

The Bible - From Beginning to End Using the Twenty C's

8 - Conquest

Scriptures:	Joshua 1 – 1 Samuel 9
Focal Point:	Possessing the Land of Canaan
Principal Characters:	Joshua, Samuel, and the Other Judges
Primary Events:	Israel's Occupation and Division of the Promised Land Chaotic Rule Under the Judges

1. The Appointment of Joshua.
 - After the death of Moses, God set up Joshua to take command of His people and to lead them on to possess their land. **Joshua 1:1-9**
 - It was now well over four hundred years since God called Abraham and commanded him to go and possess the land of Canaan. Over four hundred years - and they are not yet in the land. God doesn't get in a hurry, does He?
 - Israel had been redeemed from bondage, but being redeemed out of bondage is not complete redemption.
 - Redemption is two-fold – "out of" and "into." **Exodus 3:8**
 - It is the same with the believer today. Our redemption is two-fold. We are redeemed out of sin, and into Christ; out of death, and into life; out of the kingdom of darkness and into Christ's glorious kingdom of light. **Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:14**
 - God parted the Red Sea to bring His people out of Egypt, but God parted the Jordan River to bring His people into Canaan. **Joshua 3:15-17**
 - Notice **Joshua 1:3**: "*I have given unto you.*" It was already theirs (by the blood covenant) for the possessing. What a beautiful picture of the believer's blessings in Christ. **Ephesians 1:3**
 - After seven years of conquest, Joshua then divided the land, each tribe receiving its appointed allotment. Joshua 13-21
 - But there was one major problem. When entering the land, God gave the people uncompromising instructions to destroy the Canaanites, and warned them of the consequences if they didn't. **Numbers 33:51-52, 55-56**
 - Israel failed to keep God's command. They didn't obey God and it led to their downfall. Notice Joshua's warning in 23:12-13.
 - Why would God order the wholesale destruction of these people?
 - They were notorious idolaters and the purpose of God's command to exterminate the Canaanites was to execute a long-delayed judgment upon them. They fully deserved the wrath of God.
 - Also, it was to check the spread of universal idolatry and corruption. **Illustration:** You cut out the cancer so it doesn't spread.
 - As they witnessed God's judgments, it should have been an unmistakable warning to the inhabitants of Canaan. Had they all, like the harlot Rachel,

confessed their faith in the God of Israel, all might have been spared.

Illustration: Remember Nineveh?

2. The Period of the Judges

- With no God-appointed leaders since Joshua, at critical periods after Israel was oppressed by the people of the land (whom they failed to drive out) God would intervene by raising up a person from the tribes. Through him He would execute His judgments.
 - Those men were called “judges.”
 - Counting Eli and Samuel, there were 15 judges in all.
- The history of the judges time period was a repetitious cycle of:
 - Backsliding
 - Chastisement
 - Repentance
 - Deliverance
- **Example: Judges 3:12-15, 29-30, 4:1**
- This turbulent time in Israel’s history lasted over 300 years, and the apostasy, confusion, and spiritual darkness of this period are expressed in **Judges 21:25**.

3. The Call of Samuel

- It was at this time of moral and spiritual declension that God raised up the boy Samuel to be prophet/priest of Israel, that He might again make His will known to His confused and wayward people. **1 Samuel 3:19-21, 4:1**
- Samuel was one of the godliest men in Scripture, and Israel looked to him for leadership. **1 Samuel 7:7-10, 15-17**
 - Unfortunately His sons did not follow in his steps. 8:1-3