

- Recap: Remember that Deuteronomy chapters 9-34 all happen in one day at the end of the 39<sup>th</sup> year of their wandering. In Deuteronomy 9:1 God tells the Israelites to get ready because they are about to go into the Promised Land.
- They wandered 40 years (one year for each day the spies were the promised land) and that was their punishment for going with the 10 spies who said they couldn't take the land. (Numbers 14)
- God also told Moses that he wasn't going to be able to lead them into the Promised Land because he disobeyed God by taking credit for bringing water from a rock and striking the rock when God told him to speak to the rock. (Numbers 20:10-12)
- So Aaron and Miriam have already died and Moses has just died (Deuteronomy 34). Remember Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were the people who led them all out of Egypt and led them around. (Micah 6:4) Now they are all dead.
- We talked about who the possible successors were, and we named at least three – Aaron's son Phineas, and the two spies, Joshua and Caleb. Before he dies, Moses consulting God, shows Joshua is the successor (Deuteronomy 34:5). It is also worth noting that Moses was 120 years old at his death, and that there would be "not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face." (Deuteronomy 34:10)
- Incidentally, and this is important to remember, a lot of people will point to this as a contradiction in the Bible so we need to decide what is really going on here. We did talk about how to reconcile this with the verses that indicate that you cannot see God and live. They include: "And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: 'For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.'" Genesis 32:30; "But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." Exodus 33:20 "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." John 1:18 "No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us." The answer to this apparently contradiction appears to be that man can see God when He is not revealed in all His glory. For example, we know that Jesus was God's son, and was part of the Godhead when he lived among us, and people certainly saw Him. In the dialog with Moses in Exodus 33:17-20 God makes this clear. We also see a similar situation in John 1: 15-18. Remember that Jesus did not represent God's full glory on earth because he was made flesh. Philippians 2:8 So there is no contradiction, as God can speak face to face with men, but not while in all His glory; otherwise, sinful man would die.
- That's where we pick up today.
- We are starting the book of Joshua, which is the first book not in the Pentateuch or 1<sup>st</sup> Five Books of the Bible. It is unclear who wrote the book and when, although most of it is traditionally attributed to Joshua. The only part which may not have been written by him is the end which records his death, in the same way it is probable that the end of Deuteronomy which records Moses' death was probably written by someone else.
- God now speaks directly to Joshua and tells him to lead the people across the Jordan River and all the land they trod upon will be theirs. Joshua 1: 1-4.
- God also tells Joshua that He will be with them and help them vanquish their enemies. He uses the term "strong and courageous" twice in very close succession here. (Joshua 1:5-9)
- Joshua tells the elders to tell the people to get ready because in three days they are going to cross the Jordan and invade the land. (Joshua 1:10-11).

- As we studied last week, two and a half tribes were given land on the side of the Jordan River they are on now. But they are going to leave the woman and children there, and the men are going to cross the Jordan and help the other tribes invade the land and then come back. (Joshua 1:12-15)
- The Israelites confirm to Joshua that they have heard him and acknowledge that he is the rightful successor to Moses. They also confirm the plan, and mention that those who do not follow the plan shall be put to death. They even confirm using the same language (“strong and courageous”). (Joshua 1:16-18).
- Joshua appoints two spies to go over into the first city they will come to conquer. Remember that this will be the first time they have ever had to do battle. So the spies went and took refuge in a prostitute named Rahab’s house. (Joshua 2: 1)
- Someone tips the King off that spies have come into the land and went there. He sends people there, and Rahab hides them under some straw on her roof and then tells the people the King sent “you just missed them, they went that way.” (Joshua 2: 2-7)
- Before she hides them, Rahab explains why she is giving them refuge. She essentially says that they have heard what great things God has done for Israel, and it has caused all our courage to go out of us. (Joshua 2:8-11) This is already fulfilling something God told them would happen. God tells Israel that all the nations of the earth will see his power through them. (Deuteronomy 30:1).
- Rahab goes on to say “therefore please save me and my family.” (Joshua 2:12-13)
- The spies say “deliver us and we will deal kindly with you.” (Joshua 2:14)
- Rahab lets them down through the window by a rope because she lived right on the town wall. Then she tells them to run for the hills until the people chasing them go away. (Joshua 2:15-16)
- The spies tell her to put the red rope they used to escape hanging outside her window when the Israelite army comes back to town. They say that anyone in the house with you at this time will be saved, but the whole thing is invalid if you tell anyone. (Joshua 2:17-20)
- The spies get away and go back and tell Joshua the whole story. (Joshua 2:22-24)
- Joshua has officers tell people that they will be going into Canaan led by the Ark of the Covenant which the Priests will carry. He tells the people to stay back about 2000 cubits (that is about 100 yards or a whole football fields length). He tells them that the reason they are going to be led by the Ark is that they don’t know where they are going otherwise. Joshua 3:1-11
- As soon as the priest’s feet touched the water in the Jordan River, it parted so that everyone could walk through into the Promised Land on dry ground. Joshua 3:12-17

Questions:

1. Who wrote the book of Joshua?
2. Moses saw God face to face. Why do other verses say that no man can see God and live?
3. What is the name of the river that the Israelites have to cross to get to the Promised Land?
4. What term does God use to tell Joshua what attitude the Israelites should have?
5. Who is to stay in the land they currently occupy while everyone else goes over the river?
6. How do the Israelites respond to God’s message through Joshua?
7. What did Joshua do instead of invading immediately?
8. What is the name of the person who provided refuge?
9. What was the occupation of the person who provided refuge?
10. What explanation does the person who provided refuge give for their action?

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11. What request does the person who provided refuge make?
12. How did the person who provided refuge hide the people she was providing refuge?
13. What is the person who provides refuge told to do?
14. What did the people who were provided this refuge say to their protector?
15. What went ahead of the Israelites as they were going into the promised land?
16. How far back did the Israelites have to stay from this object?
17. What happened to the river when the people bearing this object got to it?

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