

# JOSHUA 12-17

## WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



### WEEK IN REVIEW

We see the book of Joshua split into two major themes. In the first half of Joshua, the Israelites cross into the Promised Land and conquer the Promised Land (chapters 1-12). The second half consists of dividing the land and worshipping God in the land (chapters 13-24). This section includes long lists of kings that were conquered so that they could remember the great things that God had done for them! The Lord said to Joshua, "You have become old," but there was still work to be done. Joshua was reminded of the land that still remained to be conquered, so retirement was not an option! Despite our age (young, old, or in between) God can and will use us. We just have to be willing and available.

The Lord gave specific instructions to the Israelites to drive out all of the inhabitants in the land. In Deuteronomy 7:1-3, God told Israel to completely destroy them, make no treaties, have no marriages with them, and show no mercy. Reading these chapters, you might be asking the question: *Why did God instruct Israel to do this? Doesn't this conquest seem too harsh?* We have to take a step back and remember a few things. God is holy, which means He is perfect. He can not sin, which means He can not sin against us. God is both full of justice and mercy. These people were wicked people that participated in evil acts, and God gave them four-hundred years to repent (Genesis 15:16). Repentance means turning away from sin and turning towards God. However, God's heart is ultimately for the Canaanites to turn from their wicked ways and follow Him. We see this played out through the inclusion of outsiders like Rahab, and even the protection of the Gibeonites.

Even though God's commands were clear about driving out the inhabitants of the land, the Israelites did not obey fully. They compromised and allowed some of the people to live among them in the land. We see from this that delayed obedience (or partial obedience) to God is disobedience. Israel's hearts were divided. They wanted to obey God and also do things their own way. But God's way is better, and His instructions are always for our good. Despite the disobedience of Israel, a man named Caleb was found faithful. Back in Numbers 13, Moses sent spies into the Promised Land. There was one leader from every tribe of Israel and they were tasked to see what the land and people were like for forty days. There were ten that gave a bad report and two that gave a good one. The two were Joshua and Caleb. Like Joshua, Caleb at this time was also "old and advanced in years" (85), but did everything that God commanded him to do. He is our example in following the Lord wholeheartedly. Caleb received an inheritance and was rewarded for His faithfulness.

## FAMILY GUIDE

<b>BIG IDEA:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed or partial obedience to God is disobedience</li> </ul>
<b>KEY STORIES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of kings defeated</li> <li>• Unconquered Lands</li> <li>• Caleb's Faithfulness</li> <li>• Inheritances Given</li> </ul>
<b>KEY VERSES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joshua 13:1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, "You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over."</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Joshua 14:9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "So on that day Moses swore to me, "The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly."</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Joshua 15:63</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ But the descendants of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem. So the Jebusites still live in Jerusalem among the descendants of Judah today."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>WORDS TO KNOW:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special and set apart</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Repentance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Turning away from sin and towards God</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Disobedience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to obey fully</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Reflection Questions

<b>1.</b>	What are the two major themes in the first and second half of Joshua?
<b>2.</b>	What were the instructions that the Lord gave Israel as they conquered the Promised Land? (Deuteronomy 7:1-3) Did they fully obey this?
<b>3.</b>	Why did God instruct Israel to drive out the Canaanites from the land?
<b>4.</b>	Who is an example of faithfulness and wholehearted devotion to God in this section? What does it look like for you to fully obey God in your life?