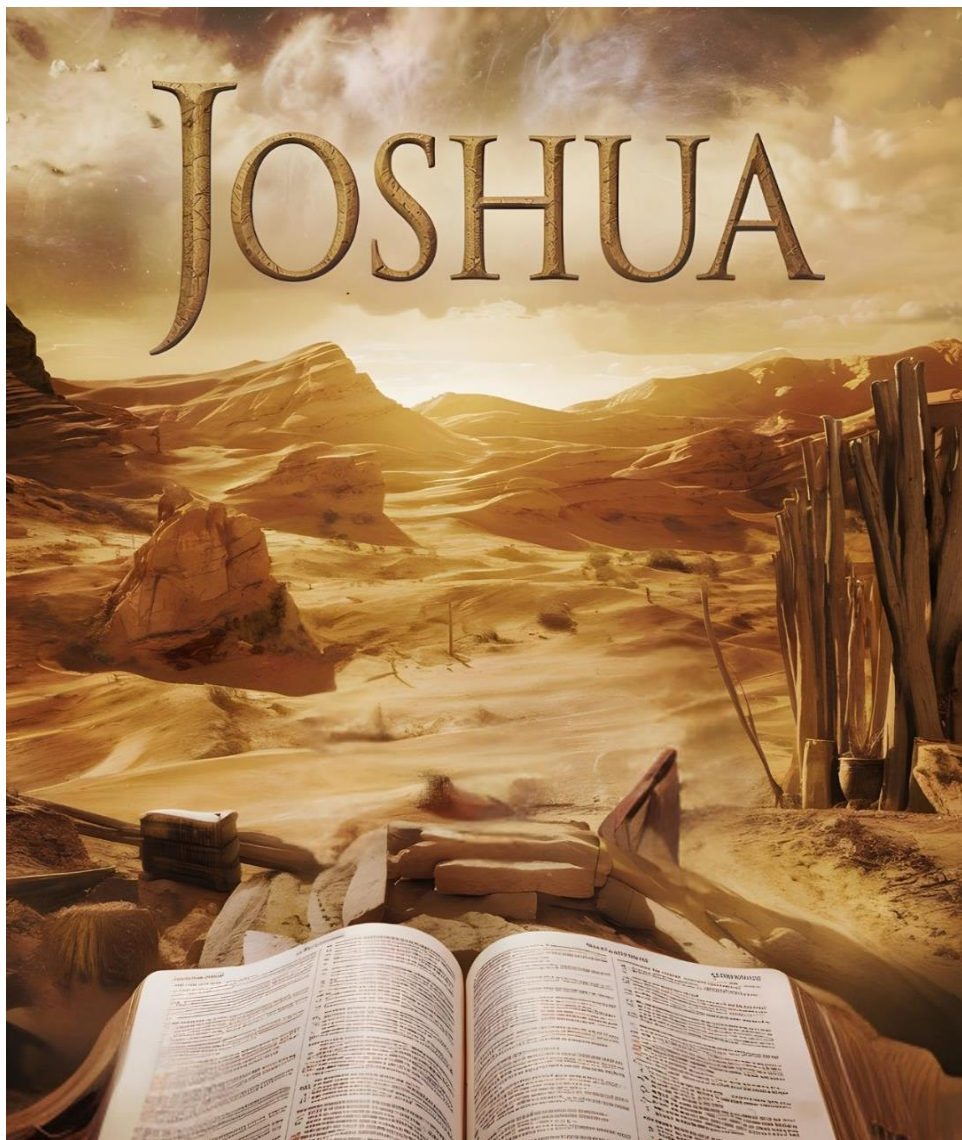


Daily Worship Booklet

July 28th – August 1st, 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.

Bible Classes are now on their summer break and will resume on 14th September 2025, God willing.

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

Please pray for:

Mon - Moisés Valdez and Laura Restrepo, and Noah

Tues - Judith Van Berkom

Wed - Natalie Ward

Thur - Eric and Samantha, Charlotte, Abby, Hazel, Ezra and Penelope White

Frid - Bob Wilson

Bible Question for the week:

1. What did Jacob make for Joseph?

Answer: Genesis 37:3

2. How many dreams does Joseph have in Genesis 37? And what were they?

Answer - Genesis 37:6-11

3. What did Joseph's brothers do to him?

Answer - Genesis 37:28

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

During the summer, we are studying the book of Joshua, using notes written by Rev. Peter Loughridge, the RPC minister in North Edinburgh, Scotland.

Monday – Joshua 9:16-27 - The Concern over the Honour of God.

This chapter shows Israel's concern for the honour of God. They soon discover that the Gibeonites had actually lived nearby and had been tricked into taking the oath. The whole problem centres on this oath they had sworn. The people probably thought that an oath based on Gibeon's deception did not need to be honoured. However, the view of the leaders of the people seemed to be that breaking the oath would bring the LORD's anger on Israel again; to break the oath would dishonour the LORD's name before the other nations. They had sworn by "the LORD, the God of Israel" (verse 19), and so breaking their oath would suggest that the LORD could not be trusted. Their solution was to make the Gibeonites woodcutters and watercarriers for the LORD's house (verses 21, 23).

Naturally, many of us as Christians probably find it hard to understand why Israel sticks to their oath. That is because many of us have a low view of 'giving our word to someone' and a flimsy concern for the truth. Israel was stuck. They must not break an oath, even though it had been deceitfully obtained. They were only in this mess because they had neglected God's wisdom. What were they to do? Live as faithfully as they could within that twisted situation. Sometimes God's people are called to live obediently amidst the results of their folly. There are times when our preferences or convenience must not sidestep difficult circumstances like these. Like Israel, we may be caught in a framework of our own sin, wrong, and foolishness. Certainly, there can be repentance and forgiveness - but erasing the guilt of sin does not erase all the consequences of sin. Therefore, we must remain faithful to God, even in the aftermath of our mistakes, and be assured that His mercy does not cease because we have been wrong. His grace shines through even in our messes.

Questions

1. Why was it so important to the leaders of Israel that they kept this oath?
2. What does this teach us about the importance of our word?

Memory Verse

"There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel." Joshua 10:14

Tuesday - Joshua 10:1-11 - The Warrior of Israel.

Israel had taken Jericho and Ai, located east of the Promised Land. They were now also at peace with the Gibeonites, who made up a confederation of four cities (9:17) in the centre and west. Israel controlled the strategic central section of the land. They had sliced through the middle of Canaan, driving a wedge between north and south.

Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, was fearful, so he gathered support from four other kings to take on Gibeon - Israel's new allies. The Gibeonites sent to Joshua for help (verse 6). Joshua and his troops pursued the five kings (verses 7-9). However, we see that it is the LORD who is Israel's Warrior.

Verse 10 says: "The LORD threw them into a panic before Israel". Probably the best translation of verse 10 is that the LORD is the One doing all the action here - striking Israel's enemies with a significant blow, chasing them and striking them. It may sound strange to us to hear of the LORD pursuing the enemy, but that is precisely the point. We are to see in this passage that the LORD is the fighter; He is the warrior; He is the victor who crushes the enemy. Verse 11 says "the LORD threw down large stones from heaven", which killed more opponents than Israel's swords.

Much of the church has lost this vision of Christ as the warrior who fights for His people. For too many of us, it does not fit our sentimental man-made 'idol' of what God should be like. It seems too violent. Jesus is portrayed not only as kind and tender but also as soft and a pushover. Psalm 24:8 asks, "Who is this King of Glory?" and the answer comes, "The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!" Revelation 19:11-16 says about Jesus: "in righteousness he judges and makes war". No mild God or soft Jesus can give His people hope. It is only as we know the Warrior of Israel who fights for us that we can have hope of triumphing.

Questions

1. How is God portrayed in these verses?
2. How can this fact help you today?

Memory Verse

"There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel." Joshua 10:14

Wednesday - Joshua 10:12-15 - The Miracle of Prayer.

These verses record one of the most remarkable miracles in Scripture! In response to Joshua's prayer (verse 12), the sun stopped (verse 13). There is considerable discussion among Bible experts about whether this meant that daylight was extended or darkness was extended, but we must be cautious not to miss the main point. Verse 14 takes care to return our attention to what should be our focus as we look at these verses: "There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD obeyed the voice of a man".

The word translated as "obeyed" in verse 14 means that "the LORD heard the voice of a man" (more recent revisions of the ESV say "the LORD heeded"; other versions say "the LORD hearkened" or "listened to the voice of a man"). This is the miracle of prayer! The passage tells us that this is more astonishing than the sun and moon standing still—that God should listen to us! That day was amazing, not because of some unusual daylight or darkness, but because the LORD heard the prayer of a man!

Verse 12 reinforces that this incident is more about prayer than it is about the activities of the sun and moon: "At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD ... and he said in the sight of Israel ..." This was not a private prayer from Joshua. It was said in the sight of all Israel so that they all would see and learn the wonder of prayer. "The LORD listened to the voice of a man" (verse 14 - NASB). Astounding! Isn't it still amazing that God listens to the voice of a man or woman who comes to Him? This view of prayer should rebuke any possibility of us being too casual in our praying or finding prayer boring. The Great King who sits on high stoops down and bends his ear to the lips of those who are dust and ashes (Ps. 113:5-9). He says: "When he calls to me, I will answer him" (Psalm 91:15).

Questions

1. What does this incident teach us about the privilege of prayer?
2. How should this affect your praying?

Memory Verse

"There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel." Joshua 10:14

Thursday - Joshua 10:16-43 - The Sign of Victory.

Verse 24 tells us: "Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, 'Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.' Then they came near and put their feet on their necks".

This was not cruel mistreatment of prisoners-of-war or macho showing-off by Israel. It was a sign. As verse 25 explains, it was an acted parable, or a reassuring visual aid of how the LORD would certainly place all their enemies beneath them. The symbolic action was intended as a visible encouragement of the people of God.

God gives His people signs like this to encourage their faith in Him. Noah saw God's bow in the clouds and was reassured of His promise (Genesis 9:11-17). Abram looked at the hosts of stars and was similarly encouraged to believe God's promise to him (Genesis 15:1-6). God has given us the sacraments (baptism and communion) as visible signs that will strengthen our weak faith. They warmly encourage us that God's Word is reliable, and His promise is sure. Just as dirty Israelite feet on royal Canaanite necks gave fresh encouragement that this is what the LORD would do to all their enemies, so the simple action of eating bread and drinking wine assures us that the crucified and risen Christ will sustain us now and always.

Verses 29-43 provide further details about Israel's southern campaign as they worked their way down from the central section of Canaan they had initially taken (see Tuesday's notes). Taking possession of this land is no small achievement. However, once again, we see that this is repeatedly emphasized as the work of the LORD (see verses 30, 32, 42).

Questions

1. Why did Joshua give such a strange command in verse 24?
2. Can you think of other examples in the Bible where God gave His people visible signs of encouragement?

Memory Verse

"There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel." Joshua 10:14

Friday - Joshua 11:1-9 - Some trust in chariots and horses, but ...

Now the action moves to the north of the Promised Land. A group of northern rulers unite in a coalition to try to stop Israel. Verses 1-5 detail the precise kings, locations, and ethnic groups that opposed Israel. The names and specifics might seem confusing to us, but the purpose is for us to feel how overwhelming the enemy is. As we read line after line, we are to sense the almost hopeless situation Israel faces. The massive resources of the enemies of God are further spelled out in terms of their numerical and technological advantage (verse 4).

Verses 6 and 7 illustrate the balance between God's sovereign control and our responsibility. Joshua firmly believed God's promise that He would give their enemies into their hands (verse 6). So, he and his warriors went on the attack (verse 7)! He believed in God, so he acted! Time and again in the Bible, genuine faith is accompanied by action. Joshua was so full of faith in God's promise that he rushed the imposing enemy camp!

Verses 6 and 9 teach an important lesson. The enemies' chariots were burned, and their horses were hamstrung (that is, the large tendon at the back of the legs was cut - leaving them of no military use). This is not because the Israelites would not have known how to use them. God was teaching them not to depend on any such mode of strength or assistance, but to rely solely on Him. Psalm 20:7 says: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God". By destroying these methods of normal human security, God was teaching them to look to the only One who could keep them (Psalm 121). Human machinery or methods are no substitute for God's help. Sometimes God has to deny us some of our favourite 'props' to remind us of that.

Questions

1. Why did Israel not keep the horses and chariots, and use them for their own military campaign?
2. What might be the 'horses and chariots' in your life that you put hope and confidence in?

Memory Verse

"There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel." Joshua 10:14

Psalm 8A

1. O LORD, our Lord, in all the earth
How glorious is Your name!
For You have set above the heav'ns
Your glory and Your fame.
2. From infants' and from children's lips
You ordered praise to sound
To silence all Your enemies,
The wicked to confound.
3. When I regard the heav'ns You made,
Your fingers' work I trace;
I see the moon and shining stars
Which You have set in place.
4. I ask myself, "What then is man
That You should give him thought –
The son of man, that You to him
Such gracious care have brought?"
5. Yet You created him to be
Just less than one divine;
You gave him honor as a crown,
And made his glory shine.
6. You made him ruler of the works
Created by Your hand;
You placed all things beneath his feet
To be in his command.
7. All sheep and oxen, birds and fish,
All beasts both wild and tame.
O LORD, our Lord, in all the earth
How glorious is Your name!