

Psalm 2A

1. Why do Gentile nations rage,
And their useless plots design?
Kings of earth in schemes engage,
Rulers are in league combined.
They speak out against the LORD;
His Messiah they defy:
“Let us break their chains and cords,
Let us cast them off,” they cry.

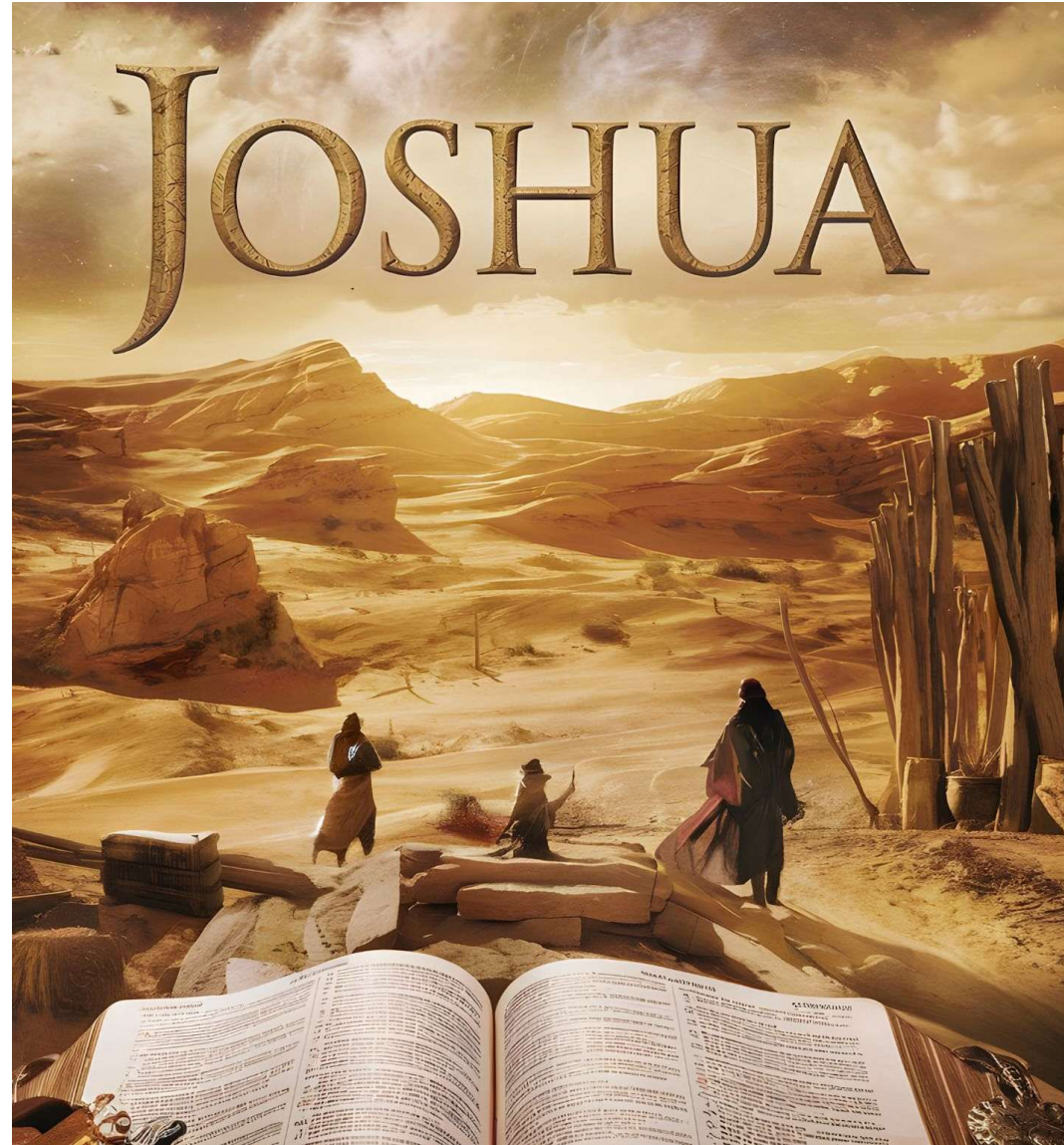
2. He who sits in heaven laughs,
For the Lord views them with scorn.
He will speak to them in wrath,
And in anger He will warn:
“Yet according to My will,
I have set My King to reign;
And on Zion’s holy hill,
My Anointed will remain.”

3. “I the LORD’s decree make known;
This is what He had to say:
He declared, ‘You are My Son;
I have brought You forth this day.
Ask of Me, and You I’ll make
Heir to earth and nations all.
Them with iron rod You’ll break,
Smashing them in pieces small.’”

4. Therefore kings now heed this word;
Earthly judges, come and hear:
Rev’reant worship give the LORD;
With your joy mix trembling fear.
Kiss the Son, His wrath to turn,
Lest you perish in your stride,
For His anger soon may burn.
Blessed are all who in Him hide.

Daily Worship Booklet

June 16th – 20th, 2025



God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law,
day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 33: What is justification?

Answer: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Scripture Proofs:

Romans 3:24; Romans 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:6, 11; Romans 5:19; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9.

Comment: When you justify someone, you say that they are right. God justifies his people when he declares them to be right, not with him, not because of anything they have done, but because the Lord Jesus Christ's earned righteousness, because of obedience to God, has been attributed or given to the person. It is something God does, solely by His free grace.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 2A. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Josh & Karin, Elyssa, Julia, Sarah & Suzannah Foster

Tues - Norm & Jane Fry

Wed - Jon & Amy, Grace, Elloise, Rita, Margaret, Leo & Beth Harper

Thur - Jamie & Heather Hood

Frid - Stas Jesionka, Jonathan Jesionka

Bible Questions for the week:

1. How many sons did Leah have?

Answer - Genesis 30

2. How many sons did Rachel have?

Answer - Genesis 30

3. Which of them had a daughter, and what was her name?

Answer - Genesis 30:21

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.

During the summer, we are going to be looking at the book of Joshua using notes written by Rev. Peter Loughridge, an RPC minister in North Edinburgh, Scotland.

Friday – Joshua 2:1-7 - Protection of the Spies

Joshua 2 is constructed in such a way that our attention is drawn to Rahab's confession of faith in tomorrow's passage (verses 8-14). The writer repeats specific key points in this opening section for emphasis: the spies had come to search out the land (verses 2,3); Rahab hid the men (verses 4,6); Rahab claimed not to know anything about them (verses 4,5); and the gate of the city of Jericho was now shut (verses 5,7). The writer builds up the suspense and leaves the reader with a 'cliffhanger' at the end of verse 7. We should be thinking: 'How will they ever get out if the gates have been shut?' However, that question is not answered until verse 15, after Rahab confesses faith. The writer is indicating that what Rahab is about to say is so important that all other matters must be set aside for now.

Endless debates and discussions have centred on v4-6 and whether it was right for Rahab to lie to the Jericho police! Bible commentator Dale Ralph Davis says: "It is tragic when people snag their pants on the nail of Rahab's lie, quibble endlessly about the matter, and never get around to hearing Rahab's truth (verse 8- 13)", which the writer has plotted to make the centre of the whole story. The New Testament does not fall into this trap. It consistently stresses the faith of Rahab (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25). This does not mean that the Biblical writer necessarily approves of Rahab's lie or that he authorizes us to go and do likewise. He neither approves nor disapproves of Rahab's lie; rather, he ignores it (that is, the ethics of what Rahab did).

Of course, Bible readers must always be careful to distinguish between what the Bible reports and what it recommends, between what it records and what it requires. The Bible reports that Jacob had four wives; it hardly encourages us to do the same.

Questions

1. What does the situation look like for the spies at the end of v7?
2. What characteristic of Rahab is emphasised in Scriptures record of her?

Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9b

Thursday - Joshua 1:10-18 - The Unity of the LORD's People

The significance of these verses is evident when considering Numbers chapter 32. There the tribes mentioned in Joshua 1:12 had asked Moses to assign them land on that side (east) of the River Jordan, which was the opposite side from the region all the people were about to enter. Moses suspected their motivation and rebuked them as sinful men (Numbers 32:14) - content to go ahead and possess their land, then sit out the conquest and allow the other tribes to fend for themselves, leaving the majority of God's people disheartened and discouraged (Numbers 32:7). Moses compared it to the rebellion at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 13-14) when the people had become afraid of entering Canaan.

It is in light of this threat of rebellion against the LORD that the unity of God's people becomes so essential. In Joshua 1:12ff, the same tribes are models of willing obedience and instruments of encouragement. Indifference from them or failure to join the rest of Israel in fighting would have discouraged and disheartened the rest, potentially leading to rebellion and unbelief again.

We should see the implications for the church. Unity among God's people is no idle luxury. This does not mean that we must feel all sticky and gooey about each other, but it does mean that we must care enough that we do not want any of the Lord's children to get discouraged. It seems that such caring encouragement should take place in our public meetings (1 Sam. 23:16; Heb. 10:25). And it is crucial because, ultimately, unity is a necessity for faithfulness. Joshua's command to the two-and-a-half tribes and their loyal promise serve as an example of the importance of unity among God's people and their support of His chosen leadership, as well as a sober reminder of the seriousness of any division.

Questions

1. Why did Joshua address three tribes specifically?
2. What do these verses teach us about the significance of unity?

Memory Verse

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9b

Monday – Joshua 1:1-4 - The Certainty of the LORD's Promises

The first theme the writer underlines is the certainty of God's promises. The dimensions of the land God promise (verse 4) are astonishing! However, more important than the size of the land is the fact that these words to Joshua are a continuation of the promises God made to Abraham and his descendants, as recorded in the book of Genesis. (See Genesis 12:6,7; 13:14,15; 17:8). The ancient promise is about to be fulfilled.

Notice the significance of the timing of God's promise to Joshua. After the death of Moses ... (verse 1). Moses was an incomparable figure in the history of Israel. He had led them out of Egypt and through the wilderness. He had pleaded with God on Israel's behalf when He had threatened to destroy them (Exodus 32-34). Moses was the one who had been given the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and who received direct revelation from God (Numbers 12:1-8). There was no one like Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10-12). However, now Moses had died. You can imagine the dismay in Israel. They had expected it and were prepared for it (Deuteronomy 31), but what do you do when the servant of God dies and there is a raging river between you and the land you are to inherit? It is against this background of the death of 'Moses the Incomparable' that the writer sets the LORD's promise. What does God say? 'Moses, my servant, is dead, so you must wait? ' No. 'You must weep? ' No. Arise, go over ... into the land ... (v2). Moses may die; God's promise lives on.

There is the passing of an era, but the endurance of the promise. The faithfulness of the LORD does not hinge on the achievements of men, however gifted they may be, nor does it evaporate in the face of funerals and obstacles.

Questions

1. Why would the Lord's words about the land have been an encouragement?
2. What is Joshua's response to the news of Moses' death?

Memory Verse

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9b

Tuesday - Joshua 1:5-9 - The Encouragement of the LORD's Presence

Please re-read verses 5 and 9. God says to Joshua: I will be with you. It is interesting to note that God spoke these simple words previously to a reluctant, backward, excuse-making, and pick-someone-else sort of person - Moses, in Exodus 3:12, when he was called to face Pharaoh. The same God now gives the same reassurance in similar threatening circumstances to Joshua. The special covenant name that Israel used for God - YHWH (or 'LORD' in capitals in our Bibles) - was a constant reminder to them that God is the Covenant God, the one who declares and keeps the truth that 'I will be with you' (see Exodus 3:12-15).

So even though Moses was dead, the LORD had not changed. He was still YHWH, the God who is present with His servant and His people to help and deliver. It is because of His presence with Joshua that God can exhort him three times to be strong and courageous (verses 6, 7, 9). Joshua is not told to grit his teeth and muster up his own courage. God is not saying that He prefers leaders who display positive thinking. Joshua can only be strong because the LORD is with him.

We might be tempted to read these words and think it is all very nice for Joshua - he was an important character; it was his job to lead all Israel. What about an ordinary Christian like me? Is this a promise for me? Hebrews 13:5,6 applies this same promise to a Christian congregation. The promise of God's abiding presence in Joshua 1 is also for you. It is the solution to the sin of covetousness and discontent, and it leads to the freedom of a life without fear.

There is nothing more essential for the people of God than to hear their God repeating to them amid all their changing circumstances: I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you (verse 5).

Questions

1. Why should Joshua be strong and courageous?
2. How should these verses make us feel? Prayer Points 1. Give thanks that God is with you.

Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9b

Wednesday - Joshua 1:5-9 - The Centrality of the LORD's Word

These verses also show us the importance of God's Word. Joshua is commanded to be especially strong and courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded you (verse 7). God then clarifies how Joshua can achieve such obedience: This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it (verse 8).

Constant and careful absorption of the Word of God leads to obedience to it. Lack of study results in a lack of obedience. This command is explicitly given to Joshua as the leader of God's people. Does the command apply to every Israelite? Does it apply to every Christian? Yes. If we do not like Joshua 1:7-8, we still must face Psalm 1:2, which tells us that every godly believer should delight in the law of the LORD and meditate on it day and night. There is no escape!

Life in the kingdom of God should be lived out of the Word of God. Joshua chapter 1 and Psalm 1 both tell us that a life pleasing to God does not arise from mystical experiences, warm feelings, or the latest gimmick promoted in a Christian bestseller. No, a life pleasing to God comes from the Word He has already spoken. It comes from careful, diligent, frequent consumption of that Word. It comes from the resulting obedience to that Word.

Joshua is promised success and prosperity in doing this important work for God if he keeps God's Word central in all he does. Unless he makes it his priority to meditate upon and obey God's law, his leadership will fail.

Questions

1. What is to be the priority for Joshua as a leader?
2. What was Joshua's attitude towards God's Word to be (v8)?

Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9b