

JOSHUA 1:1-9 - THE MAKING OF A LEADER

Principles For Leaders

Verse 1, Principle # 1, Preparation.

Before taking the helm Joshua was an assistant. Before he assumed *leadership* he served an *apprenticeship*. Never underestimate the importance of preparation. Before a person leads they first must be willing to be led. The Hebrew term "*assistant*" refers to a menial role, a servant. Joshua would lead a nation, but for a time his job was to do what Moses told him to do.

Verses 2-3, Principle # 2, Purpose.

A good leader has to have a purpose, a vision. A spiritual leader gets a vision from God, then sets out to fulfill that vision. In verses 2-3 God gives Joshua a purpose. The church, your business, your family - needs leadership with conviction and godly purpose.

Verse 4, Principle # 3, Perspective.

In verse 4 God gives to Joshua the big picture. His men are eager to fight, but Joshua sees the full scope of God's plan, and his perspective enables him to determine where and when to fight. This is what makes a good leader - perspective - he has a grasp of the big picture.

Verse 5, Principle # 4, Persuasion.

Verse 5 says no man will be able to stand before Joshua. A true leader doesn't wait on someone else's initiative. He's ready to take a stand. He's the one saying, "*Follow me, as I follow God.*" It was said of a successful leader, "His great attribute was that he made decisions. You never had to say, 'Well, what are we going to do to-

morrow?' He told you. That's leadership." Your family needs a leader with the courage to make godly decisions and not back down.

Verse 6, Principle # 5, People.

Once the land is conquered Joshua will be called on to divvy up the land. That task will plunge him into the nitty gritty work of dealing with the personalities, quirks, and complaints of people. In the midst of battle people take orders. In peace time people question orders. Joshua will need to be a servant to the people. He'll have to listen to them, show them understanding, and bear with their peculiarities. Guys, a good leader is a servant. He cares, listens, and loves.

Verses 7-8, Principle # 6, Precept.

A godly leader leads God's people by God's book. The job of a spiritual leader is not to tickle ears with what people want to hear, but teach them the truth of God. To depart from the Scriptures is spiritual malpractice!

Verse 9, Principle # 7, Presence.

John Ruskin once noted, "Really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them, but through them." The secret of Samson's stupendous strength was not the size of his biceps or pecs - it was the presence of God in his life. God made him strong! This will also be the case for Joshua - and for us.

God is looking for leaders.

Your church - your community - your family needs a leader who'll rise up like a Joshua, and say, "*Follow me, as I follow God.*"

WHO FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF JERICHO?

Joshua 5:13 tells us, "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho," he was scouting the city. How would they be able to scale those formidable walls?

"He lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand." The man was ready to fight. "And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, 'Are You for us or for our adversaries?' Joshua is a good sentry. He shouts out, "*Who goes there? Are you friend or foe?*"

"So He said, 'No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.'"

Joshua is being told to move over. Heaven has come to help. Joshua is being replaced. God dispatches His Commander to lead the Hebrews into battle.

Verse 14, "And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, 'What does my Lord say to His servant?' A humble Joshua is quick to submit. 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 receives the same command God gave Moses at the burning bush.

What a comfort this was to Joshua and Israel! On the eve of their first major battle - up against unbreachable walls - the Commander of the Lord's army comes to take responsibility for the campaign. *And who was this Commander?*

The clue is in how Joshua treats Him - he worships Him. This precludes him being an angel. God's angels are never worshipped. Only God Himself receives worship, and that's why I believe the Commander was none other than a preincarnate appearance of Jesus. *Who fought the battle of Jericho? Jesus did.*

Guys, whether it's a crag in the rock on Mt. Sinai, or a lookout under the palm trees near Jericho - the presence of God turns ordinary places and ordinary times into holy moments. When God meets us - all we can do is bow, obey, worship.

Bible Scan - Joshua 1-12

The Faith of a Hooker

In Joshua 2:10-12 Rahab the harlot says to the two Hebrew spies, "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house..."

What a statement of faith! Rahab has heard what God did in Egypt, and east of the Jordan. She realizes the God of Israel is the one, true God. She knows Jericho will fall and Israel will triumph - so she tries to position herself on the winning team! This is a smart woman! And you're a smart person yourself - if you too seek to position yourself on the winning team. God's side always wins!

Rahab was a hooker - a whore - a madam - a woman who sold her body for sexual favors. She'd fallen off the ladder of morality a long time ago.

Understand, it was not Rahab's lily-white goodness, or purity that saved her - *it was her faith!* And it's by faith that we too, are saved. It's interesting that both Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25 mention the faith of Rahab. If you want to know the extent to which faith can save, turn to Matthew 1:5 - there in the lineage of Jesus, the spotless lamb - in the pedigree of the purest of the pure - you'll find Rahab the hooker - a testimony to the saving power of faith!

Faith at the Jordan River

The Hebrews cross the Jordan led by the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as the priests carrying the Ark set foot on top of the water, the river backs up! God begins supernaturally to dam up the river. Joshua 3:16 tells us, "the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam..."

Adam was 20 miles north of the Dead Sea. There the banks of the Jordan are 40 feet high which prohibited the waters from flooding the whole region.

But notice verse 15: "as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water..." The priests had to have faith! They crossed on dry ground, but their first step was into a river.

It looked like they were going to *swim*, but God did a miracle when they looked to *Him*. There are times at first when it looks like its going to be a swim. But faith knows *Him*. Faith knows that God will never let us down when we take a step of faith.

Devotion Box - Have You Crossed Over the Jordan?

The crossing of the Jordan was the same miracle, but with a new meaning. When Israel came to the Red Sea they were *slaves escaping their enemies* - at the Jordan they were an *army determined to conquer their enemies*.

The cross of Jesus is likewise one miracle with two meanings. The Red Sea speaks of salvation. It parallels the day I learned Christ died for me. But the Jordan speaks of victory. It marks the day I learned that I died in Christ. I'm not the same person anymore - I'm a new creation in Christ - I'm dead to the past - I possess the power of God. God works in me to overcome and conquer my enemies.

At the cross of Jesus the Red Sea parts - sin is forgiven - a prisoner escapes. But at the same cross the prisoner becomes a prince - he crosses the Jordan and the enemies melt - an overcomer emerges. You've passed through the Red Sea - have you crossed the Jordan? Do you see yourself as a new person in Christ?

A Scarlet Cord

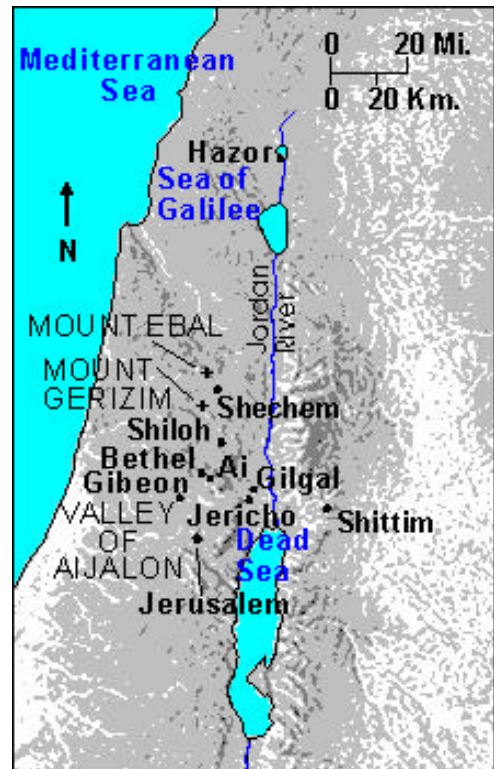
The two Hebrew spies rappel down the wall on a scarlet rope lowered from Rahab's window. They hide for three days in the mountains, then return to the other side of the river.

When Jericho falls Rahab is saved because of a scarlet cord she hangs in her window. That scarlet rope became the symbol of her salvation... *and of ours!*

Jesus too came to earth to spy out the land. He also hung from a scarlet rope - or a blood-stained cross. Afterwards he disappeared into the grave for three days, rose from the dead, then ascended to the other side. But He's coming back to judge the world, and the only folks who'll be saved are those holding on to that scarlet cord.

The scarlet rope is a wonderful picture of the work of Jesus Christ.

Places in Joshua



What Happened and Theories on How

This southern coalition meets Israel at the battle of Beth Horon, and if you think Jericho was an example of supernatural intervention – you ain't seen nothing yet.

A little geography lesson is helpful – from Gilgal to Ai is just 15 miles, but it's all uphill. Gilgal is 900 feet bsl. Ai is in the mountains, 2600 feet asl. Keep going westward toward Gibeon, and you slope back down the west side of the mountain. The valley below Gibeon is called the Valley of Beth Horon. There is only one way out of this valley, and that's toward the south. The Valley of Beth Horon runs perpendicular with the Valley of Aijalon.

Joshua hears that the southern coalition is camped in the Valley of Beth Horon about 25 miles from Shechem. He pushes his troops through the night so when the sun comes up he can launch a surprise attack against Adoni-Zedek and his Amorite buddies. Joshua gets to Beth Horon, and the fight commences.

God intervenes with a little heavenly artillery. He bombs the Amorites with "large hailstones". We're told in 10:11 that more of the enemy died from the hailstones than by the swords of the Israelites. The Amorites were routed. But the sun setting, and Joshua was concerned the Amorites would get away under the cover of darkness. The mop up needed a few more hours of daylight.

This is why Joshua prays to the Lord in verse 12, "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." And we're told in verse 13, "So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day."

That this miracle happened should not be questioned - the only question is how it happened. There are historical references to a "long day" or "long night" in most every ancient culture. The Chinese speak of a "long day". The Aztecs of Mexico, the Choctaw Indians, and the Peruvian Indians - all report a "long night".

How it happened though, is more of a mystery. Certainly, God could've reached out with His hand, and slowed the earth's rotation. Genesis 1:1 says God created the earth, and if He created it, He can do anything with it He so chooses.

There are, though, respected scientists who've posed astronomical explanations for what happened. A colleague of Albert Einstein, Immanuel Velikovsky, says in his book *"Worlds in Collision"* a comet passed through the earth's atmosphere in the midst of the battle. The comet tilted the earth's axis, accounting for the long day. Its tail pummeled the earth with a shower of asteroids or hailstones. It was a miracle of timing - God manipulated the comet in answer to Joshua's prayer.

Another book by NASA scientist, Donald Wesley Patten, called *"Catastrophism and the Old Testament"* suggests the earth was victim of a close encounter with the planet Mars. Patten has constructed computer models that show around the time of Joshua, Mars passed by the earth at a distance of 28,000 miles. Note, the closest the moon ever gets to the earth is 221,463 miles. So 28,000 is just spitting distance. A close fly-by would've caused the earth's rotation to grind to a halt. All kinds of global disasters would've taken place – like hailstones near Beth Horon. Patten's theory may also explain why the ancients worshipped planets they could barely see. The city of Rome was dedicated to Mars, the god of war.

Joshua's Long Day

Joshua and the Revelation

Patten's and Velikovsky's possible explanations for the long day of Joshua also shine an interesting light on the book of Revelation, and some of its predictions.

If a planetary fly-by, or the sweep of a comet through the earth's atmosphere occurred in the past, it could also occur in the future – and possibly explain some of cataclysmic events that will occur in the last days. Revelation describes massive earthquakes, the sky tearing, meteors falling from the sky, the surface of the earth scorched, mountains moving out of their place, islands disappearing, etc. Perhaps the same forces that were at work at the time of Joshua will be unleashed again in the last days.

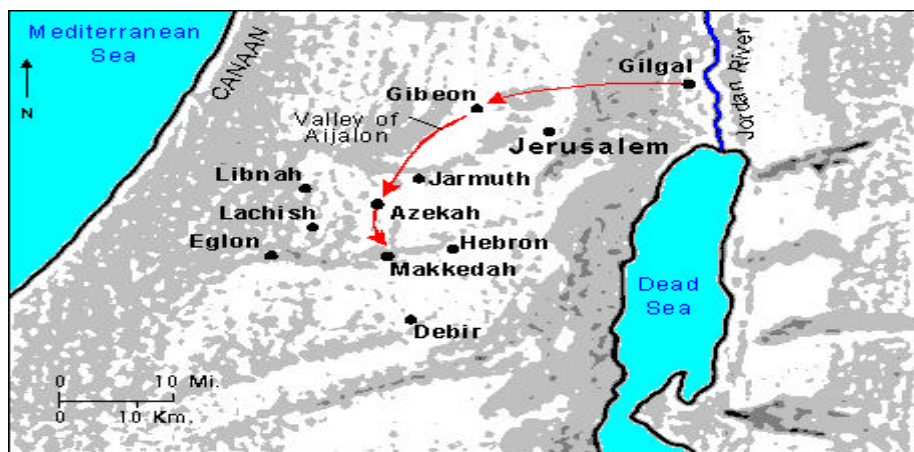
Which brings up another provocative observation. When you think of it, the book of Joshua is an amazing model of the book of Revelation.

Remember the theme of both books – a "Jesus", or "Joshua", wages war against a collection of pagan nations to take possession of a land that belongs to God and His people.

And look at the parallels: two spies enter Jericho; two witnesses are sent by God to the earth; seven trumpets shake the walls of Jericho; seven trumpet judgments shake the earth; both campaigns take seven years; both opposition forces are led by a king from Jerusalem; Adoni-Zedek is a type of the Antichrist; in both books God uses cataclysmic judgments to humble the enemy; hailstones fall in Beth Horon, and 100 pound hailstones fall on the blasphemers in Revelation 16:21; in Revelation 6:15 the kings of the earth hide themselves in the rocks and caves, in Joshua 10:16 the 5 Kings that come against Joshua hide themselves in a cave at Makkedah – and the list of parallels goes on and on. It's amazing!

Notice too what Joshua does to the Amorite kings in 10:24 - he tells the captains of Israel to "put your feet on the necks of these kings". This is what Jesus will one day do to His enemies. Psalm 110:1- *His enemies will be His footstool.*

The Battle of Beth Horon



Devotion Box

A Big Lesson from the Long Day

The miracle God worked to lengthen the time Joshua had to rid himself of his enemies, proves once and for all that there is no limit to the extent God will go to help His people walk in victory.

God wants you to live in victory over fear, sin, temptation, worry. If you ask the Lord - if you trust Him – God will do whatever it takes to give you the opportunity, and provide you the tools for victory.

The most important lesson in this story is the illustration it provides of God's willingness to help His people triumph over their enemies.

Bible Scan - Joshua 1-12

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org

Calvary Chapel Announcements - December 5, 1999

Tickets are on sale tonight in both foyers for the Ladies Christmas Tea \$5/person. Tickets are to be purchased in advance, by 12/8. Please use this special occasion as an outreach opportunity by inviting friends & family.

12/7 Ladies Morning Bible Study 10:00 AM & Ladies Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM

12/8 HS Impact 7:00 PM & Café 7:30 PM (Bible Study: Pastor Randy Special Music: Adam Nitti)

12/11 Ladies Christmas Tea 2:00 PM

12/12 Worship & Bible Study 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM

Ushers & Greeters Luncheon 1:00 PM

Middle School Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM

Next Bible Scan - December 12 @ 6:30 PM- Joshua 13-24

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

Bible Scan Memory Verse

Devotion Box - The Battle of Jericho and following Jesus

In chapter 6 the Commander gives Joshua some really strange instructions. Ingenious generals have used unorthodox combat strategies before and since, but none have ever employed a plan of battle this bizarre. March around the walls, blow the trumpets, and shout a great shout!

The path Jesus charts for us also appears strange. It's full of paradox; you gain when you lose, get when you give, live when you die, become great when you serve, end up first when you're willing to be last - you become strongest when you admit your weakness. How did the walls of Jericho fall down? I don't know, but they did. And how does joy issue from sacrifice? I don't know, but it does! How does abundant life flow from total surrender? Again I don't know, but trust me, it does!

And imagine how the citizens of Jericho reacted to the Hebrews during the first 6 days they marched. They stood on the top of the wall and belly-laughed. God's battle plan made Israel a laughingstock. Likewise, following Jesus seems foolish to the world... *it takes faith, but remember who gets the last laugh!*

Devotion Box - Sabotaged by Secret Sin

When Israel goes up to fight little Ai the unthinkable happens. The underdog wins - 36 Hebrews die, and the rest of the battalion tucks tail and runs. On the heels of a renowned victory, Joshua suffers a humiliating defeat. The embarrassing loss demoralizes the Hebrews, and boosts the confidence of the Canaanites.

Joshua 7 reveals that Israel has been sabotaged by secret sin.

I wonder how many Christians, and families, and churches, and business ventures suffer from the same problem. You've been *ache'n* because like *Achan* there's sinful stuff buried in your tent. *Guys, are you hiding an accursed thing?* Israel doesn't win again until the accursed thing is flushed out and dealt with.

Devotion Box - How to be Out-foxed by the Enemy

Joshua 9:14 tells us how Joshua was out-foxed by the Gibeonites: "Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD." Joshua and his leaders were a little too confident - they relied on their own judgment - they neglected to seek the Lord. Isaiah 28:16 is a good reminder: "Whoever believes will not act hastily." Guys, never make a decision without first consulting the wisdom of God.

BATTLE OF HAZOR

Jabin mounts a formidable army. Josephus says he had 300,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, 10,000 chariots. Jabin's army was the equivalent of a modern war machine.

Joshua was a little intimidated... But the Lord encourages him, 11:6, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain..."

The next day, Joshua led Israel in a surprise attack. Verse 8 tells us: "the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them ...". Hazor is burned, and all its inhabitants are killed by the sword. These were pagans steeped in the occult, and God used Israel to judge them.

It's a credit to Joshua that modern Israeli generals have studied his battle tactics and used them to defeat the Syrians and Jordanians in recent conflicts. Joshua originated the preemptive strike. Rarely did he wait on his enemy to attack. He also knew and used the lay of the land. Often outnumbered, Joshua relied on speed, stealth, and surprise.

Devotion Box - Joshua's Success

The real secret to Joshua's success is found in 11:15: "He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses." He was obedient in every detail - he left nothing undone God asked him to do.

Guys, this is the difference between victory and defeat - *what have you left undone?*