

Lesson 1 - Intro/Joshua

Main Point: The people of God trust their faithful savior to lead them to land and rest.

Intro Question 1: *Why should we study the OT?*

We will cover some reasons in the first part of the teaching, but 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is a great place to answer this question.

Intro Question 2: *What are some reasons we might find the OT difficult to read?*

We are culturally and chronologically very far from the events of the Old Testament. It is often difficult to put ourselves in the shoes of Old Testament characters. We also struggle more to understand the Old Testament because we are less familiar with the big-picture story that provides context to those stories.

Building Block 1: Why Study the OT? - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Building Block 2: Trusting as God's People - Joshua 1:5-6

Question 1: *How does the book of Joshua help us know how to trust God's faithfulness in our everyday lives?*

God promised things to the Israelites that they could never accomplish on their own. God was always faithful to deliver on even the most extravagant promises. We can trust that God is going to deliver on His promises to us.

Building Block 3: Trusting in God's Faithful Savior - Joshua 1:8

Question 2: *What are some ways we can compare Joshua to Jesus as the faithful savior of God's people? What are some ways that Joshua looks like Jesus and what are some ways that he falls short?*

We can compare their names, "God is salvation." We need a savior like the Israelites to lead us into the land of rest. We can compare Joshua's faithfulness to Jesus, but we also know that Joshua was imperfect and limited. In the end Joshua cannot save the people of Israel forever.

Building Block 4: Trusting God for Land - Genesis 17:8

Question 3: *Why is God's judgment difficult to talk about? Why is His judgement necessary?*

We all deserve judgement. No one likes to think about judgement or the fact that we deserve judgement. In the book of Joshua we see God telling the people to kill everyone in the land. That is difficult to understand. But since the fall we all deserve death. It is important to see that, just like the Israelites, none of us deserve to be spared, but because of a Savior we are.

Building Block 5: Trust God for Rest

Question 4: *How would you define the word "rest"? What sort of rest did Joshua bring to the people of Israel? What sort of rest does Jesus bring the people of God?*

The rest that God promises His people is similar to peace. It is relief from the trouble of violence, oppression, and struggle. Joshua brought temporary rest as far as the faithfulness of Israel could earn. Unfortunately, Israel's unfaithfulness limited the fullness of this rest. Jesus came to bring eternal rest for those who put their faith in Him.

Worldview Implication

A greater hope - Those with a materialistic worldview, who are not interested in God, have no hope for an eternal inheritance. They cannot look forward to a better home or to times of rest. Because of this, all of their hope is focused this world. The here and now is all they can concern themselves with. But as Christians, we do have hope that lasts beyond this world. We should always keep this in mind to help us remember to not treat the things of this world as our inheritance. This temporary life will pass away. We need to live it with eternity as the priority.