

Joshua 12-13  
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Title: Your Promised Land

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Can you think of any past victories in your life? What used to be a struggle that no longer has power over you?
2. What areas of your spiritual life can you see as opportunities to grow in?
3. Do you think most people think about the limitations of their time or opportunities? Why?
4. What are the benefits of directive leadership? What are benefits of delegating? How might Jesus still do both with us?
5. Do you think Balaam or Phinehas had any idea of the implications of their actions? How might that idea be true for us?

### **Teaching Notes:**

Last week we studied the last national battle.

The **early battles** were **memorable**, the **last** battle was **bigger...**  
...**but the** early battles prepared them for the later ones.

**We also saw a process they followed...**

...Know God's Will, Trust God's Word, Obey God's Way.

The 2nd half of Joshua begins w/ 31 conquered kings in ch 12.

**But this morning I want to get a little personal...**

**I want us to think in terms of our own promised land.**

**Title: Your Promise Land**

**Big Idea: We are each responsible for what God has given us.**

**But first, like in ch 12, let's look back at the conquered kings.**

**1. Past victories encourage future fights.**

And we have seen...

...the Christian life is not a walk in the park but a fight on a field.

Being a Christian is not just adding a Sunday morning every once in a while, cussing less, listening to some Christian music, and having a Bible verse on your wall or coffee mug at home.

**We fight sin, and the flesh, and spiritual forces...**

We fight anything seeking authority over God's authority.

**But, we don't fight to take life, we fight to bring life.**

A spiritual battle isn't just to vanquish a foe, but build a family.

**...After we fight and win...we build and grow.**

**First, we clear out old kings, then we build new community.**

Ch 12 first recaps all of these defeated kings.

**So in light of being a little personal this morning...**

**...I want you to think of defeated kings in your life.**

Who has been defeated in your life?

What were those sins that sapped your life?

What were those strongholds that kept you stuck?

What were those struggles that had power over you?

**For me a couple of kings or things I struggled with were...**

**...a foul mouth and fear of public speaking.**

**In Christ I conquered them...**

**...AND in their place God built something for His kingdom.**

I use my mouth for blessing instead of cursing.

Today I speak in public all the time teaching God's word.

**So we look back and see what we have conquered...**

**...then we look forward and see what is left to conquer.**

**Joshua 13:1**

**Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.**

**I love how blunt the Lord is with Joshua.**

Joshua was old...maybe 90...and he is not done yet.

**But remember...There is always more land to possess...**

**2. There is always room to grow.**

**But roles and seasons do change...**

**...and Joshua's role is going to change.**

He is going from directive leadership to delegation leadership.

He has led from the front and now he will lead from the back.

**He is going to divide the land to each tribe...**

**...And each tribe will be responsible for taking their land.**

**There is some real similarities here with Jesus.**

There was a season Jesus lived and walked on the earth.

...But then He returned to heaven...

He said **we** should “go into all the world and preach the gospel”

**Directive to delegation is a game changer.**

There is strength and control in being a directive leader...

...But there is more risk and potential in delegation.

Jesus said something that confuses a lot of people.

**John 14:12**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

**It is not that we are greater than Jesus by ourselves.**

He left and sent His Spirit, so we can go into all the whole world.

>Each tribe will get a piece of the Promised land for them to take.

**The question today is...**

**What area of the Promised Land is left for you to take?**

What is left for you to conquer and build?

**Your Promise Land Questions**

1. Where has God placed you? Canaan.
2. What are your responsibilities, relationships, and rhythms? Conquer/ tribes, families, /farms, cities,
3. What gifts has God given you? Swords, weapons
4. Where is there room to grow? Pushing to the borders
5. What do you fear? Giants, different difficulties

1. Where has God placed you?
2. What are your responsibilities, relationships, and rhythms?
3. What gifts has God given you?
4. Where is there room to grow?
5. What do you fear?

**As an example for me...**

God has placed me here in a family in this area at this church.

God has called me to be a man, a friend, a husband, a father and now a grandfather.

I live in Aliso, I surf at Uppers, I work out, I eat at Spikes every Tuesday.  
I teach, lead, counsel, administrate, and encourage.  
God is growing me in getting outside of my comfort zone with harder conversations  
and entering in with compassion for others.  
One fear I have is knowing this is beyond me, I can't do it myself.

**...This is the land that I am building in.**

**So what is yours?**

**Where has God placed you?**

Is it this church? Your community? Place of work?

**What are your responsibilities, relationships, and rhythms?**

how are you taking responsibility in your church?

how are you taking responsibility in your family?

who is counting on you? Who is looking to you?

where are the places you go and things you do?

Does the kingdom come with you?

**What gifts has He given you?**

what do you need to use?

What do you need to practice?

what do you need to try?

**Where can you grow?**

where can you see your limitations? Need for improvement?

**What do you fear?**

what intimidates you? Freezes you? Stops you?

>>>**But also notice Joshua is OLD.**

**...Not only do we all have an area to conquer...**

**...we also have a set amount of time to do it.**

You have only one life to live and it will soon be past.

And only what's done for Christ will last. Chuck Smith/CT Studd

**Every great coach is aware of the clock.**

**3. Time and opportunities are limited.**

Jesus knew this in **John 9:4**

As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

**Psalms 90:12**

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**

**1** Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

The other verse I want to look at is...

13:13 Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

**There is land left, but we are not guaranteed to get it.**

**4. God's promises must be appropriated.**

They were given the land, but they didn't drive out the enemy.

**We all trust the same Jesus and have the same promises...  
...but we don't all get the same results.**

You can take the same class, sit in the same lecture, get the same notes, and take the same test...

...but not everyone gets the same grade.

Some people study. Some study a lot. Some don't study at all.  
Some want to learn, some want to get it done.

**Like we said last week...**

**...obedience isn't a state of mind, it is a state of movement.**

- Look at opportunities and take them.
- Think about your fears and face them.
- Examine your circumstances and use them.

**The last 2 verses I want to see in ch 13 are examples for us.**

What are we zealous for? What are we passionate about pursuing?

22 The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.

33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.

**Balaam is an interesting character.**

He was not a Jew, but he was a seer. He heard from God.

**Balak** a ruler who feared the Jews knew Balaam was connected to God and wanted Balaam to curse the Jews.

**"For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed."**

**...Balaam is zealous/passionate about his honor/reward.**

**So Balaam went to ask the Lord. But God said no.**

Later, Balaam came back and God said, ok, only say what I say.

An angel nearly kills him on the way and his donkey saves him.

**And the angel says, I have come here to oppose you because your path is reckless or perverse before me.**

So Balaam goes out and instead of curses pronounces blessings.

Balak gets upset.

They try different places, but Balaam only declares blessings.

**Balak is mad and Balaam doesn't get his reward.**

...But Balaam really wanted that reward.

He knew God wouldn't curse His people...

...but he also knew God would discipline them if they sinned.

So Balaam told Balak to get the Jews to worship their idols/gods which involved immoral sexual practices.

**So that is what they did, and the Jews fell for it.**

And God judged the Jews with a plague and thousands died.

**As the leaders were mourning their sin and God's judgment...**

A foolish Jewish man took a Midianite woman into his tent in front of everyone.

**But Phinehas was zealous for the Lord & speared them...**

**...This man was a Levite.**

The plague stopped. And God rewarded this Levite, for his zeal.

**The reward from the Lord was his tribe, the Levites...**

**...were given an everlasting priesthood and God was theirs.**

**So here we find sort of the end result of two different paths.**

**Balaam is referred to several times in the Bible.**

He had power and a personal connection with God, but instead of using it to bless God's people, he sought to bless himself.

**He wanted the reward, but lost it all under God's judgment.**

He would not enjoy the land flowing with milk and honey.

He died with the rest of the enemies of God.

**But there is also Phinehas, the Levite...**

He didn't seek honor or reward, he was just zealous for the Lord

He was willing to fight sin and stand up for his people.

**And he is the one the Lord rewarded.**

And...just as Balaam's sin cost the lives of many...  
...Phinehas' passion and zeal blessed many more.

**And as we close this morning, the first question was...  
...what land has the Lord given you?**

**...And now I would ask, what are you zealous for?  
...what are you passionately pursuing?  
...What is worth fighting for?**

**Jesus said, Luke 9:24**

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.