Sept 20, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church

Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Knowing this, our task still is to be prepared for life's tough tests. To build a ministry, we study, work, and pray. To create beautiful art, we master a skill. To conquer a mountain, we secure our tools and build our strength. Then prepared, we're more than conquerors through Christ's strong love

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Heavenly Father, as I approach life's great tests, inspire me to prepare my heart so that You get the victory

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord
(Prov 21:31 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 21, 2021)

Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

UNIT 1: Nomadic Tribes to Settled People

NEXT WEEK

Rahab Welcomes Spies (Josh 2:8-13; 6:16-17)

Joshua Fights for God

Josh 11:6-9, 16-23

Lesson Background and Introduction

After crossing the Jordan River, Joshua led the Israelites through the land of Canaan. This campaign included the victories at Jericho (Joshua 6) and Ai (8:1-29). However, the Israelites were deceived by the Gibeonites, resulting in an inappropriate covenant with them (Joshua 9). In the cases of both Ai and the Gibeonites, Joshua's decisions revealed a key spiritual weakness by his deciding courses of action without consulting the Lord first (7:3-5; 8:1; 9:14-15). Despite this shortcoming, Joshua and the Israelites defeated many kings and their armies in the southern parts of Canaan (10:16-43). Having heard of the Israelites' advances, rulers in the northern Canaan formed an alliance (Joshua 11:1-5). Although the leaders of this coalition were each designated as a "king," their respective kingdoms were comparatively small and weak in power. By coming together, they thought they could present an effective, united front that could not be overcome, at least it seemed to be so. Many accounts in this book emphasize the unity of the Israelites and their obedience to God, while other accounts pinpoint instances of the people's disobedience and resulting consequences (example: Joshua 7). Together, these accounts convey the central message of the book of Joshua: the Israelites' obedience to God results in their success in taking the land, thus solidifying a unified identity. Additionally, modern readers might view the text of Joshua as a testimony to God and his people. This testimony reveals God's redemptive power despite human sin. At times, the narrative of Joshua delves into the depths of human depravity experienced by individuals before their rescue. The details, albeit negative, enhance the remarkable nature of God's actions, the greater the transformation from sin to righteousness, the more honor God receives.

Scripture's accounts of the conquest of Canaan raise questions and concerns for modern readers. The themes of extreme violence, scorched-earth warfare, and the merciless destruction of cities and people challenge our sensibilities. We wonder why God would not only allow but also command such things. However, as we read these accounts, it's essential to consider the context in which they were written. These warfare texts should not be read as glorifying senseless destruction and violence. Instead, they were written for the Israelites at a particular time to remind them of the necessity for spiritual purity in the land. The sin of the Canaanites had stained the land, and if they remained in the land, their pagan practices could lead others into sin (Numbers 33:55-56). Thus, their corrupting influence needed to be removed to provide God with a specific location where his holy purpose and presence might be established, a purpose and presence focused on bringing the Messiah into the world. Is that how you view the sometimes-sobering events of salvation history?

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Fight by the Waters (Josh 11:6-9)

God's assurance to Joshua (6)

Assurance to be with His people to the very end (Matt 28:19-20)

Assurance that the Holy Spirit will be with believers (John 14:16)

Assurance of never being separated from the love of Jesus (Rom 8:37-39)

Assurance of better things stored up in heaven (Ps 31:19)

Assurance of the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

Joshua's actions (7)

Action through responding to daily opportunities (Matt 25:41-43)

Action through putting God's word into practice (Luke 6:47-49)

Action through not just being hearing of the word, but doers (Ezek 33:30-32)

Action through being obedient (Matt 21:28-31)

God's deliverance (8)

Deliverance from deadly peril (2 Cor 1:10)

Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

Deliverance from temptations (1 Cor 10:13)

Deliverance from evil attacks (2 Tim 4:18)

Joshua's obedience (9)

Obedience to show faith (Gen 22:9-12)

Obedience to witness (Acts 8:26-31)

Obedience must be done with all of the heart (Deut 26:16)

Obedience is an essential part of being guided (Acts 8:26-27)

Fight in the Lands (Josh 11:16-23)

War is waged (16-19)

Wars where nations will be eliminated (Deut 7:22-24)

Wars where kings and lands will be conquered (Josh 10:42)

Wars where no weapon can prevail against (Isa 54:15-17)

Wars where God provides the victory (1 Cor 15:57)

God hardens hearts (20)

A hardened heart because of being obstinate (Ezek 3:7)

A hardened heart because of pride (Dan 5:20)

A hardened heart because of sin's deceitfulness (Heb 3:13)

A hardened heart because of rejecting the truth (Rom 2:8)

Cities destroyed (21-22)

Cities destroyed because of sin (Gen 19:24-28)

Cities destroyed because of disbelief (Matt 11:21-24)

Cities destroyed because of ungodliness (2 Peter 2:4-6)

Cities destroyed because of God's discipline (Deut 29:22-23)

God and Joshua divided the inheritances (23)

An inheritance of God's kingdom (Luke 12:32)

An inheritance because of being an heir (Rom 8:17)

An inheritance of the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

An inheritance that can never perish (1 Pet 1:3-4)