

- Recap: The Israelites are finally in the Promised Land, gaining victory after victory and accumulating land, so much so that people are afraid because they know that God is with them just as God told them would happen in **Deuteronomy 30:1**. People were trying everything including trickery but it just wasn't working.
- Joshua is getting old and he is reminding Israel that God has taken care of them and will continue to do so, giving them the land just as He promised. **Joshua 23:1-5**
- Joshua reminds them to be faithful to every word of God's command, and not to intermarry or even mention the gods of the indigenous people or they will risk falling away from God and incurring his wrath in the form of the indigenous nations eventually turning against them. **Joshua 23:6-26**
- Joshua then brings all of Israel to Shechem (an important town already Genesis 12:4-8) and he gathers the leaders of each of the tribes together and recounts a few of the ways God delivered them. **Joshua 24:1-21**
- Joshua asks them to choose whom to serve, but indicates that he and his house will serve the Lord. Implicit in this choice is the understanding that it is in God's nature to give us freedom of choice. **Joshua 24:14-15** We also see this all over the NT. Remember that one of the main reasons we study the OT is to understand God's nature. His nature doesn't change. He still gives us freedom of choice today. Some people want to say He doesn't, but we can clearly see here that He does. Peter will reiterate that when he writes that God doesn't want anyone to die in their sins. **2 Peter 3:9**
- The people reiterate that they want to follow God too. **Joshua 24:16-18**
- Joshua tells the people that they won't be able to serve God if they worship idols also because God is a jealous God, so the people do that. **Joshua 24:19-28**
- Joshua dies and is buried in the land he had inherited. Aaron's son Eleazer dies too. The children of Israel apparently had been carrying the bones of Jacob around, and they buried them at Shechem also. **Joshua 24: 29-33**
- Now we are transitioning into the book of Judges since Joshua's story is over now. It is unclear who wrote Judges and when, many scholars have a lot of different views.
- The tribes of Judah and Simeon make an alliance to help each other out with the conquest of their respective lands. **Judges 1: 1-3**
- One of the Kings they conquer is named Adoni-Bezek. They cut off his thumbs and big toes as he had done to 70 people he captured. He even notes that God repayed him in the same way. **Judges 1:4-7**
- Several different tribes conquer more land and peoples, but it is noted that the tribe of Benjamin does not entirely conquer the Jebusites and lets them live with them. **Judges 1: 16-22**
- The tribe of Joseph conquers a city called Bethel. Bethel had a long history with them. Abraham enjoyed the green pastures there before his conflict with Lot (**Genesis 13:1-7**) and Jacob had a famous dream about a ladder with angels on it there (**Genesis 28:10-19**) We will continue to see Bethel being an important site. Note that the city was called Luz at the time and named Bethel here by Jacob. We now read that Bethel also was destroyed and then a spy helped them build another city which he called Luz. **Judges 1:22-26**
- The Israelites did not completely finish the conquest of the land in that there were a few people they didn't drive out and many of them were apparently allowed to continue as slaves for them. (**Judges 1:27-36**). Remember that Joshua had warned them about that. **Joshua 23:11-13**

- That warning is reiterated. **Judges 2:1-5**
- Joshua's death is recorded again. After his death arose a generation that did not know God or remember what he had done for them. **Judges 2:6-10**
- It doesn't take long for God's prophecy to come true. That generation started into idolatry. **Judges 2:11-15**
- A cycle ensues where God will raise up a judge who will bring Israel back to the right ways. Then when the judge dies Israel starts into idolatry again. **Judges 2:16-23**
- God tested Israel through the people living among them. He had warned them specifically against intermarrying there, but they did it anyway and sure enough, they started serving the gods of the people they married. **Judges 3:1-6**
- The people of Israel were ultimately conquered by the Mesopotamian people and served them as slaves for eight years. Then God raises up Caleb's son called Othniel to make them strong and free again.
- The cycle starts again. Israel again does what they shouldn't, they get conquered and have to pay tribute to a king named Eglon. An Israelite named Ehud carries the tribute to the King but hides a sword in his robe and kills the King in the bathroom. Ehud becomes the leader of Israel and again leads them to freedom. **Judges 3:7-30**
- Another man named Shamgar kills lots of Philistines with a cattle prod. **Judges 3:31**
- After Ehud died, the Israelites again go back to idolatry and end up being conquered and serving as slaves to a particularly cruel master named Jabin the King of Canaan for 20 years. The commander of his Army was called Sisera who was noted as having 900 chariots of iron. **Judges 4:1-3**
- The leader of Israel was a prophetess named Deborah. She encourages the commander of the Israelite army named Barak to route Sisera's army. **Judges 4:4-16**
- Sisera escaped to a place he thought was safe because the people of the land had a peace treaty with them. A woman named Jael gives him refuge in a tent and while he was sleeping kills him by driving a tent peg through his skull. **Judges 4:17-24**
- The story become so famous it is preserved in a song of Thanksgiving to God. Notice all the references to the Lord there. **Judges 5**

Questions

1. Why does Joshua start to give his last words of encouragement to Israel?
2. What does Joshua urge Israel not to do?
3. What does Joshua say the penalty will be for disobedience?
4. In what city does Joshua bring the Israelites together to give his last words?
5. Who did he choose to give his last words to from among the tribes?
6. Why does Joshua say the children of Israel a choice of which God to serve?
7. What did Joshua say the people will need to do in order to serve God?
8. What did the children of Israel bury in Joshua 24?
9. What do the armies of Judah and Simeon do to the King called Adoni-Bezek?
10. Why was the city of Bethel so well known to the Israelites?
11. Who gave the name Bethel to the city and what was it called before that?
12. Did the Israelites drive out all the inhabitants of the Promised Land?

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13. Why were the Israelites warned against leaving some inhabitants of the Promised Land around?
14. What happens immediately after Joshua's death?
15. What would happen to Israel when God would raise up a strong judge to lead them?
16. What would happen to Israel when there was no strong judge to lead them?
17. Why was intermarriage so dangerous for the people of Israel?
18. What was the name of Caleb's son and what did he do?
19. What did Ehud do to Eglon?
20. What did Shamgar use to kill Philistines?
21. Who was Jabin?
22. Who was Sisera?
23. How many chariots did Sisera have and what were they made of?
24. What ultimately happened to Sisera?

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