

"The Story" Study – Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua

Class 4: Chapters 6-7

Chapter 6: Wandering

1. DVD – Session 6

2. Chapter 6 Highlights:

a. The Israelites were **not** content:

- i. They complained about their hardships☹, so the LORD sent fire.
- ii. They complained about the manna☹, so the LORD promised meat until they loathed it; He also struck them with a severe plague. But how could the LORD provide so much? **See the top of page 73...**
- iii. Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses☹, so Miriam's skin became leprous.
- iv. Most of the spies did not trust the LORD to give them the Promised Land☹, so all who were 20 years and older – *except Joshua and Caleb* – died in the wilderness prior to the people entering into the Promised Land. Now, after almost 40 years of wandering in the wildness, are the people different? Y N
- v. The people complained about no water☹, so the LORD told Moses to speak to a rock in their presence and water will pour out. However, Moses, *in his anger*, struck the rock twice☹. We will learn in [1 Corinthians 10](#) that "the Rock was Christ," so Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land☹.

b. Tensions and battles as they approached the Promised Land: Victory rests with the LORD – *long ago and today!*

- i. With the Edomites, descendants of Esau – Jacob's twin brother.
- ii. With the Canaanites, over whom the LORD granted a great victory.
- iii. With the Amorites, over whom the LORD granted a great victory.
- iv. With the Bashanites, over whom the LORD granted a great victory.

c. A covert operation: Moabite women led Israelite men into sexual immorality, which led them to trust in the false god, Baal rather than in the LORD. So drastic action was taken by the LORD in the form of a plague which killed 24,000.

d. The LORD spoke through Moses to remind the people of His awesome actions in the past and layout the ways to proceed in the future. *The LORD's ways are the best!* **See the instructions for parents and their children in the middle of page 85...**

e. Take note of why the LORD was giving them such a wonderful land; **see page 86...**

f. Take note that *trust and obedience*, as well as *distrust and disobedience* go together.

g. Moses was a great prophet; the LORD also said to Moses: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him" (Deut. 18:18 ESV). Those words are a wonderful prophecy pointing ahead to Jesus!

Chapter 7: The Battle Begins

1. DVD – Session 7
2. Chapter 7 Highlights:
 - a. The LORD assured Joshua that He would be with him as He was with Moses. Joshua was about to undertake a huge task of leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, so he needed to be encouraged with the LORD’s promises. May His promises also encourage us; here are a few:
 - i. ^{NAS} **Joshua 1:8** “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”
 - ii. ^{NAS} **Psalms 46:1** “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 - iii. ^{NAS} **Psalms 55:22** “Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.”
 - b. Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho, confessed her faith, “the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” Her kindness to the spies resulted in her and her family being spared when Jericho was overtaken. Rahab was the great, great grandmother of David, who lived 1,000 years before Jesus.
 - c. Jericho was taken according to the LORD’s instructions; even though those instructions *made no sense* and *seemed like foolishness*, the Israelites followed them.
 - i. What command of the LORD seems foolish to you?
 - ii. Why do you follow?
 1. Because it makes sense.
 2. Because the LORD commanded it.
 - d. Defeating the city of Ai:
 - i. Initially, because of Achan’s sin, the Israelites were defeated.
 - ii. After the people repented, the LORD gave them the victory.
 - e. Repentance:
 - i. Do some people live without it, yet expect the LORD’s blessing? Y N
 - ii. Let us be in *continual repentance*, seek the will of the LORD, honor Him in our lives, and know He is for us!
 - f. Many were defeated – *because the LORD gave those people into the hands of the Israelites*. The enemies were very powerful, yet the LORD granted total victory. Even sin, death, and the devil are very powerful – we have no chance against them, yet *Jesus is God and He has now won the total victory!*
 - g. Before Joshua died, he summarized the awesome things the LORD had done; then he encouraged the people to “**fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness.**”
3. Assignment: Read chapters 8-9; our next class is next Thursday, February 4 at 7:30.
4. Future: After the Season of Lent and Pastor’s trip to Africa, we will resume our classes on Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 with chapters 10-11.