

Learning From Prosperity:

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Volume 1 Number 1

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES JOSHUA 1:1-6; 11:15-23

This Week's Core Competency:

Personal God- I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Psalm 121:1-2

I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Using This Study

1 EXPERIENCE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. Ask God to help you focus on the passage and hear from Him as you read His word.

2 EXAMINE His Word

The words God uses to communicate matters. Go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

3 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface both the Divine and human author's point in the passage.

4 EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

5 EMBRACE His Word

We study God's word to hear from Him. Embracing God's word is when we personally RESPOND to Him in obedience.

Introduction

In 1492, Ferdinand granted Columbus great titles, vast privileges, and a tenth of the riches his explorations materialized. By 1500, when the size and wealth of the new world actually dawned on Ferdinand, he broke the agreement, though he had promised it by solemn treaty.

In the early 1950s, the Russians opened sixty million acres in Kazakhstan to grain farmers. They imported trainloads of Russians, Ukrainians, and Byelorussians to work the state-owned cooperatives, planning to be self-sufficient in grain by 1954. The Communist Party promised to bring the future to its people. The people believed ... in vain. Today, several millions of those acres have reverted to pasture. The Party made promises and brought hope, one man said, then the Party vanished, leaving broken promises and ruined lives.

God understands that we live in hope and that, deprived of hope, our spirit diminishes, then dies. He has encouraged us to believe in his promises, which never fail; but we are intent on believing our own, which seldom succeed. Greed, false economic theory, political or social collapse can destroy even well-intentioned assurances. God's promises will not fail, for they are founded on him. God keeps His promises

The Book of Joshua

The book of Joshua is the account of the nation of Israel taking possession of the land God had promised. Moses has died and Joshua is chosen to lead the Israelites into a land inhabited by people who worship gods of fertility. God warned the nation about the people they would encounter in Canaan. Child sacrifice, mutilation of the body, and sexual immorality all characterized the destructive worship of a Canaanite. Taking and possessing the land requires that Israel trusts God and take it His way.

1 EXPERIENCE His Word

Read the passage and experience God's word personally.

Joshua 1:1–6

1 After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, who had served Moses:

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites.

3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses.

4 Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—and west to the Mediterranean Sea.

5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or forsake you.

6 "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their fathers to give them as an inheritance.

Joshua 11:15–23

15 Just as the LORD had commanded His servant Moses, Moses commanded Joshua. That is what Joshua did, leaving nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

16 So Joshua took all this land—the hill country, all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the Judean foothills, the plain, and the hill country of Israel with its Judean foothills—

What are your first impressions?

17 from Mount Halak, which ascends to Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death.

18 Joshua waged war with all these kings for a long time.

19 No city made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites who inhabited Gibeon; all of them were taken in battle.

20 For it was the LORD's intention to harden their hearts, so that they would engage Israel in battle, be completely destroyed without mercy, and be annihilated, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

21 At that time Joshua proceeded to exterminate the Anakim from the hill country—Hebron, Debir, Anab—all the hill country of Judah and of Israel. Joshua completely destroyed them with their cities.

22 No Anakim were left in the land of the Israelites, except for some remaining in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

23 So Joshua took the entire land, in keeping with all that the LORD had told Moses. Joshua then gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. After this, the land had rest from war.

2 EXAMINE His Word

- ✎ Circle every occurrence of the phrase "the land," or "this land."
- ✎ In chapter 1, underline every occurrence of the words "I," "you," and "your."
- ✎ Bracket every occurrence of the word "all."
- ✎ In chapter 1, enumerate (place a number next to) every command God makes in the passage.

- ✎ Place a box around every occurrence of the words "give" or "gave."
- ✎ Place a parenthesis around each promise in the passage.
- ✎ In chapter 11, place a cross (†) by each fulfillment of a promise stated in chapter 1.
- ✎ In chapter 11, place a star by each verb that indicates obedience by Joshua.

③ EXPLORE His Word

1. How would you describe the tone of the Lord's calling of Joshua in vv. 1-6?
2. Why do you think God took this tone with Joshua?
3. Verse 3 reads that the LORD has given the Israelites every place (present tense), but verse 4 says the LORD will give them the land (future tense). How do you explain this?
4. From Joshua 1:1-6, list each specific promise that God makes.
5. From this passage, what do you learn about God's nature or His character?
 - a) How does Joshua respond to God's commands?
 - b) Why do you think that Joshua responds in this manner?

④ EXPAND His Word

6. Read Genesis 12:7 and Deuteronomy 11:22-24. What promises did God make to Abraham and to Moses and how are these promises related to Joshua?
7. Read Genesis 15:13-16; God told Abraham when He was going to give Abraham's descendants the land in 400 years. Why did God wait so long?
8. Read John 6: 35-39 and list the promises of Jesus directed toward believers in this passage:
9. Read Romans 15: 4-13 and explain what God promises in Christ and why:

6 EMBRACE His Word

The Bible reveals God's word and the Holy Spirit uses it to instruct, correct, encourage, and mature people into fully-devoted followers of Christ. Responding to Him means living in light of His Word (obedience).

10. Name several of God's promises that are particularly precious to you (include the reference).

11. What specific steps can you take to more fully receive and integrate these promises into our life?

Journal your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**...

Write about how God wants you to **FEEL**...

Write about what God wants you to **DO**...

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation By Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money

2 Corinthians 8:7

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.