins with the well known conquering of Jericho. Jericho is a wonderful example of God's grace and man's faith working together. God's plan and man's faithful obedience brings about victory for the people of the Lord. During this time the importance of faithfulness to God is demonstrated when Achan is carried away with greed, and similar to the New Testament story of Ananias and Sapphira God made Achan an example to everyone, bringing about an appropriate fear of the Lord.

The next section details the dividing of the conquered land among the twelve tribes (13-22). At this time, the conquest has not been completed, there would still be work to do, however God is still the one in control. Just as Israel needed to trust in God's battle plan, they also needed to trust in God's plan to arrange and distribute the land. This detailed section contains a lot of lists and can be monotonous to read, yet the Lord's instructions, whether seen as exciting or not, need to be obeyed. God through this, is demonstrating His faithfulness in fulfilling His promise to Abraham. At the conclusion of this, the promise to Abraham is said to have been fulfilled (Joshua 21:43-45). This is important to remember, especially in view of some false teaching that is still looking for the land promise to be fulfilled.

The final section of Joshua includes Joshua's final words to the people he had faithfully served for his entire life and had faithfully lead through this key period of time in their history. As Joshua gave this final speech to the nation he emphasized God's promises and the importance of their continued obedience (23:5-8). Just as the book of Deuteronomy put before the people the blessings and the curses of the law, Joshua reminded them of the consequences of disobedience as well as the rewards of obedience (23:14-16). The book concludes with one of the most famous calls to obedience as Joshua challenges Israel to "choose for yourselves today whom you will serve" and lets everyone know of his own decision when he says "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In studying the book of Joshua, remember, the Lord fights for His people and brings victory. Choose to serve Him today.