

Psalm 52, Deuteronomy 7-8, 31, 34, Joshua 1-2 (#40) Revised 2022

Psalm 52— David laments the evil done by Doeg after the priests of Nob helped David during Saul's murderous manhunt, but says that the one who trusts in the mercy of God is secure and productive like the olive tree. *What did Doeg the Edomite do that was so reprehensible, and what lesson does this teach us about evil men? See 1 Samuel 22:9-21*

Deuteronomy 7— God tells Israel that when the Canaanites are delivered over to them, they are to completely destroy them and have no pity on them since their wickedness and sin had reached its full measure (Genesis 15:16). God declares all the blessings that Israel will receive if they give Him their full allegiance and obedience. Moses says that they are not to fear the enemy because Yahweh is a great and awesome God. He showed His power in overcoming the Egyptians, and will do the same against the Amorites. *Why did God say that He would drive out the nations “little by little” and not all at once (v. 22)? How does this apply to our spiritual maturity?*

Deuteronomy 8— Moses explains that their time in the wilderness was a test to see what was in their hearts, whether complaining or trusting. Also, God taught them daily dependence on Him for food and other needs. He admonishes Israel that when they finally come into their inheritance with their stomachs full and living in prosperity, they are to remember from where all this great bounty has come. Pride and ultimate destruction come from forgetting the lessons that were learned during the wilderness experience. *In the context of verse 3, explain what is meant by “to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord”? Extra Question: Name the various ways God cared for Israel in the wilderness. What are some of the ways God cares for us today?*

Deuteronomy 31— Moses comes to the end of his life and now must pass the baton to Joshua, his faithful assistant over the previous forty years. Because of the daunting task set before Joshua, Moses tells him to “Be strong and courageous” three times and assures him of God’s presence and faithfulness (vv. 1-8). Moses wrote down the whole book of the law and gave it to the Levites with a command to read it aloud to all the people every seven years at the Feast of the Tabernacles (vv. 9-13). The Lord

appears in a cloud at the tent of meeting, and Joshua is commissioned to take the Israelites into the Promised Land. Moses is frank about Israel's future abandonment of Yahweh but writes down a song from God to help them keep faithful to Him. The song of Moses follows in chapters 32 and 33. *Both God and Moses predicted how Israel will go after foreign gods in the future and the consequences they will suffer (vv. 19-29). Why does God allow bad things to happen when He could step in and keep them from happening? #7 p. 290.*

Deuteronomy 34— After seeing all the Promised Land from the top of Mount Pisgah, God buries Moses in the valley of the land of Moab. At 120 years of age, Moses still had clear eyesight and physical strength. The writer says that Moses was the greatest prophet ever. *1. What were the qualities that made Moses so great? 2. God used Moses in a powerful way for His glory. If you were able to do anything you wanted for God and His kingdom, what would it be?*

Joshua— The book of Joshua gives the stirring story of the conquering of Canaan by Israel about 1400 BC. After being the understudy of Moses for forty years, Joshua now takes the lead, and God gives victory for His chosen people in fulfillment of the promises He made to Abraham. As we study this book, we are able to relate the victories and defeats of Israel to our own spiritual lives as we claim His inheritance and conquer for Christ.

Joshua 1— “Be strong and courageous” is the key phrase in this chapter that was given four times to Joshua. God promises to give to Joshua and Israel every place in Canaan the soles of their feet tread, if they carefully obey everything written in the book of the law (vv. 1-9). Finally, the Israelites are given three days to move out and be ready to cross the Jordan. The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh are reminded of their promise to cross over the Jordan River and fight with the other tribes until the land is conquered and divided. They promised to do everything he commanded them to do (vv. 10-18). *What were the conditions God gave Joshua for him to be prosperous and successful?*

Joshua 2— Joshua sends out two spies to scout out the land, especially Jericho, and ends up at the house of Rahab the prostitute, that is located on the wall of Jericho. The king of Jericho searches for the spies, but they are hidden by Rahab on the roof of her house. Rahab gives a confession of her faith in Yahweh and receives the promise that she and her family will be spared when Israel destroys Jericho. The spies escape over the city wall and return three days later to report to Joshua the panic of the Canaanites and the assurance of victory through God's power. *Was there anything wrong with making an agreement with a prostitute (Rahab), who lied to protect the spies? Explain.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups . c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Illustrated Bible Handbook. c. 2008 by George W. Knight, Barbour Publishing Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. alley's Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000, Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN.

Psalm 53-54, Joshua 3-8 (#41) Revised 2022

Psalm 53— The utter depravity of man is lamented by David who yearns for God's salvation to be revealed. *How does David show his confidence in God's salvation and love? See verse 6.*

Psalm 54— David remembers God's help and deliverance when he was rescued from those seeking to destroy him. *In what ways does this example of answered prayer encourage you?*

Joshua 3— Now comes the time of crossing the Jordan River with the priests taking the lead by carrying the Ark of the Covenant. God exalts Joshua in the sight of all Israel showing them He is with him just as He was with Moses. When the feet of the priests entered the water of the Jordan, God stopped the river from flowing by causing it to stand in a heap some sixteen miles upstream near the city of Adam. The priests stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan and stayed there until the whole nation had crossed over. *What lesson of faith do we learn from the actions of the priests (vv. 16-17)? How does that apply to our walk with Christ? Extra Question: Why were the Israelites always to keep themselves 2000 cubits (about a half a mile) away from the Ark of the Covenant?*

Joshua 4— Upon crossing the Jordan River, twelve chosen men, one from each tribe, took large stones from the middle of the riverbed and placed them at Gilgal as a memorial to this great miracle and to the mighty power of God. Also, twelve stones were taken from the land and put in the middle of the riverbed (vv. 1-9). The moment the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped out on to solid ground, the waters of the Jordan resumed their course and flowed over the river banks. As Yahweh showed His mighty power, the Lord also exalted Joshua before Israel. God used this mighty miracle to fuel the faith of the Israelites and to feed the fears of the Canaanites (vv. 10-24). *The altar of twelve stones was a memorial to God's mighty power and presence. What are some memorials in your church and your personal life that help you remember God and His faithfulness. Extra Question: Who were the five audiences that this powerful miracle was intended for? VV. 4:6, 7, 11, 13, 24, 5:1 #1 p.293*

Joshua 5— The first order of business after crossing the Jordan River was to circumcise all of the males who had not previously been circumcised. The rite of circumcision was an outward sign of Israel's covenant with Yahweh (vv. 1-9). The Passover is celebrated for the first time in the Promised Land, and the Israelites now are able to eat from the produce of the land so that they no longer needed to eat manna to survive (vv. 10-12). The commander of the Lord's army appears in front of Joshua with a drawn sword, and Joshua bowed in worship with his face to the ground (vv. 13-15). *What meaning did the rite of circumcision have for the Israelites at this time? Why hadn't circumcision been performed during the previous forty years? Extra Question: Who is this mysterious commander of the Lord's army? Why do you think so?*

Joshua 6— With the battle of Jericho, the conquest of Canaan begins. The Lord clearly delineates strange steps and procedures that Israel must follow in its battle with Jericho. For six days the soldiers silently march one time each day around Jericho. On the seventh day, they march around seven times. At the end of the seventh time around that day, the trumpet sounded, the walls collapsed, and the warriors advanced into the city and conquered Jericho. The whole city was to be devoted to the Lord for destruction, with all of the precious metals going into the Lord's treasury. Through the miraculous intervention of Yahweh, the only part of the wall that didn't collapse was where Rahab and her family lived. They were all saved and brought out of the city. *What were the reasons why the battle of Jericho was successful? How does this relate to victory in your life for Christ?*

Joshua 7— This chapter shows the anatomy of sin, its cause, effects, and cure. Fresh from a complete victory over the city of Jericho, Joshua decides to send 3000 men to Ai to take the city. The tragic result of the battle was that 36 Israelite men were killed and the army soundly defeated (vv. 1-5). Joshua immediately falls down before the Lord and accuses Him of failing them. God informs Joshua that there is sin in the camp and that His presence and blessing are conditional upon removing the sin (vv. 6-15). The next morning, after reviewing all the people of Israel, tribe by tribe, clan by clan, and family by family, Achan is chosen as the one who had sinned. After a full confession, all the people of Israel stone Achan, his family, and belongings (vv. 16-26). *After reading this chapter, share your insights about the reasons why defeat came, and the steps Joshua took to remove the sin from Israel. What does this chapter teach us about sin in our lives?*

Joshua 8— Now that sin has been removed, the Lord came to Joshua and assured him of victory and gives him a strategy to defeat the inhabitants of Ai (vv. 1-9). This time a group of 5000 men were set in ambush on the west side of Ai, with the rest of the soldiers on the north side. As the men of Ai came out and pursued Israel's army, the Israelites fled as before to draw the army of Ai out of the city so that the men in ambush could go into the city to destroy and burn it. Joshua then stretched out his javelin toward the city of Ai, and the soldiers of Israel turned on the men of Ai and completely destroyed them (vv. 10-29). After the victory, an altar was built on Mount Ebal to offer burnt and fellowship offerings to Yahweh. In obedience to the command of Moses, half of Israel was on Mount Ebal and the other half on Mount Gerizim, where all the law was read, giving emphasis to the blessings and curses (vv. 30-35).

As we compare the strategy God directed Joshua to use in this battle with the other previous victories, what do we learn about the way God works? How does this apply to us?

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Psalm 55, Joshua 9-14, 22 (#42) Revised 2022

Psalm 55— David complains to God regarding the betrayal of a trusted friend, most likely Ahithophel (see vv 12-14; 2 Samuel 15:12-13). *Betrayal from a friend or a spouse is devastating. How does David deal with this?*

Joshua 9— Israel is caught off guard with the deception of a near neighbor. The people of Gibeon (Hivites) pretended that they had come from a land far off and tricked Joshua and Israel into making a covenant with them (vv. 1-9). When the craftiness was found out, the whole community grumbled against the leaders. Joshua and the leaders, however, would not fight against the Gibeonites because of the oath they had sworn in the name of Yahweh. They became perpetual slaves, cutting wood and carrying water for the Lord's altar (vv. 16-27). *What were the reasons why Israel was deceived by the Gibeonites? How does this relate to our lives?*

Joshua 10— The coalition of five kings laid siege to Gibeon for making peace with Israel. Being alerted by the Gibeonites, Joshua and his whole army marched all night and surprised the southern alliance, defeating them with a great slaughter. God works in mighty power by throwing the coalition armies into great confusion, hurling down huge hailstones, and answering Joshua's command for the sun to extend its light for a full day so that the victory could be complete (vv. 1-15). After executing the five kings, Israel's army captures and destroys the six cities in one campaign because Yahweh was with them (vv. 16-42). *What were the circumstances of this military campaign that worked to Israel's advantage including the miracles?*

Joshua 11— Upon hearing of the defeat of the southern armies against Israel, Jabin, king of Hazor formed a massive northern alliance who came together at the waters near Merom to prepare for the battle. The army of Joshua surprised them with their preemptive attack and completely annihilated everyone in accordance with the command of God (vv. 1-15). The author gives a summary of the conquests by asserting that no city made peace with Israel except Gibeon, but were all taken in battle. Finally, the forces of Joshua exterminate the Anakim from Hebron, Debir, and Anab, and thus the land

had rest from war (vv. 16-23). *Why did God tell Joshua to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots? See Psalm 20:7, 33:16-17, Deuteronomy 17:14-17, II Samuel 8:4. How does this apply to our lives?*

Joshua 12— The army of the Lord under the leadership of Joshua struck down the 31 cities which are listed in this chapter and brings the land of Canaan under the control of Israel through the omnipotent hand of God. *As we look back on the seven-year military campaign of Israel to conquer the Promised Land, what words and actions of God and responses and actions (including failures) of Israel stand out in your mind?*

Joshua 13— In his final years of life, the Lord tells Joshua that there are still more Canaanite people to conquer. After the land is divided and allotted, each tribe had the responsibility to clear out the remaining enemies in their area. If they would be obedient and trust Him, God promises to give them the power to drive them out. Joshua reviews the allotment of the land for the tribes of Ruben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh that Moses had previously assigned to them. Verse 13 says, “but the Israelites did not drive out the Geshurites and Maacathites.” This verse is a continuous theme for Israel since many of the tribes were not able to fully displace the remainder of the Canaanites and thus they become thorns in their sides. *What are three reasons that were given why there were still enemies in the land to conquer even after the campaigns of Joshua and the allotment of the land? See Deuteronomy 7:22, Judges 2:22, 3:1- 2.*

Joshua 14— Now begins the allotment of the land for the nine and a half tribes west of Jordan, which is determined by the casting of lots. Caleb is the first to claim his inheritance by declaring God’s faithfulness and his trust in God and His promises. *As you read verses 6 to 15, describe the godly qualities you see in Caleb that we can emulate.*

Joshua 22— Joshua sends off the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh to their own inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River, commending them for keeping their promise of supporting their brothers while conquering Canaan (vv. 1-8). Before crossing the Jordan, they built a large and imposing altar. Upon hearing of the altar, the nine and one half tribes gather at Shiloh to go to war with their brothers believing that they had fallen into idolatry, and thus fearing the anger of Yahweh upon the whole nation because of it. The Eastern tribes assured Phinehas and the ten leaders that Israel had sent to investigate, that they had built the altar only as a “witness” to the unity of Israel, to help each other remember the common heritage they shared (vv. 9-34). *What principles of conflict resolution do we see practiced in this chapter? See Deuteronomy 13:12-15, Matthew 18:15-17.*

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Psalm 56-57, Joshua 23-24, Philippians 1-4 (#43) Revised 2022

Psalm 56— This psalm is sung to a familiar tune commemorating God's deliverance of David from the Philistines. *What happened to David in Gath (see 1 Samuel 21:10-16; 27:1-7)?*

Psalm 57— This is another psalm of David celebrating God's protection when Saul was pursuing him. *List the things that God has done for David in this Psalm.*

Joshua 23— As Joshua nears the end of his life, he summoned all of Israel's leaders and officials to warn them to be fully devoted to Yahweh their God, and not to associate with the pagan Canaanites left in the land. He reminded them of God's faithfulness to them in routing more powerful nations and giving them rest, because they had loved and wholly followed the Lord. He warns them that if they intermarry and follow pagan gods, they will disappear from the good land the Lord had given them. *Why would the Israelites be tempted by other gods? #7 p. 330.*

Joshua 24— Joshua gives his farewell address and begins by declaring the words of the Lord as he reviews God's faithfulness toward Israel, from the call of Abraham to their present victories in Canaan (vv. 1-13). Joshua and the people renew the covenant with Yahweh, vowing full allegiance by ridding themselves of all foreign gods and worshipping and obeying Him only (vv. 14-28). This book has a happy ending by declaring that Israel had been faithful in following Yahweh during Joshua's life and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, because Israel had experienced all the incredible works God had done for them. Three heroes of the faith are buried in the Promised Land - Joshua, Joseph, and Eleazar the High Priest (vv. 29-33). *What godly qualities do we see in Joshua's leadership and life?*

Philippians— This epistle was written by the Apostle Paul while he was under house arrest awaiting trial in Rome about 62 AD. This marvelous book was a personal letter to the church of Philippi thanking them for their generous financial support and encouraging them to keep Christ at the forefront of their church and personal lives. The beginning of the church of Philippi is described in Acts 16:12-40, and speaks of Lydia coming to know the Lord, the imprisonment of Paul and Silas, and the salvation of the jailer and his family. “Christ” and “joy” are the two themes of this book (each given 18 times), with the most precious words in this letter showing Christ’s humility and exaltation (2:5-11).

Philippians 1— After his initial greeting to the church, Paul tells them of his affection for them and thanks them for their partnership in spreading the gospel. He then prays for them that their love would grow in knowledge and discernment, and that their holiness would increase (vv. 1-11). Paul rejoices that his imprisonment has caused the advance of the gospel, even though some may preach the gospel out of rivalry and strife. His desire is that he will not be ashamed about anything, but will speak boldly for Christ and honor Him (vv. 12-20). Although Paul lived to serve Christ, he also had a desire to depart and be with Christ. He knew that he would stay longer on this earth because of the work God wanted him to do for the churches (vv. 21-30). *As you read over this chapter, what godly attitudes, motives, and desires do we see in the Apostle Paul that should also be in our lives?*

Philippians 2— Paul desires that the church in Philippi be united in one spirit and purpose by living a life of humility and selflessness (vv. 1-4). Christ Jesus, clearly shown here as fully God, is our true example of humility. He now has been exalted by the Father to the highest place (vv. 5-11). We are to shine as lights in the world by living a pure and blameless life in a depraved generation (vv. 12-18). It was Timothy who has genuine interest for the welfare of the church, thus showing the Christ-like attitude of humility and love. Paul sent Epaphroditus back to the church of Philippi, thanking God for sparing his life and for his faithful service to Paul in Rome (vv. 19-30). *1. Reading this chapter, what are the attitudes and actions we should have as Christians? Which one do you need to work on the most? 2. What is your understanding of verses 12b and 13? Is salvation by grace or works? Explain.*

Philippians 3— In this Christ-centered chapter, Paul contrasts the self-righteousness of the Judaizers including that of his former life, with the perfect righteousness of God which comes only through faith in Christ Jesus. He wanted to truly know Christ and the dynamic power of His resurrection. Such knowledge only comes through sharing in His suffering and death (vv. 1-11). Being assured of attaining eternal life through faith in Christ, we now have a responsibility to run the specific race God has set up for each one of us. Forgetting the past victories or defeats, we now press on to finish our race well, and receive personally from Christ our heavenly reward (vv. 12-15). Though the believers at Philippi were proud citizens of Rome, they needed to focus on their eternal citizenship in heaven (vv. 16-21). *1. If Paul was blameless regarding the righteousness of the law (v. 6), why did he need the righteousness of God that comes by faith? 2. Comparing your spiritual life to a race, where are you right now? a. Not sure there is a race. b. Sitting the race out. c. At the starting blocks. d. Running at full speed. e. Ready to give up. Explain.* #1 p. 1534

Philippians 4— This fourth chapter contains some powerful verses that have been a great consolation to Christians down through the ages. After urging Euodia and Syntyche to be unified, Paul encourages the church to find their full joy in the Lord and be known for graciousness (vv. 1-5). He further gives the prescription to live a life that is not controlled by worry, and then guarantees complete peace for those who follow it (vv. 6-7). Paul asserts that right thinking will lead to godly living (vv. 8-9). He had learned contentment over the years because he found out that Christ would give him the strength to see him through every circumstance (vv. 10-14). Paul assured the church that all their needs would be met in light of their fragrant offering to him (vv. 15-23). *Is it a sin to worry? What is the prescription to live a worry-free life? Have you found it and do you practice it? EXTRA: Why is the teaching of verse 8 so important for the Christian?*

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