

## 6. Jesus in Joshua and Judges

September 3, 2015

The first five Books – Pentateuch were filled with all the typologies, prophecies, subtle hints, obvious neon signs, and gigantic billboards that point to Jesus Christ so much that even Helen Keller could see them. Now that we are stepping into the second section of the Bible, the historical section, all of a sudden the frequency of the typologies and the prophecies of Jesus drops drastically. I looked for the Lord high and low in the Book of Joshua. I could find Him in only 3 places. To get your trip worth, I added the Book of Judges into tonight's teaching which added only one element of Jesus from that Book.

I am not saying that they are not important, just less frequent.

Let's start at the Book of Joshua, first. Though none of the verses in the Book of Joshua exactly states that the author was Joshua, but it sure talks a lot about him from the beginning to the end of the Book. According to the Talmud which is the collection of ancient Rabbinic writings of Orthodox Judaism, Joshua wrote all but the concluding five verses, which were written by Phinehas, the high priest at that time.

The events recorded in this Book took place during a span of approximately 25 years after the death of Moses.

This can be divided into 4 sections:

- 1) Chapters 1-5: Commissioning the Leader and preparing the people
- 2) Chapters 6-12: Conquering the enemy
- 3) Chapters 13-22: Distributing the land
- 4) Chapters 23-24: Warning the victors

### A. JESUS, THE SAME NAME AS JOSHUA

Joshua was chosen to bring Moses' work to completion and establish Israel in the Promised Land. He was God's man at God's time to be a part of God's work of bringing triumph after the tragic death of the entire first generation of the Exodus population minus two.

Why was Joshua chosen by the Lord? Joshua had a yearning heart for God's presence. We find him lingering at the tabernacle after Moses went back to his tent:

*Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.*

Joshua was born as a Hebrew slave in Egypt like many others, he was forty years old at the time of the Exodus out of Egypt. He was eighty years old when he received his commission as Moses' successor and one hundred ten years old at his death.

But did you know Joshua was not his real name? Any one remembers his real name before he got this name Joshua from Moses?

*Numbers 13:16 These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.*

Oh, you thought that I was pulling your leg.

Perhaps Moses was led by the Lord to strengthen Hoshea's name to make it more solid, more durable, and more certain as a personal name for the coming Messiah.

*Matthew 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

Jesus and Joshua not only shared the same name, but they also had a similar task. Joshua took over after Moses, the law-receiver had died and led the people into the future that God had planned for them.

Among many Christian believers, including some Bible teachers, who believe that the Promised Land is a typology of heaven and the Jordan River as a symbol of death. These concepts might make good song lyrics and pulpit pounding sermons, but they don't jive with the truth from the Bible. Hear me, please. When these Israelis went into the Promised Land, they got into battles after battles, but in heaven, we are not going to battle.

And crossing the River Jordan is representing the time when we, as born-again Christians, put away our old self-centered life as being dead with Christ and we move forward in the life of love and obedience by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is like going from Romans 7:24 to Romans 8:1 and 2:

*Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

*Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

As Joshua was leading these Israelis into the Promised Land, our Lord Jesus leads us into the victorious Christian living as long as we love Him and obey His commands from the Word of God.

## **B. JESUS THE SCARLET CORD**

*Joshua 2:15-21 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. 16 And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way." 17 So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, 18 unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. 19 So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear." 21 Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.*

Let's all hop into our imaginary Time Travel Machine so that we can backtrack to the night of the first Passover in Egypt. The Lord instructed Moses and the Israelis to apply the slain lamb's blood on their doorposts so that everyone who was in their house was spared, not killed by the death angel.

We see the same kind of picture here. As long as people went into Rahab's house before the Israel's invasion where a line of scarlet cord was bound, they would be safe there. As long as people go into the protection of Jesus Christ through His aton-

ing sacrifice, those people are safe eternally. If we abide in Him, we are covered by His blood.

Here is another picture. You remember this, because we studied only a few weeks ago.

*Leviticus 14:4 then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.*

Again, the steps in the leper's cleansing and restoration required a scarlet code which represented the sign of faith in the blood of Jesus.

### **C. JESUS, THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE LORD**

*Joshua 5:13-15 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.*

Joshua's logical question didn't get the answer he was looking for. Rather, he just realized that he was standing in the very presence of the Lord Almighty. I am sure that while Moses was alive, he told Joshua about his encounter with the Lord at the site of the Burning Bush where he was told to take off his sandals, because he was standing on the holy ground.

Joshua needed his own encounter with his God in person. His predecessor Moses had many wonderful moments with his God, yet Joshua didn't. Before the big battle, I wouldn't be surprised if Joshua was a little overwhelmed. I am sure that the Lord knew it and He wanted to assure His servant Joshua that he was with the Lord. So do we. We cannot live off someone else's encounter with God. It must be individualized through everyone's own devotion and prayer.

This is one of the many "theophanies" or "Christophanies" in the OT. A theophany is a physical manifestation of Jesus in the OT.

The Lord pointed out to Joshua that He was not on Joshua's side. Rather, Joshua was on His side. Like that we should realize that the Lord is not taking any side. Rather, we need to be on His side. How wonderfully comforting it is that the Commander of the army of the Lord was allowing Joshua to be on His side at this point!

When we try to do the work of God in our own strength and strategy, we will be overwhelmed by the hindrance and opposition by the enemies. But if we trust the Lord and ask for His strength and guidance, He is the One who will make things happen for His own glory.

*Zechariah 4:6b 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.*

### **D. JESUS THE ULTIMATE JUDGE**

Some of the Books of the OT give impressions that though the texts were written many thousands of years ago, it describes about the current situations so much that it is down right scary. But then again, that is the reason why the Bible is the Living

Word of God. It is so relevant to our lives, because it deals with the human sinful nature and the divine holiness and love.

The Book of Judges takes its title from the twelve men and one woman who served as judges during the period from Joshua's death to the time of Samuel. It is possible that it was written by Samuel, but the actual writer is unknown.

All the judges were limited in their capabilities by themselves. In fact, each one seemed to have some defects and handicaps which was not a hindrance but became a positive asset under the sovereign direction of God. None of them were national leaders who appealed to the total nation as Moses and Joshua had done.

What a contrast they are to the closing chapters of the Book of Joshua, where we see a nation resting from war and enjoying the riches God had given them in the Promised Land. However, the nation of Israel quickly decayed after a new generation took over, a generation that knew neither Joshua nor Joshua's God.

One of the key verses in the Book of Judges is 21:25:

*Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Throughout the Book of Judges, the Angel of the Lord which is Christophany was mentioned on four occasions – chapters 2, 5, 6, and 13.

*Judges 2:1-6 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and 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 tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? 3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side and their gods shall be a snare to you.' " 4 So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the Lord. 6 And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.*

Though these Israelis cried, there was no repentance from them. It was nothing more than an emotional experience because they were convicted. However, they didn't change their lifestyle. Israel disobeyed the Lord and not only spared the Canaanites and their godless religious system, but also began to follow the enemy's lifestyle themselves.

God allowed them to have their way, but He warned them of the tragic consequences. The worst punishment from God is that He allows our own stubborn and disobedient will to be manifested in our lives. In this case, the heathen nations in the land of Canaan would become thorns that would afflict Israel constantly. Israel would look to the Canaanites for pleasures, but would only experience pain. They would rejoice in their freedom only to see that freedom turn into their bondage by these heathen nations.

Many people who have addictions didn't start with the idea that they would be under the bondage of whatever they are struggling with. They thought they could handle it. They thought they would enjoy it and not get hurt by it. Wrong!

The Lord Jesus is the Ultimate Judge as it is mentioned in Revelation 20. The judges in the Book of Judges were mere humans with many of their own faults. But Jesus is perfect without the bias and twisted opinions like the U.S. Supreme Court Justices. For the believers of Jesus Christ, He Himself was judged on the cross, but for the unbelievers, He will be the Judge with His righteousness and holiness. Aren't we thankful for His grace and mercy and love that we won't stand in front of Him to be judged on that day?