

UP WITH THE BIBLE

Studies through the Bible ✦ Learning the Word ✦ Applying the lessons of Truth

Scripture Setting

The Book of Joshua is named for the man who succeeded Moses. Joshua led the nation throughout the conquest of Canaan. Read Joshua 1:5-9.

Lesson Insight

Faced with incredible obstacles, Joshua led the nation of Israel to prominence in the Land of Promise. His life is a testimony of faith and victory over adversity.

Take Home

Choices we make determine our success or failure. A life committed to serving Jesus Christ is most rewarding.

Looking Ahead

Every generation needs a renewal experience with God. After Joshua there was another generation "who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel" Judges 2:10.



Joshua: Commitment to the Finish

The greatest obstacles of Canaan were not walled cities, armed soldiers, or lack of experience. Their greatest adversity was their ability to continue the conquest in faith. Confidence in God's promises was vital to their success.

Before the nation of Israel entered Canaan God had given them the imperative for conquest, the promise of His provision, and the penalty for their failure to accomplish all that He had required of them. An incomplete conquest would result in future adversity and failure. The choice was before them.

After seven years of conquest, the land of Canaan was divided among the tribes of Israel. They received an inheritance of the land. However, there were also instructions to complete the conquest, subdue the adversaries, and commit their ways to the





Outline of the Lesson

Joshua was inspired by Moses' confidence and God's promise. The Land of Promise gave him opportunity to see God's power working for the people of Israel.

- Walled cities fell before them. Kings and tribes were defeated as the promised land was reclaimed.
- Through faith and trust in God there was no adversary strong enough to withstand them. When they relied on their own strength or failed to seek the aid of God failure was certain.
- Due to their incomplete obedience in the conquest of Canaan more adversities came against the people of Israel. They adopted the pagan gods and practices of Canaan. Future defeat was determined because of their failure.

Joshua's final challenge was to repent and return to the God of Israel. His cry resonates with passion, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). The same challenge is ours today: "Commit to Finish!"

instructions they were given by Moses in the wilderness. Without the completion of the conquest they would face more opposition in the future. The greatest mistake was their failure to finish!

Incomplete commitment will produce continuing pitfalls and temptations. Half-hearted commitment will produce anemic Christians with faltering faith. The secret of continuing victory over sin and the enemy of our souls is the resolute commitment to faithful service. Join Joshua with his faith affirmation, "*But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:15)

God will always give us a choice. The power is in our hands. God is "pro-choice" (*but also pro-life*) in that He gives us the power of decision. Our choices determine our future successes or failures.

You will be challenged to commitment. Who will you serve?

My Notes:

What is important to remember in this Lesson?

