

# OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY 2

## ABRAHAM TO JOSHUA

Let's turn in our Bibles to Genesis 12...

Considering the fact, the Bible doesn't pinpoint an exact date for the creation of the heavens and earth, Genesis 1-11 covers a period of perhaps 2000 years.

Interestingly, Genesis 12 through Revelation 22, the rest of the Bible - occurs over a period of 2000 years.

Notice, God spends just a few verses on creation, but He spends the bulk of the Bible on redemption.

*And the reason...* It takes no love to create, but it takes intense love to redeem - especially when what you're wanting to retrieve has sinned against you.

The Bible is an epic love story.

In Genesis 1-11 God works with mankind as a whole, but with little success. In fact, Chapter 11 ends with a worldwide revolt. God has to bust up the mutiny.

But in Genesis 12, God's strategy for redeeming a fallen world changes. No longer will He work with mankind as a whole. Now God chooses one family through which He'll redeem all mankind and the world.

As I said last time, Genesis 11 reveals Satan's plan at the time. He focused his revolt on *a man, Nimrod - a place, Babel - and a means, fear*. But beginning in Genesis 12 God counters Satan with *a man of His own, Abram - a place, Canaan - and a means, faith*.

And the rest of the Bible is about the salvation God orchestrates through Abram's family - the Hebrews.

Genesis 12:1 is God's call to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." Abram lived in Ur of the Chaldeans - the hub and hotbed of ancient civilization.

Secular history says bathtubs were first used in Ur.

Yet God moved Abram west until he arrived in a narrow strip of land called Canaan. Hebrews 11:8 says of Abram "he went out, not knowing where he was going." Abram was a man of **faith** - willing to go as God commanded, even though he wasn't told where...

When he arrives in Canaan God makes Abram a three-fold promise: first, **a tract of land** - second, **his descendants will be a great nation** - and third, **through his family the whole world will be blessed**. This marks the Abrahamic Covenant: **sod, seed, salvation**.

And this covenant gets repeated to Abram in Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17, and 22 - then to his son Isaac in Genesis 26 - and even to his grandson, Jacob, in Genesis 28 and 35. Obviously, as far as God is concerned this is an extremely strategic covenant...

In fact, the Abrahamic Covenant is the bedrock of the rest of the Bible. It's foundational. Genesis 12 to Revelation 22 fills in the details of this 3-fold promise.

If you study this covenant, you'll understand the Bible. Remember three words: **sod, seed, salvation**.

In Genesis 13:7-9 we learn what motivated Abram. Everywhere he went, he built an altar to the Lord.

Abram could've dug wells for water - or built homes for comfort - or forts for protection... **instead he builds altars**. His top priority was not provision, or comfort, or protection - but worship. **Abram built altars to worship!**

In the course of your life you'll probably build a home, a career, perhaps even a church - but on your journey will you build altars, *and stop to worship God?*

Of all the OT heroes Abram stands out as **a man of faith**. Genesis 15:6 tells us, **"And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness"**

This verse is vital. It's quoted **four** times in the NT.

This is the verse the Apostle Paul leans on to prove that we obtain and maintain a right standing with God, *not because of what we do or don't do*, but because of our faith in what God has promised! It teaches that all God's blessings are received by faith and faith alone.

The faith that inherits God's blessing is illustrated in Chapter 15 by how God seals His covenant to Abram.

According to custom, Abram slaughtered a series of animals. He cut them in cross-sections from head to toe; then arranged the animal halves into a corridor.

The two parties entering the agreement would walk side-by-side between the animal halves as a way of committing themselves to their part in the covenant.

This was the ancients' way of *"cutting a deal."*

In light of this custom, when Abram finished slicing the animals he waited on God. He expected God to literally walk with him through the animal halves.

He waited all day, and into the evening...

Finally, as he was nodding off, God appeared in the form of **a burning torch** and **a smoking censor**... and instead of walking with Abram through the animal halves, God walked down the corridor all by Himself.

All Abram did was wake up, and believe!

And here is what God conveyed... Salvation is not a team effort. It's not up to you to meet God half-way.

God's blessing is not received by God doing half the work, and the recipient doing half the work. *God does all the work!* God takes on sole responsibility for earning the blessing. All we do is wake up and believe.

And because of Abram's faith, God gave him a new name. In Genesis 17:5 God says, **"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations."** *"Abraham"* means *"father of many nations."*

But there was a problem with Abraham fulfilling this name. Before a man can be the father of many nations, he first has

to be a father. And at the time Abraham's wife, Sarah, was 75 - well past the childbearing age.

*Yet Sarah came up with a plan...* She decides to give Abraham conjugal privileges to her maidservant, Hagar, so he can birth them a son by proxy. It worked.

Hagar has a son named, "*Ishmael.*" But the plan backfires... Hagar gets haughty. Sarah gets jealous. And Abraham is caught between *two fighting females.*

Realize Abraham's mistake... He tried to help God out. He sought to do **God's** will **his** way. *God's will should always be done God's way and in God's time.*

Even today, the children of Abraham's natural born son, **Jacob**, *the nation of Israel*, is in conflict with the children of **Ishmael**, *the Arabs*. Abraham's heirs have been paying for their father's mistake for 4,500 years.

Well, finally in Genesis 21, Sarah has her promised son. It's a miracle! It's a supernatural birth. Abraham is 100 years old and Sarah is 90, when *Isaac* is born.

Isaac was born 25 years after God's promise was first given, *yet God is faithful to fulfill all His promises.*

In fact, when God makes you a promise, remember you don't reap it in the same season that you sow.

There's always *a meantime, an in-between time* - an interval of time between the giving and receiving of that promise. Thus, faith must always be willing to wait!

Genesis 22 records Abraham's great test of faith!

God orders Abraham in verse 2, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

It's amazing, the mountain God picks out is the very spot, where 2000 years later, He offers His only Son, Jesus. Mount Moriah is today the heart of Jerusalem.

Abraham is about to bring down the knife on the throat of Isaac, when God tells him to stop. **Abraham passes the test.** That's when he looks in the brush, and sees a ram he can sacrifice in Isaac's place. That ram was a foreshadowing of Jesus - our substitute.

And in verse 14 Abraham appropriately calls the place, "Jehovah-Jireh" or "The-LORD-Will-Provide."

Ishmael, Hagar's son, is later sent away. Whereas, Isaac goes on to marry a woman named Rebekah., who has twin sons, Esau and Jacob. The name "Esau" means "hairy" - whereas, "Jacob" means "heelcatcher."

Apparently, Jacob came out of his mother's womb holding his brother's heel. And this foreshadowed their future relationship. The brothers became lifelong rivals.

Jacob was a sneaky dude. He caught Esau in a moment of weakness. He was hungry. And Jacob swapped Esau a bowl of chili for the family's birthright.

He swindled Esau, and later deceived his dad. Jacob strapped fur over his arms to make his nearly blind dad think he was the hairy Esau. Jacob duped Isaac into granting him the family's blessing and God's covenant.

*And surprisingly, it was a blessing his father never reversed.* It's amazing that God loved a person like Jacob, *but He did.* He chose Jacob over Esau because of his desire for spiritual things and faith in the promise.

It's never our virtue or goodness that earns God's favor - **it's always our faith** in His promises. And of all the examples of that in the Bible, Jacob stands out.

Jacob moves away from home and falls in love with a beautiful girl named "**Rachel.**" He willingly works seven years to earn her hand in marriage. But on his wedding night, the old deceiver Jacob, gets deceived.

Rachel had an older, homely-looking sister, who her dad, Laban wanted to marry off first. So he slips Leah, not Rachel, into Jacob's tent. There're no electric lights so Jacob doesn't discover the swap until daybreak.

Ultimately, Jacob marries both women, and by Leah, Rachel, and their two maids, Jacob sires 12 sons who become the patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel.

The transforming moment in Jacob's life occurs in Genesis 32 when he returns home. He's asleep when a man jumps out of the bushes. He probably thought it was Esau, exacting revenge. Jacob and this man wrestle all night long. When the sun comes up, Jacob realizes it isn't Esau... it's a messenger from God.

He'd been running from God his whole life, now He strengthens His grasp and asks God for His blessing.

The angel touches Jacob's *hip* to loosen his *grip*.

And God blesses Jacob... but from then on, Jacob walks with a limp. Often *God's blessing* requires *our crippling*. God has to make us weak on our own before we can receive His strength. Later, God gives Jacob a new name, "**Israel,**" which means "**governed by God.**"

Of Israel's twelve sons, Joseph becomes his favorite. And this makes the brothers jealous, especially when their father gives Joseph a fancy, multi-colored coat.

One day, they feign Joseph's death, and sell their sibling as a slave to a caravan headed for Egypt. They think they'll never see him again... *but they're wrong.*

The story of Joseph is an amazing example of God's providence... **Providence is God's over-arching will.**

As Christians we believe that God is sovereign over all things and circumstances. God is in control. There's no such thing as luck, or fate, or chance. God may not cause all events, but at the very least, He allows them.

It reminds me of the little boy who fell from the top of a tree. As he pummeled towards the earth the people below heard him screaming, "**God, save me! Save me!**"

Suddenly, there was quiet. Everyone looked up into the tree; when they heard the little boy say, "**Never mind God, I caught my pants on a limb.**" *As if God had nothing to do with the pants getting hooked to the tree.*

Often God's purposes are unknown to us, as they were, at first, to Joseph - but God does have a purpose for all things - even the bad things that happen to us.



This week Gary posted a quote on my Facebook, “If you can trust a puzzle company to make sure that every piece is in the box to complete the puzzle, why can’t you trust God that every piece of your life is there for a reason?” It’s true, God has a plan for every piece.

It’s amazing the difficult pieces Joseph endured.

After being sold as a slave, he found himself as a servant of an Egyptian official named *Potiphar*. Joseph was promoted, until Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him.

Joseph literally ran. When Mrs. Potiphar grabbed him he dropped his coat and fled. That’s what we need to do when tempted - *flee from the temptation situation*.

Sadly, Mrs. Potiphar used Joseph’s coat to falsely accuse him and have him thrown into prison.

There, behind bars he came in contact with a baker and a butler, and with God’s help interpreted their dreams. Later when Pharaoh had a dream, the butler remembered Joseph, and called for his assistance.

God gave Joseph the interpretation to the Pharaoh’s dream, and the king was so impressed he promoted Joseph to *second in command* in all of Egypt.

About this time, there was a famine in Canaan. Joseph’s father, Jacob, and his brothers had nothing to eat, so the sons came to Egypt to purchase food...

*And guess who they meet?* Their long, lost brother, Joseph, who is now in the position to save their lives.

At first, they're afraid Joseph will take revenge. But I love what Joseph says to them in Genesis 50:20, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." God can take negative, difficult, painful circumstances, and use them for good.

As we're told in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Thus, the story of **Abraham's Family** (high, middle, low, fingers (wiggle)) **Isaac, Jacob, Twelve Tribes**

And it's highpoint is the **Abrahamic Covenant** (glasses)  
Write down three Ss: **Sod, Seed, Salvation**

The original plan for the family of Israel was to come to Egypt only until the famine subsided in Canaan.

But they ended up staying for 400 years. At first as honored guests of Joseph, but after Joseph's death, the pharaohs that followed subjected them to slavery.

With Hebrew labor the Egyptians built the pyramids and other monumental structures. For 400 years the Hebrews cried to God for someone to deliver them...

## **Egyptian Bondage** (pharaoh dance) - **400** years

When Moses was born the Pharaoh issued an order to kill all the male babies of Israel. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian credits his actions to a prophecy, uttered in the

Egyptian court, that from among the Hebrews, God would raise up a deliverer.

Hebrews 11:23 reads, “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents...”

But you can only hide a baby for long. Eventually Moses’ mom made him a water-tight basket, and set it adrift on the Nile, trusting God to find Moses a home.

Again by an act of God’s providence, Pharaoh’s daughter was bathing in the river, when she found the basket. She took Moses as her child, and called for his own mother to be his nurse. Moses was taught by his Hebrew mom, while raised in the Egyptian court.

At age 40, Moses sided with His people. When a fellow Hebrew was abused by an Egyptian taskmaster Moses took matters into his own hands, and killed him.

His actions were exposed and he fled to Midian.

Moses lived to be 120 years old, and you can summarize his life as follows... “Moses spent 40 years in Pharaoh’s court thinking he was a somebody; 40 years on the back side of the desert learning that he was a nobody; and 40 years showing what can happen with a nobody who becomes a somebody with God.”

Moses meets God on a mountain called Sinai.

There, God appears to Moses in the form of a bush that’s on fire, but doesn’t burn up. In Exodus 3:5, Yahweh says to Moses, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

Realize, the soil on Mt. Sinai was ordinary soil. What made it *holy* wasn't some special composition - but that God had set it apart, or dedicated it for His purpose.

The word "*holy*" means "to set apart."

And the same was true of Moses' rod. It was a simple shepherd's staff, but when God tells Moses to throw it on the ground, it turns into a snake. When He tells Moses to pick it up, it turns back into a rod - but no longer is it called Moses' rod, but "*the rod of God.*"

It's now been dedicated to God's service.

And this is what makes a person *holy* - it's not that you're better than others. Holy people are ordinary folks, but they're *holy* in that they've dedicated themselves to God for His special use and purposes.

On the mountain, God reveals a special name for Himself. When Moses' asks *who will I say sent me?* God answers, tell them "*I AM WHO I AM*" has sent you.

God is the "*I AM.*" He is the only self-existent person in the universe. You and I, and all men, are dependent on God for the air we breathe and our next breath.

But God needs nada. That's why when God goes with Moses, Moses now has all he needs... *And when God goes with you, my friend, you have all you need!*

When Moses returns to Egypt he tells the Pharaoh in Exodus 5:1, "*Thus, says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go...'*" Of course, the stubborn king refuses to bow to

Moses's command, and God has to use ten plagues to pry His people out of Pharaoh's clutches.

Moses turns the Nile River to blood - frogs cover the land - as well as lice - flies - mad cow disease - a plague of boils - a hailstorm - locust - and a daytime darkness. It's interesting, the Egyptians worshipped the sun god, Ra, so when God brought about the darkness He was proving His superiority over their idol.

This was true of ALL ten plagues that God brought upon Egypt. Each plague was designed to show the true God's superiority over the false gods of Egypt.

In fact, the Egyptians also thought their king, the Pharaoh, was a god. That's why the tenth plague killed the Pharaoh's firstborn son, and heir to the throne.

The final plague was death of the firstborn across all of Egypt. Yet God provided protection for His people.

The Hebrews were to sacrifice a lamb, and spread its blood on the doorposts and threshold of their home.

So when the plague of death came through the Hebrew neighborhood, it would **pass over** the houses that had applied the blood. Even to this day, the Jews eat a meal, and recall that night. It's called *Passover*.

Understand, it didn't matter the character or moral purity of the folks in the house - if they were saved or not, depended solely on whether they trusted God's promise and applied the blood to their doorpost.

*And this is a lesson for us...* God's salvation has nothing to do with a person's goodness or purity - but whether or not

they believe in God's promise, and apply the blood of Jesus to the posts of their heart.

When the Hebrews left Egypt Moses led them to the edge of the Red Sea. For a moment the people thought it was a disastrous move. They looked up and saw the Egyptian army attacking from one side, and the deep blue Sea on the other. They were trapped.

But Moses raised God's rod, and the waters parted.

It was just one of a series of miracles, where God proved to His people, Israel, that He could be trusted...

God fed His people with miraculous manna, and brought water from a rock. The word "manna" means "*What is it?*" They weren't sure. But everyday, God's provision - mini, white wafers appeared on the ground.

Imagine feeding 3 million people, 3 meals a day, 365 days a year. Someone added up that the bread needed for such a task amounted to 2.5 million tons a year. Yet God was faithful to provide His people a daily miracle.

You'd think heavenly bread would satisfy these folks, but it didn't. Before long, Israel began to complain about the lack of variety in their diet. They murmured about the manna - even found fault in Moses as leader.

In Exodus 16:8 Moses warns them, "**Your murmurings are not against us but against the LORD.**"

We should be careful about **our** complaining. When we grumble about the provision God gives us - we're not

grumbling about our food, or house, or church... we're questioning the goodness and wisdom of God.

*Work to change the situation you're in... pray about that situation... but whatever you do, don't complain.*

So let's write down, **Moses** (pound fist 4 times, "Let...") and as we do, say, "**Let My People Go**"

Then write down, **10 Plagues**, and **Red Sea**

After their exodus from Egypt, Moses took the Hebrews to Mount Sinai - where he first met God.

There they received God's Law. Not just the Top Ten, *the Ten Commandments*, but 613 different laws.

There were laws that governed personal interactions, and business affairs, and governmental issues...

The Law of Moses was specifically designed for the land they had been promised, and for life in that land.

Later, Jesus said the Law was a description of how to love God, and how to love our fellow man.

*The Law described love, but it couldn't produce love.*

That's why, Christians no longer follow the Law - we follow Jesus, who puts God's love in our hearts.

Moses was also given plans, literally blueprints, for the construction of the Tabernacle, and all its furniture.

The Tabernacle was a mobile tent that they could transport whenever Israel broke camp and moved.

Outside the Tabernacle was an altar where the priests offered sacrifices, and worshipped God... God's presence dwelt in the inner room of the Tabernacle.

His glory resided over a golden box called the "*Ark of the Covenant*" - a replica of God's throne in heaven.

One of the 12 tribes, the tribe of Levi, was placed in charge of the Tabernacle. God's law to the Levites is recorded in the book that bears their name, **Leviticus**.

The Tabernacle, its sacrifices, and feasts of Israel were all symbolic of the person and work of Jesus.

The NT book of Hebrews explains how the Tabernacle, and later the Temple, and its ministry foreshadows and illustrates the work of our Savior.

## **Old Covenant (The Law) (book with hands)**

Moses spent forty days and forty nights on top of Mount Sinai, and in his absence the people panicked.

Rather than walk by faith, the Hebrews build a god they could see and control - an idol. With the help of Moses' brother, Aaron, the people constructed a golden calf, and they worshipped it in perverse ways.

When Moses returned from the mountaintop and saw it, he threw down and broke the two stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments.

Moses said in Exodus 32:30, "**You have sinned a great sin. I will go up to the LORD, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.**" Amazingly, Moses tells God, he's willing to have his



own name blotted out of God's book, if the Hebrews can go to heaven in his place.

Of course, it will take Jesus' sacrifice, His blood - not Moses' to save God's people, but imagine being willing to go to hell so that someone else can be saved. This was Moses' love for Israel. *Do we even come close to having that kind of concern for the people around us?*

Every hour 5,417 people die around the world, and most of the them go to hell. *Do we even care?*

God isn't asking us to go to hell for them - just go to their house, or to the office cubicle next to ours, or to our knees and pray for their salvation. *Are we willing?*

In Exodus 33:18, while on the mountaintop Moses asked God, **"please show me Your glory."** This should be the desire of every Christian - to see God's glory.

God revealed to Moses His grace and compassion. He sheltered Moses in a cave, and passed by before Him. Moses was allowed to see God's backside.

Exodus 34:30 says when Moses descended from the mountain, **"the skin of his face shone..."** God's *grace* radiated from Moses' *face*. I too, want to be so full of God's glory that people will know I've been with Him.

After receiving God's Law, and seeing God's glory, Moses and the nation set out for Canaan, the land that God had promised Abraham when he came out of Ur.

But when they reached the border town of Kadesh they faltered. Spies return and report giants in the land.

By the way, what they actually saw were “**nephilim.**”

That’s the Hebrew word for “**giants**” - *and the word used in Genesis 6 for the offspring of the women who were impregnated by fallen angels.* This was the back story of why God destroyed the human race with a flood. Demons polluted the human gene pool and created a race of mutants. It seems God had to start over with man to preserve humanity as He created us.

And apparently, the same phenomena was occurring in a localized way among the tribes of Canaan. This is why God will instruct General Joshua and Israel to take no prisoners - *kill them all, even women and children.*

God couldn’t let the same demonic evil that had previously threatened our existence to flourish again among the Canaanites and possibly spread. The sword of the returning Hebrew army was to be God’s remedy.

But at the time, rather than respond in *faith*, the Hebrews cower in *fear*. They want to return to Egypt.

The book of Numbers records their struggle. In the end, they transform a 14 day walk from Mount Sinai to Canaan into 40 years of wandering in the desert.

Always remember, **the longest detour you or I will ever take is the road of unbelief.** And because the Hebrews failed to trust God, He punished them.

The generation that exited Egypt never entered the promised land. Only the two spies, Joshua and Caleb, who

had brought back a good report, and trusted God to help the nation take the land, were allowed to enter.

So write down, **Wilderness Wanderings** (shrug & circle)  
And it lasted a total of **40 years**

At the end of those 40 years Moses prepared the new generation to cross over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan. He wrote down the Law a second time. The word **“Deuteronomy,”** the fifth book of the Bible, means **“second law.”** And one of the vital themes in Deuteronomy is our responsibility to remember.

**I think we all have the tendency to forget.**

In Deuteronomy 6:12 God warns the Hebrews, **“lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of Egypt...”**

God doesn't want the Hebrews, or us today, to forget the works He's done and the lessons we've learned.

Moses also turned the leadership of the nation over to his assistant, Joshua. God took Moses to the top of Mount Nebo, where he could look over into Canaan.

God allowed Moses to see the promised land from a distance - but he died having never gained entrance.

General Joshua was an able leader. He was disciplined by Moses, and learned from his example.

In Joshua 1:5 God promises to be with Joshua as He had been with Moses. The first miracle Joshua works is he rolls back the waters of the Jordan River for Israel to cross - just as Moses did when they left Egypt.

God promises Joshua in 1:9, “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

The first Canaanite stronghold Joshua’s army faces is the city of Jericho. The night before the big battle Joshua is on patrol, when he meets a fellow soldier.

The man identifies Himself as “the Commander of the army of the LORD.” I believe God sent this general to lead the Hebrews into battle. In Joshua 5:14, it’s interesting what the Commander says to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” That’s exactly what God had said to Moses.

In the same verse, Joshua worships this Man - and since the Law forbids us to worship anyone but God - I believe the Commander of the Lord’s army is none other than a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.

Remember the lyrics to the old spiritual, “Joshua fought the battle of Jericho...” I believe that’s wrong! It was our Lord Jesus who fought the battle the next day.

At Jericho, the Israeli army employed some strange tactics. They marched around the walls 7 days - then 7 times on the 7<sup>th</sup> day - and they blew their trumpets.

They even march on the Sabbath - a violation of the Law. It was a bizarre battle plan - and often when we follow Jesus we’re asked to do things others laugh at...

But remember Jericho, the Hebrews obeyed the absurd - and as a result, the walls of the city fell flat.

So **Joshua** Leads the Hebrews into Canaan It's "A Land Flowing With **Milk and Honey**" (drink and lick)  
First Victory is at **Jericho**

Next, Joshua sends a small battalion of soldiers to handle the tiny city of Ai. If they could conquer Jericho, surely they could pummel a smaller target like Ai.

But surprisingly the Israelites get defeated.

God reveals to Joshua, it's because **there's sin in the camp**. At Jericho a man named *Achan* had taken for himself some forbidden spoils. One man's sin cost the whole army a defeat. It's only after they get rid of Achan's ill-gotten loot, that the city of Ai is defeated.

*And I wonder how often our churches today suffer defeat because we're also harboring sin in our camp?*

In response to Joshua and Israel's campaign to take their land, the Canaanites rally to counterattack.

Joshua meets them in the Valley of Aijalon. There he needs a few more hours of daylight to complete his victory. *To help him, God causes the sun to stand still.*

It was another, amazing miracle, we can't explain.

Divine intervention and clever strategy combined to help Joshua take the land. *He divides, then conquers.*

His initial victories cut through the heart of the land. Then he conquers the south; followed by the north.

Joshua 11 summarize all Joshua's conquests.

**Divides and Conquers** (chop & elbow)

After winning the land, Joshua allots tracts to each of the tribes. That's where the book of Joshua ends...

God gave the land to Abraham, but for 440 years they were held up in Egypt; then wandered in the wilderness... Finally, Joshua brings the children of Abraham back into the land God had promised them.

Let me close our time together tonight with the same challenge Joshua gave Israel just before he died...

It's also God's challenge to us. In 24:15 he said, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."