

JOSHUA: *presence, courage, action.*

Finishing the Task - Joshua 10:29-12:24

April 30, 2017

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war. - **Joshua 11:23**

I. TAKING THE LAND

- The occupation of the Promised Land occurred in four phases:

Phase 1: Crossing the Jordan, taking Jericho, Ai and the strategic plains, the fords of the Jordan, and a base camp at Gilgal (Josh. 3-8).

Phase 2: Driving a wedge into the central highlands at Gibeon and the upper Beth Horon region. Controlling the north-south Palestinian ridge (Josh. 10:1-28).

Phase 3: Conquering the major urban centers of the south (Josh. 10:29-43).

Phase 4: Defeating the northern coalition at the waters of Merom (Josh. 11).

- Chapter 12 concludes the first half of Joshua. The land is now subdued, the time has come to distribute it to the tribes. Promises have been fulfilled (Josh. 21:45; 1 Sam. 15:29; 2 Cor. 1:20).

II. PERSEVERANCE

- Over seven years of conflict can take its toll, but Israel has persevered - so far (Josh. 11:23).
- As Israel needed to keep its eye on the prize, we too must work out our salvation (Mark 13:37; Gal. 5:7-9; Phil. 2:12-13; 3:12-14).
- We have been given all we need as Christ-followers to live a life that pleases God (2 Pet. 1:3-4).
- For Joshua, Israel, and us, it isn't so much how we start the race, but how we finish it (2 Tim. 4:6-8; Heb. 3:14).

KNOW: It isn't so much about starting the race, but about finishing it well. We are called to persevere and hold fast to our faith. God will be with us as we do that.

DO: Rest in God's grace - work hard to be steadfast.

Recommended Reading:

The Roots of Endurance, by John Piper (LifePoint Library #266 PIP)

Run to Win the Prize - Perseverance in the N.T., by Tom Schreiner

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. What causes Israel to begin the conquest of northern Palestine? (see 11:1-5)
2. What seems to be a consistent theme in Joshua when Israel is about to go into battle? What confidence is given to Joshua? (1:8; 1:24; 2:7-13; 5:13-15; 8:1; 10:8; 11:6).
3. Why, do you think, does chapter 12 relate the kings defeated under Moses' leadership, and then those under Joshua's?
4. What are some of the lessons that have stood out to you in this first half of the book of Joshua?
5. We spoke about perseverance Sunday. Why is it so important to persevere in the faith?
6. What is one take-away for you from the message Sunday?