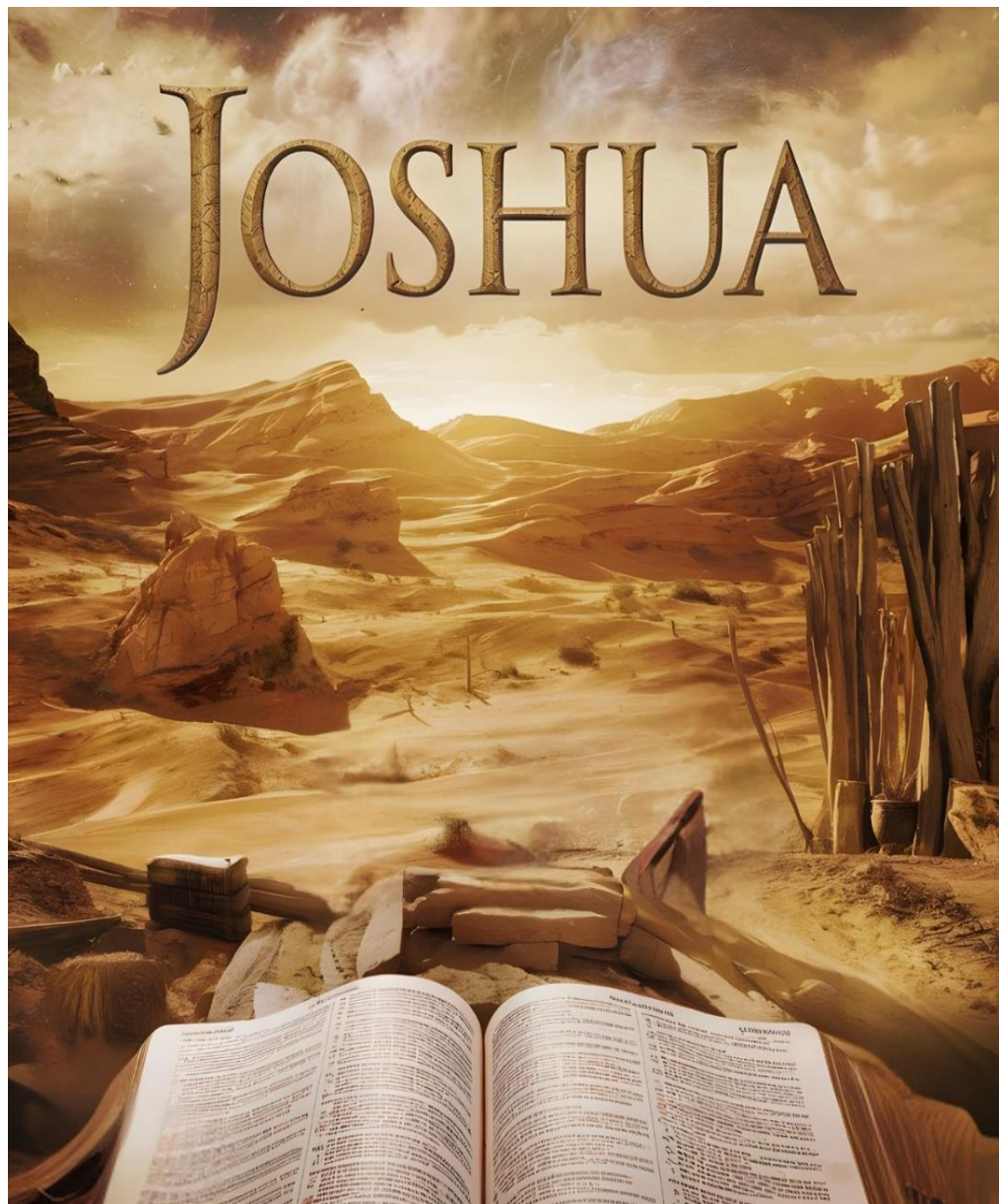


Daily Worship Booklet

August 11th – 15th, 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 10B. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Renato and Amparo, Renata and Helena Ayala

Tues - Joy Ayer

Wed - Leonardo and Camille Borges, and Maria and Miguel

Thur - Gabe and Maria and Olívia Braden

Frid - Eric Cai and Ivanna Yu

Bible Questions for the week:

1. What was the name of the Egyptian official who bought Joseph?

Answer: Genesis 39:1

2. What word is used to describe Joseph's life and work in Egypt?

Answer: Genesis 39:2

3. Who made Joseph successful?

Answer: Genesis 39:2,23

4. Where is Joseph sent to after his work in Potiphar's house?

Genesis 39:20

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 14:1-5 - The True Inheritance.

Now we move back to considering the land of Canaan - to the West of the Jordan, the main section of territory the LORD gave to His people. These verses mention twice (verse 3, verse 4) that the tribe of Levi did not receive an allocation of land like the other tribes. This adds to what we already saw in the previous chapter, 13:14 - "To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the LORD God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to them". 13:33 - "But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them." In the middle of all this allocation of land, the people of God are being pointed to their true inheritance.

The Levites had no land for their inheritance because the LORD Himself was their inheritance (see also Deuteronomy 18:1, 2). God did not want them to be concerned about land, but to concentrate on their crucial ministry of being priests for all the people. Their needs would be met from the offerings and sacrifices made to the LORD, and they were given towns to live in, and pasture lands for their livestock.

This information should summon all Israelites (and all Christians) to adopt the Levites' perspective. The work of the LORD was more important than what they actually possessed. If they did His work, He would take care of their provision. They were also to see that God Himself is the portion or inheritance that we should be keenly anticipating. No Israelite should have despised their land allocation, but healthy, grateful faith would have looked beyond the inheritance to the One who granted it. Healthy, grateful faith never prizes the LORD's gifts more than the LORD Himself. He is our portion - our inheritance - and remains that no matter what we may not have.

Questions

1. What was a Levite (and any Israelite) to focus on more than land/inheritance?
2. What can be a danger for us as we receive many good gifts from God?

Memory Verse

"It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said." Joshua 14:12b

Tuesday - Joshua 14:6-9 - Wholehearted Devotion.

Here, Caleb recalls the episodes from Numbers 13-14, when Moses sent twelve spies to investigate the land of Canaan. The majority of the spies brought back a report that "made the heart of the people melt". In their opinion, the cities of Canaan were highly fortified, and their warriors were immense - Israel would be like a school rugby team facing the All Blacks! Caleb, however, had the courage back then to go against the flow: "Yet I wholly followed the LORD my God". That is the wholehearted devotion of faith. Caleb, along with Joshua, dared to take a stand against the majority (Numbers 13:30) - even though it nearly cost him his life (see Numbers 14:6-10). Caleb's attitude was: 'We can possess the land; the LORD is with us; stop fearing those big bruisers'.

Caleb's wholehearted devotion to God required courage: a willingness to stand against the crowd. His devotion to faith led to loneliness of faith, as is often the case. A Christian young person may experience this loneliness of faith when they are 'left out' because they go against the immoral flow of their culture. A Christian employee may experience this isolation when they tell their boss they must either resign or be transferred because they refuse to participate in something dodgy. God's people must be prepared: devoted faith frequently means lonely faith. Paul spoke of a time when everyone deserted him (2 Timothy 4:16) - though in the next verse he adds: "But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me".

In the days ahead in the Promised Land, as the Israelites failed to wipe out the infectiously sinful Canaanites completely, those who were devoted to the LORD probably felt the pressure to conform and to compromise (see Judges 2:11-15). Standing alone would be hard. However, they could remember the example of Caleb. Will you be a Caleb? Is your following of God wholehearted or half-hearted?

Questions

1. What characteristic of Caleb is emphasized in these verses?
2. In what situations might we have to do what Caleb did?

Memory Verse

"It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said." Joshua 14:12b

Wednesday - Joshua 14:10-15 – The Energy of Faith.

Caleb displays his energetic faith, despite being 85! Why such vigour and expectancy in this senior citizen of Israel? Verse 12 suggests two facts that shot the adrenaline into Caleb's faith. One was the extreme difficulty of the task. It is as if Caleb says to Joshua: 'Remember the sneers you and I heard that day the other ten spies brought their report? Remember all the whimpering about large, fortified cities and large, terrifying Anakim? Well, that is exactly why I want this hill country for my inheritance – there are fortified cities and real, live Anakim'. Precisely what caused Israel to shrink from this task in Numbers 13 gave Caleb the passion to take on the task. An American shoe company once sent a salesman to a foreign country. He had barely landed when he contacted home and asked to return. 'No one over here wears shoes,' he said. The company brought him back and sent another salesman. Soon he too contacted home: 'Send me all the shoes you have got. No one here has shoes!' Similarly, the sheer difficulty of the task stimulated Caleb's request. He believed where the rest of Israel had failed to believe – and he wanted a chance to show what God could do!

The other factor was the unguessable favour of the LORD. Caleb's "it may be" is not the voice of doubt but of expectancy. By saying "just as the LORD said", Caleb showed that he knew the outcome was inevitable. His "it may be" preserves God's freedom. Caleb does not view God as his 'message boy' following his orders, but as the free and sovereign Lord who does whatever He pleases. However, because of the LORD's promises, Caleb suspected He would be pleased to drive out the enemy before him. Caleb was confident but not cocky. Biblical faith always keeps this balance: it does not dictate to God or try to write His script; yet it also does not doubt God when it can cling to a clear promise about something.

Questions

1. What factors fuelled the spiritual energy of this 85-year-old?
2. Do big spiritual challenges spur you on or make you shrink back?

Memory Verse

"It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said." Joshua 14:12b

Thursday - Joshua 15:1-19 – The Nitty Gritty Details of God’s Faithfulness.

The lists and lists of place names in these verses (and in this chapter, and the surrounding chapters) could seem tedious. We need to keep reminding ourselves that “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable ...”. Maybe we need a change of perspective on these chapters. They are not just lists of places. They are the finer details of God’s glorious promise. Joshua 15 is one of the buds on the tree of Genesis 12 and Genesis 15. Here we see the very real fulfilment – literally, the exact places and boundaries – of God’s promise of land to Abraham and his offspring (look up Genesis 12:6,7 and 15:7-21). These chapters describe in detail God’s gift of the land, and that means that every town name and border point throbs with excitement! No close-up description of God’s gifts could ever be boring!

It is the same in our lives: the nitty gritty details of God’s faithfulness are never boring. When you poured your cereal this morning, it was another fulfillment of Matthew 6:25, 26. When you leave your bin out for collection, even having rubbish is a sign of God’s provision. Those you share your home with – they are the fulfilment of God’s promises (e.g., Proverbs 19:14; Psalm 127:3-5). Not one of these details staggers our imagination, but like the boundaries and towns of Judah, they are visible signs of God’s faithfulness. Hardly boring!

Verses 13-19 take us back to Caleb, briefly. He not only talked about faith but acted in faith – and the LORD granted him success. We already know Caleb’s planned conquest would be no small task, and the difficulty seems to be emphasized by the special incentive offered (verses 16, 17). It was certainly a fearful assignment. The Anakim seemed invincible in Israelite minds; but verses 13-19 show them being defeated. The God who promised the inheritance enabled Caleb’s clan to obtain it when they were willing to risk obedience.

Questions

1. What is the importance of a passage like this?
2. What are some of the seemingly more mundane aspects of God’s faithfulness that you see daily?

Memory Verse

“It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said.” Joshua 14:12b

Friday – Joshua 15:20-63 – God’s Realism.

The book of Joshua is no mere secular history book. The author is writing as God’s messenger, with a word to the worshipping community of Israel. The question for us is: how do lists like this proclaim God and inspire our worship? How can this nurture worshippers?

The solution may be to recognize the realism of God and the Bible. God’s Word is rarely about some bare, purely spiritual, abstract thought. The God of the Bible tends to be concrete. His gifts are often (though not always) touchable and visible. The inheritance God gives His people here in Joshua is not an idea but boundaries; not thoughts but towns; REAL real estate!

The LORD, the God of the Bible, has always been this way. His coming in the flesh is the great witness to that fact. John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Sometimes we can almost be too spiritual in our thinking about God and His gifts and His blessings. Maybe we need to rediscover the earthiness of God. Though His greatest blessings are ultimately spiritual, He often delights to bless in real, visible, physical ways also. Even when we come to enjoy eternal blessing in heaven, it will not be as a floating soul in some kind of spiritual neverland – we will walk around with a resurrection body in the new heavens and a new earth (scan through Revelations 21 and 22).

So perhaps we can say that Israel’s concrete and visible inheritance in Canaan is a foreshadowing of our inheritance as believers. Our full possession is in the new heavens and the new earth, not in some earthless, fleshless void. The New Testament always lifts our eyes and fixes our minds upon the fullness of our hope – the redemption of our bodies on resurrection day at the return of our Lord (see Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:20, 21).

Questions

1. What do lists like this teach us about God and His blessings to us?
2. What do they teach us about our inheritance?

Memory Verse

“It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said.” Joshua 14:12b

Psalm 10B

5. Rise up, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand!
Do not forget the ones who are oppressed.
Why has the wicked proudly scoffed at God?
He thinks that You will never take account.

6. But You indeed see evil and distress,
You see, and with Your hand You set things right.
The helpless can commit himself to You;
You are the helper of the fatherless.

7. O break the arms of brutal, evil men;
Search out their wickedness till You find none.
The LORD is king through all eternity;
The Gentile nations perished from His land.

8. You hear, O LORD, the longing of the meek;
Their heart You strengthen; You incline Your ear.
O vindicate the crushed and fatherless,
That men of earth may terrify no more.