

Joshua- Bible Studies

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Joshua

1 Joshua Chapter 1 — Strength and courage, entering the promise through God

Joshua chapter 1 records that after Moses' death, God personally instructed Joshua to succeed Moses and lead the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan.

Moses led the Israelites through the wilderness all his life, but by this time, he had already passed away. For Joshua, this was a very significant transformation. He was to take over Moses' work, facing the Jordan River, the Canaanites, and the upcoming battle.

God said to Joshua:

"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for wherever you go, the Lord your God will be with you." (Joshua 1:9)

This sentence is a very important message for this chapter.

God did not promise Joshua that the road ahead would be without difficulty, but **promised that God would be with him**

God also commanded Joshua to meditate on His law day and night and to observe and obey it carefully. In other words, the key to Joshua's success in leading his people was not just his ability, experience, or leadership skills, but obeying God's word and acting according to His will.

Joshua then instructed the people to prepare food and cross the Jordan River within three days. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh also agreed to fight with the other tribes as promised to Moses until their brothers had taken possession of the land.

The first chapter gives us a reminder

1. People change, but God's work does not stop.

Moses passed away, but God continues to lead His people. Today, the church or our personal lives may face different stages and changes, but God still reigns

2. When facing an unknown future, do not rely solely on your own abilities.

Joshua faced great challenges, but God did not tell him to rely on himself; instead, He promised: "As I am with Moses, I will be with you in the same way."

3. Strength and courage are not the absence of fear, but that we still believe in God even in the midst of fear.

True courage is not "I am afraid of nothing," but "Although I don't know what lies ahead, I know God is with me."

4. God's word is the direction of our path.

Joshua chapter 1 repeatedly reminds us to carefully observe and obey God's law. When our hearts are confused, restless, and unsure of what to choose, we need to return to God's word

Prayer

Joshua Chapter 1 Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 1 that no matter what new stage life enters, You have never left us.

Lord, sometimes when we face the road ahead, we have many worries, fears, and uneases in our hearts. We don't know what tomorrow will bring, nor do we know if we have enough strength to face it.

Please remind us of what You said to Joshua:

"Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or dismayed, for the Lord your God will be with you."

Lord, please quiet our restless and chaotic hearts, and remove the worries and fears within us. When we do not know what to do, please guide us; When we are weak, please give us strength; When we are afraid, let us know that You are right beside us. Please help us not to rely solely on our own intelligence and ability, but to return daily to Your word, reflect on Your teachings, and be willing to follow them.

Lord, please also help us support one another in our families, churches, work, and life, just as the tribes of Israel walk together—not only caring for ourselves, but also willing to help our brothers and sisters.

Grant us a heart that trusts in You.

Even though the "Jordan River" ahead has not yet parted, even if difficulties remain, let us still believe: **You are ahead of us, You are with us**

May we too today rely on Your strength and courage, following You step by step.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

2 Joshua Chapter 2 — Rahab Receives the Spies

Joshua chapter 2 mainly tells that **before the Israelites entered Canaan, Joshua secretly sent two spies to Jericho to investigate, and God protected them through a foreign woman named Rahab**

1. Joshua Sent Two Spies (Verse 1)

Joshua secretly sent two spies from Shetih to spy on Canaan, especially Jericho. Two spies entered Jericho and arrived at the house of a prostitute named Rahab. Here we see that God's work sometimes begins in places that seem very inconspicuous or even unexpected to people.

2. Rahab Protects Two Spies (Verses 2–7)

When the king of Jericho learned that spies from Israel had entered the city, he sent men to arrest them at the house of Rahab.

But Rahab hid two spies in the hemp stalks on the roof and told the king's men that they had left.

As a result, the pursuers chased toward the Jordan River but found no spies.

This passage has something worth pondering: **it does not say that all of Rahab's actions should be imitated, but rather specifically records her faith in God and her risky actions to protect God's people**

3. Rahab Acknowledges the Lord as the True God (Verses 8–11)

This is a very important passage in this chapter.

Rahab said to the spy:

"I know the Lord has already given you this land."

She also said that the people of Jericho had long heard how the Lord dried up the Red Sea, and how Israel defeated the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan.

Therefore, the hearts of the Jericho people were digested.

Rahab finally declares:

"The Lord your God is the God of heaven, heaven, and earth."

This statement is very important.

Rahab was originally a Gentile in the land of Canaan, but she came to know the Lord through what God had done.

Others heard the same news and were afraid, but Rahab, upon hearing it, chose to believe in God.

4. Rahab Pleads to Her Spies to Save Her Family (Verses 12–14)

Rahab knew Jericho was about to face God's judgment, so she asked her spies:

"Swear to me by the Lord: Since I have shown you kindness, you will also be kind to my father's house."

She hopes her parents, siblings, and everyone who belongs to her can survive.

The scout promised her:

As long as she did not reveal this matter, when the Lord gave this land to the Israelites, they would save her family.

5. The Red Cord as a Sign (Verses 15–21)

Rahab's house was on the city wall, so she used ropes to lower the spies down the window and helped them escape from Jericho.

The scout instructed her:

When the Israelites capture Jericho, tie the scarlet cord to the window and gather your family inside the house.

This sign made the Israelites know:

This family must be preserved.

This also reminds us of the Passover sign in Exodus—when God judges, He also prepares salvation for those willing to believe in Him.

6. The Two Spies Return to Report (Verses 22–24)

Two spies returned to Joshua and told them everything.

They said:

"The Lord has indeed delivered the whole earth into our hands; And all the inhabitants of the land have been digested in their hearts before us."

Unlike the previous twelve spies who spied on Canaan, this time they brought back a message of faith:

God was already working ahead, and the people of Jericho were already afraid because of God's work.

Joshua chapter 2 gives us several reminders

1. Faith is not just about hearing about God's works, but choosing to believe in Him

When Rahab heard what the LORD was doing, she said:

"I know the Lord....."

She was not an Israelite, but she believed in God because she heard of His works.

So sometimes confidence is just about:

I have not yet seen how God accomplishes it, but I believe God is faithful.

2. God can use people we never expect

Rahab was neither an Israelite nor a religious leader, but God used her to protect the spies and became an important figure in God's plan of salvation.

This reminds us:

Do not limit God's work based on your personal background.

3. Rahab's faith brings action

She didn't just say she believed; in reality, she protected the spies, risked her life to help them, and gathered her own family.

True faith leads to action.

4. God's salvation does not come to just one person

When Rahab learned that God's judgment was about to come upon Jericho, the first thing she thought was:

"Where are my family?"

She hopes the whole family will be saved.

This also reminds us that after we know the Lord, we should pray for our own families, hoping they will also come to know Jesus Christ.

We pray:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 2 that You are a faithful God who rules over everything.

Lord, we see that although Rahab was not originally an Israelite, she heard what You were doing and believed that You are the God of heaven, earth, and earth. Please also grant us such faith.

Sometimes when we face our environment, we feel fearful, irritable, and confused, unable to see the road ahead or know what will happen in the end. But please remind us: You are already working in places we cannot see.

Lord, please quiet our hearts.

Put the worries, fears, irritation, and chaos within us into Your hands. Let us not only look at how big the environment is, but see that You are greater than the environment.

Teach us to be like Rahab—to believe in You, rely on You, and to take appropriate actions in faith.

Lord, we also pray for our own families. Please have mercy on those we love, so that one day they too may truly know You and know that You are the God of salvation.

When we do not know the way ahead, please give us faith;

When we are afraid, please grant us peace;

When we are restless, please quiet us;

When our hearts are in turmoil, please strengthen us again with Your Word.

Lord, let us remember:

You still reign where we cannot see;

You still lead on paths we do not know;

What You promised, You will surely fulfill.

Help us learn to trust You every day, not by our own wisdom, but by entrusting the way ahead to You.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

3 Joshua chapter 3: Crossing the Jordan River

Joshua chapter 3 marks a very important turning point: **the Israelites were finally about to leave the wilderness and enter the promised land of Canaan.** Through the miracle of the Jordan River, God let the people know He was still with them and taught them a lesson—**first believe God's word, then take a step of faith**

1. The Ark of the Covenant Leads Ahead — God Himself Leads

The Israelites arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, during the harvest season, when the river had risen over both banks.

The priest carried the ark of the covenant and walked ahead of the people. The ark represents God's presence.

Joshua instructed the people:

"You saw the ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, and saw the priests and Levites carrying it. You were about to leave the place where they were staying and follow the ark." (Joshua 3:3)

Here's what matters:

It is not the people who go before God, but God who goes before the people.

Many times, when facing an unknown future, we ask: "How should I walk? Which path is right?"

Joshua chapter 3 reminds us:

Don't just ask, 'Where am I going?' More importantly, 'Where is God leading me?'

2. First, self-purification—preparing oneself to welcome God's work

Joshua said to the people:

"You must purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." (Joshua 3:5)

God is about to perform miracles, but the people must first not find a way to cross the river themselves, but purify themselves and prepare their hearts.

This also reminds us:

God's work does not necessarily happen in the way we expect.

Sometimes we are eager to ask:

"God, when will you help me solve this?"

But God may first ask us:

"Is your heart ready? Are you willing to trust me?"

3. Priests Step into the Jordan River—Faith Requires Action

The Jordan River was still turbulent, but God did not stop it completely before sending the priests to cross.

God commanded the priests:

"When you reach the waters of the Jordan River, you must stand in its waters." (Joshua 3:8)

As the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the Jordan River, the waters came to a halt.

This is a deep lesson of faith.

Sometimes we wish:

"God, you solve all the problems first, and then I dare to leave.]

But sometimes God's guidance is:

"You take a step first, and I will let you see the next step.]

Faith is not the absence of fear, but still believing in God's promises before seeing the results.

4. God stopped the waters of the Jordan River

When the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the Jordan River, the water flowing downstream stopped, and the people could cross on dry land.

This event made Israelis know:

It was not human power that led them across the Jordan River, but God.

Joshua also said:

"Behold, the ark of the Lord of the world will pass before you and into the Jordan River." (Joshua 3:11)

Here, it is emphasized again:

The ark of God walks ahead.

The Israelites did not open the way by themselves, but God made the way before them.

Joshua chapter 3 gives us several reminders

1. When God leads the way, we have direction

We don't know what tomorrow will bring, but God knows.

So Christians have peace not because they know the future, but because they know who holds the future.

2. Learn to wait on God

The Jordan River is not something Israelis can live however they want.

God has His timing and His methods.

3. Faith does not remain only in the mind

If the priest only stood on the shore and said:

"I believe God will stop the river."

But without stepping into the water, they still couldn't cross the river.

True faith leads to actions of obedience.

4. The way God opens will be fully bearn

The Jordan River is vast, but God can clear the way.

In life, we may also encounter our own 'Jordan River'—family, work, finances, future, relationships, and many things we can't control in our hearts.

Joshua chapter 3 does not tell us to believe we have the ability to cross the river, but rather reminds us:

If God leads us to the riverbank, He also has the power to lead us across.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 3 that You are the God who walks ahead of us.

Lord, we admit that many times we face the road ahead with fear, worry, and agitation. The "Jordan River" before us seems vast, and we don't know how to walk or what tomorrow will bring.

Please quiet our troubled hearts.

Let us not only look at how difficult the environment is, nor keep judging ourselves by whether our abilities are sufficient, but lift our heads and look to You, believing that You still sit and reign.

Lord, please help us learn the faith of Joshua and the Israelites.

When You command us to move forward, please give us the courage to take a step of faith; Even when we have not yet seen the way, we still believe that You are ahead of us.

Please also purify our hearts, so that we may remove unbelief, complaints, pride, fear, and anything that hinders us from drawing near to You.

Lord, please help us remember:

Your Ark of the Covenant walks before us, and Your presence never leaves us.

When we encounter the Jordan River in life, please do not let us be overwhelmed by difficulties; Let us believe that You can carve a path where we thought there was no way.

Please lead our families, churches, and every brother and sister.

Especially when our hearts are restless, confused, and lack peace, ask the Holy Spirit to comfort us and help us regain peace and strength.

Let us not walk ahead of You every day, but learn to follow You.

Lord, when You go ahead, we are at ease.

Whether the road ahead is smooth or blocked by the Jordan River, we are willing to believe in You and follow Him.

I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

4 **Joshua chapter 4: Remember the great works God has done**

Joshua chapter 4 records that after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, God commanded them to erect a stone as a marker, so that future generations would forever remember how God led them into the Promised Land.

1. Each of the Twelve Tribes Takes a Stone (Verses 1–8)

When all the people had crossed the Jordan River, God commanded Joshua to choose one person from each of the twelve tribes, and each person would take a stone from the Jordan River to bring to their lodging.

These twelve stones were not ordinary stones, but a mark.

God wants the Israelites to remember:

"What do these stones mean?"

When future children ask, they can speak of God's mighty power—that God cut off the waters of the Jordan River and made the Israelites cross the river on dry ground.

This reminds us that **faith cannot remain solely in our own experiences, but must also pass on God's works to the next generation**

2. The priest stands in the Jordan River until all the people have passed (verses 9–14).

Joshua also set twelve stones in the Jordan where the priests stood.

The priest carried the ark and stood in the river until all the people had passed by.

Here we see a very important scene:

God's presence walks ahead of the people and guards them as they pass by.

The Ark of the Covenant represents God's presence.

The people did not conquer the Jordan River by their own strength, but because God was among them and opened a way for them.

3. The Restoration of the Jordan River's Water to Its Original State (Verses 15–18)

When the priest came up from the Jordan River and stepped on dry ground, the water of the Jordan River returned to its original level.

This matter is very important.

God did not simply tell the people to "believe that He will make the way," but to let them witness with their own eyes that He truly made the way.

Sometimes when we face life's difficulties, it's like standing before the Jordan River:

There was no path ahead, and no retreat behind.

But God can make a way where we cannot see the way.

4. The Israelites Camped in Gilgal (Verses 19–24)

The Israelites came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and camped at Gilgal.

Joshua set the stones there and then told the people:

In the future, their children will ask:

"What do these stones mean?"

You need to tell them:

"The Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land."

And why did God want them to remember this?

Verse 24 gives us the answer:

"So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty and mighty, and that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

Therefore, remembering **God's grace is not just about reminiscing about the past, but about fearing God more today and having more faith tomorrow**

Joshua chapter 4 gives us a reminder

1. Do not forget how God once led us

People easily remember difficulties but forget God's grace.

So we also need our own 'twelve stones'—to record what God has helped us with.

When we encounter difficulties again in the future, we can look back:

"How God led me before, He hasn't changed today."

2. To share God's works with the next generation

Children may not personally experience everything we go through, but we can tell them God's faithfulness.

Not only teach them that 'God exists,' but also tell them:

"I once experienced God in difficult times."

This is the inheritance of faith.

3. Remember that the path God made is made by God

After crossing the Jordan River, Israelis easily focus on "We have finally passed through."

But the twelve stones remind them:

It's not that we walk through it ourselves; it is God who has opened the way for us.

So every time we "cross the river" in life, it is worth being grateful.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 4,
You are a faithful God.
When the Israelites faced the Jordan River,
There seemed to be no road ahead,
But You Yourself opened the way for them,
so that they could walk across dry land.
Lord, our lives also have many "Jordan Rivers."
Sometimes when we face family, work, the future, difficulties, and unknown
matters,
Feeling restless, worried, and confused,
They didn't even know what the next step should be.
Please help us to quiet down,
Don't focus only on the difficulties in front of you,
Instead, we should remember Your past graces.
Please remind us:
Just as You led us before, You are still the same faithful God today.
Lord, please place peace in our hearts,
Remove the restlessness, worry, and confusion within us.
When we can't see the road,
Grant us faith to believe in You;
When we don't know what to do next,
Please lead us to follow You step by step.
And help us to be beautiful witnesses,
Share Your grace and faithfulness with our children, families, and the next
generation,
Let them know:
**The hand of the Lord is mighty and mighty,
He is always worthy of our trust.**
Lord, let us not forget all that You have done for us.
May You keep us counting grace,
Be thankful in good times,
Trust in adversity,
Endure while waiting.
May we remember You throughout our lives,
Revering and fearing you,
Follow You.
I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Amen.

5 **Joshua Chapter 5—Renewing the Covenant with God, Preparing to Enter the Promised Land**

Joshua chapter 5 is a very important turning point. The Israelites had already crossed the Jordan River, but to truly enter the land God had promised, they still needed to trust and obey God. This chapter mainly consists of four things.

1. The Israelites Undergo Circumcision Again (Verses 1–9)

After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, God instructed Joshua to circumcise the new generation of Israelites.

For most of the people of that generation who left Egypt had already died in the wilderness; The new generation was born in the wilderness and had not been circumcised.

Circumcision is a sign of God's covenant with Abraham, representing that the Israelites belonged to God and had a covenant relationship with Him.

God even allowed them to stop and undergo circumcision before entering Canaan. From a human perspective, at this time, the enemy was nearby, and it seemed like an unsafe time.

But God wants them to deal with something more important first:

First, confirm your relationship with God, and only then face the battle ahead.

God said to Joshua:

"Today I have rolled away the shame of Egypt from you."

So that place is called 'Jijia,' meaning 'to get lost.'

2. The Israelites Observe the Passover (verses 10–12)

The Israelites observe Passover in Gilgal.

This is very meaningful because Passover reminds them:

Just as God once saved them from Egypt, He will surely lead them into the Promised Land now.

They ate the produce of the land of Canaan.

And starting the next day, the manna stopped.

For forty years, God has supplied manna every day; Now, entering the Promised Land, the way of supply has changed.

This reminds us:

God's way of providing can change, but God Himself never changes.

Sometimes God provides in ways we are familiar with, and sometimes He leads us into new stages.

3. Joshua Meets the 'Commander of the Army of the Lord' (verses 13–15)

This is the most special part of this chapter.

As Joshua approached Jericho, he saw a man holding a drawn sword.

Joshua asked:

"Are you helping us? Are you helping our enemies?"

The other party replied:

"No, I have come to be the commander of the Lord's army."

Joshua bowed down and bowed down.

Here's a very important lesson:

Joshua wasn't here to ask:

"God, which side are you on?"

What truly matters is:

"Am I on God's side myself?"

Many times, we pray, hoping God will help us according to our plan.

But sometimes God does not come to support "my plan," but rather to let go of our own will and accept His guidance.

4. Joshua took off his shoes

The commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua:

"Take off your shoes, for the place where you stand is holy."

This reminds us that when Moses met God in the flames of thorns, he also heard the same command.

This means:

God wanted Joshua to first fear Him, not rely on his own abilities.

Ahead was the city of Jericho, and the war was about to begin.

But in God's eyes, the most important thing is not how many troops the Israelites had, but rather:

Do they fear God, obey God, and believe in Him?

Joshua chapter 5 gives us a reminder

1. Before facing difficulties, return to God

Before the Israelites entered Canaan, God first ordered them to perform circumcision again and observe the Passover.

This tells us:

The greatest problem in life is not necessarily external enemies, but perhaps our internal relationship with God.

2. God's way of providing will change, but He remains faithful

Manna stopped.

This is not that God has stopped providing but that God has begun to provide in another way.

So when we realize things are no longer the same as before, it doesn't necessarily mean God has left us.

Sometimes, it is God who is leading us into another stage.

3. Don't just ask, 'Will God help me?'

More importantly, the question is:

"Have I obeyed God?"

God is not an accessory to our plan.

We are not asking God to follow us, but learning to follow Him.

4. God wants us to worship before the battle

Before the battle in Jericho began, Joshua had already bowed down in worship.

This is a beautiful spiritual order:

Worship first, then fight; Trust first, then act; Listen to God's word first, then make your own decision.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You, through Joshua chapter 5, to remind us that when we face the road ahead and various difficulties in life, the most important thing is not to first look at how big the environment is or how much ability we have, but to first return to You.

Lord, please help us to constantly examine our hearts, so that we are not only busy dealing with external problems and forget our relationship with You.

Turn our hearts back to You, remove pride, fear, agitation, and confusion from us, so that we may be quiet before You.

Lord, You once supplied manna for the Israelites for forty years, and now in the Promised Land, You supply them in a new way. Please remind us that even as circumstances, lives, and methods of providing for us change, You remain the faithful and unchanging God.

When we encounter difficulties, please do not let us just ask: "Lord, will You help me?"

Instead, ask that You teach us to ask:

"Lord, am I on Your side? Am I willing to submit to You?"

Lord, please grant us a humble heart, to bow before You like Joshua.

Before we enter every battle in life, let us worship You first; Before we make every important decision, let us seek You; When we feel afraid and uneasy, let us remember that You are still in control.

Please quiet our restless and chaotic hearts, so that we are not swayed by our environment or disturbed by others' voices, but instead quietly listen to Your voice.

Lord, please lead us so that we do not walk our own path, but follow Your path.

We entrust the way ahead, family, work, service, and everything we worry about into Your hands.

Grant us faith, obedience, and courage, so that we may rely on You and walk step by step on the path You have prepared for us.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

6 **Joshua chapter 6: The city of Jericho fell**

Joshua chapter 6 records that after the Israelites entered Canaan, they faced their first major battle—**the capture of Jericho**

Jericho closed its gates and was heavily defended. From a human perspective, the Israelites did not have the conditions to easily besiege the city; But God Himself instructed Joshua to do so.

1. God first promised victory

God said to Joshua:

"Look, I have entrusted Jericho, its king, and all mighty warriors into your hands."

——Joshua 6:2

It is important that **God declared that He had delivered Jericho into their hands even before the Israelites began to fight**

This was not by the military might of the Israelites, but by God's promise.

2. God commanded a seemingly strange method

God commanded the Israelites:

and on weekends, the city was circumambulated once daily;

Seven priests walked before the Ark of the Covenant, each carrying seven ram horns;

On the seventh day, they must circumambulate the city seven times;

The priest blows the horn;

When the people heard the sound of the horn, they shouted loudly.

This method seems very unusual to people.

They did not attack the city with swords or build ladders, but by following God's command to circumambulate the city, wait, blow horns, and shout.

This reveals an important spiritual principle:

Sometimes faith is not about doing what we think is the most effective method, but about faithfully following God's word.

3. The Israelites obeyed God's commands

The Israelites did not rush to attack the city by their own methods.

Circling once on the first day, then again on the second day..... All the way to the seventh day.

On the seventh day, they circled the city seven times.

When the priests blew the trumpet, Joshua commanded the people to shout, and the city walls collapsed.

"So the people shouted, and the priests blew the trumpets. When the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they shouted with a great shout, and the wall collapsed; the people then went up into the city, each man straight ahead, and captured the city."

—Joshua 6:20

What truly causes the city walls to fall is not human shouts, but the power of God.

4. The Rahab family is saved

Previously, Rahab had protected Israel's spies, so Joshua ordered her and her family to be rescued.

Results:

The city of Jericho was destroyed, but Rahab and her family were saved.

This reminds us that God not only judges sin, but also remembers people's faith and what He has done for His people.

Rahab was originally a Gentile, but because she trusted the God of Israel, she became a person of grace.

Joshua chapter 6 gives us a reminder

1. Don't just focus on the 'city wall' in front of you

In our lives, there will also be difficulties like those in Jericho:

An unsolvable problem

A relationship that is hard to face

Long-term stress

No exit environment in sight

Praying for a long time still does not change anything

But God wants us to remember:

No matter how tall the city walls are, none are taller than the gods.

2. Sometimes God asks us to wait

The Israelites surrounded the city for six days, and the walls did not fall.

If they only look at the environment, they might think, "What's the point of doing this?"

But God's work has His time.

Not seeing results immediately does not mean God is not working.

3. Obedience is more important than understanding

The Israelites may not fully understand why they did this, but they did according to God's word.

Faith is not "I fully understand, so I believe."

Many times, it is:

"I don't fully understand it yet, but because I believe in God, I still obey."

4. God's victory is not the work of man

The fall of Jericho was not because the Israelites were stronger than the Jericho, but because God fulfilled His promise.

So when we experience breakthroughs, we must also remember to give glory to God.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for letting us see from Joshua chapter 6 that **what seems impossible to men is nothing difficult in Your hands**

Lord, many times when we see our own 'city of Jericho,' we feel afraid, irritable, and helpless. When we see the problems are too great and the path too difficult, it's easy to forget that You are the God who rules over everything.

Forgive us for often focusing only on our circumstances and forgetting Your promises.

Lord, please grant us faith like Joshua's.

When You call us to wait, let us learn to wait;

When You call us to obey, let us willingly obey;

When we still can't see the outcome, please guard our hearts—don't lose heart, and don't rush to solve problems using human methods.

Please help us to place the burdens in our hearts upon You.

Lord, please quiet our restless and chaotic hearts.

Bring all the fear, worry, impatience, and unease within us before You.

Let us remember:

**Though the city walls are high, You are taller than the walls;
Though the difficulties are great, You are greater than the difficulties;
Although the road is invisible, You are still ahead of us.**

Grant us a patient heart, so that even after many detours, we will not give up on You;
Even if change is not visible for now, we still believe that You are at work.

Also, please keep us from taking victory to ourselves, but to give glory to You in all things.

I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

7 **Joshua chapter 7: Achan's sin—the real reason for failure**

1. Content description

Joshua chapter 7 takes place after the Israelites capture Jericho.

God had commanded the Israelites not to take anything from Jericho that was to be destroyed for themselves, but to the Lord gold and silver and other things. But among the tribe of Judah, there was a man named Achan who secretly took the things that were to be destroyed and hid them under his tent.

On the surface, no one knows, but God does.

Later, Joshua sent men to attack Ai. Ai was smaller than Jericho, so the Israelites thought victory would be easy, so they sent out only a small force. In the end, the Israelites were defeated by the people of Ai, and about thirty-six were killed.

Joshua was deeply saddened, bowing before God in prayer, even asking Him why He had let the Israelites fail.

God answered Joshua:

"The Israelites have sinned and broken the covenant I commanded them."

It turned out that the Israelites' failure was not because Ai was too strong, but because some Israelites had sinned and damaged their relationship with God.

God instructed Joshua to find the sinner. Finally, after casting lots, it was identified as Achan from the tribe of Judah.

Achan admitted that he saw a beautiful Shina garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a piece of gold, and, out of greed, took them and hid them in his tent.

So Achan and what he had stored were dealt with, and the sins were removed. That place was called the Valley of Achor, meaning 'affliction' or 'disaster.'

By chapter 8, the Israelites had regained their trust in God and captured Ai.

2. The most important message in this chapter

1. Sin that people cannot see, God can see

Argan believed:

"No one saw it."

But God saw it.

The most terrifying aspect of sin is that we easily think that as long as we are not discovered, there is no problem.

But the Bible reminds us:

People can hide from others, but not from God.

Therefore, true holiness is not just about having a good image before others, but having an honest heart before God.

2. Even a small sin can bring great consequences

Achan only took some things, which seemed like "a matter for one person."

But the result affected the entire Israeli community.

This reminds us:

Sin never only affects oneself, but can also affect family, church, and those around us.

Especially in spiritual life, we must not underestimate sins that seem minor.

3. The problem with the Israelites was not just a strategic mistake, but that they did not first consult God

Before attacking Ai, the Israelites might have thought:

"Ai City is very small; we should be able to defeat it easily."

They did not fully rely on God as they did when they attacked Jericho.

This gives us an important reminder:

Just because God gave us victory yesterday doesn't mean we can rely on ourselves today.

Every day, we need to seek God.

4. True revival begins with confession

Joshua did not simply revise military strategy.

The first thing God needs to deal with is:

Crime.

Only after sin was exposed, confessed, and removed did the Israelites re-experience God's guidance.

So when we encounter difficulties in life, we can ask:

"Lord, should I first return to You and see my own life?"

Not every difficulty is due to sin, but every difficulty can become an opportunity for us to seek God again.

3. A reminder for today

Joshua chapter 7 does not simply talk about "Achan's sin."

It reminds us more deeply:

Do not take God's blessings for granted, nor let hidden sins remain in your life.

Sometimes we may appear normal in gathering, singing hymns, and praying, but inside we may harbor greed, jealousy, bitterness, pride, lust, lies, unforgiveness, or things we are unwilling to give to God.

God does not want to shame us, but to turn us back.

God's light shines on us not to destroy us, but to cleanse us and bring us back to walk with Him.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You because You are a holy, just, and faithful God.

Today, as we read Joshua chapter 7, we see Achan's sin, and also the consequences of hidden sin.

Lord, we admit that sometimes we too are like Achan, only seeing immediate gains and forgetting Your commands; Caring only whether people see or not, forgetting that You have always seen our hearts.

Ask the Holy Spirit to shine upon us.

If there is anything in our lives that does not please You, please let us see it and give us the courage to admit it, no longer hiding or making excuses for ourselves.

Lord, please cleanse our hearts and remove from our greed, pride, jealousy, bitterness, and all things that do not please You.

When we face difficulties and failures, please help us not just ask:

"Why did things turn out this way?"

Instead, he quieted down and asked:

"Lord, what do You want me to learn from this? Do I need to return to You?"

Help us not to rely on our own wisdom, nor to forget to seek You because of past successes.

Lord, please protect every one of us, as well as our families and churches.

Grant us a heart that fears You and is honest before You.

When we are weak, please support us; When we sin, please lead us to repentance; When our hearts are troubled, confused, and uneasy, please comfort us personally and keep us quiet before You.

"God, examine me and know my thoughts; test me, know my thoughts, and see if there is any evil in me, and guide me in the way of eternal life."

——Psalm 139:23-24

Lord, let us be willing every day to let You discern and to let You change.

We entrust ourselves, our families, and our church into Your hands.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Joshua chapter 8 is a very important passage, with the core point: **even after defeat, God can restore His people; True victory is not by human wisdom, but by**

8 **obeying God's command**

Joshua chapter 8 content

1. God commands Joshua to attack Ai again (verses 1–2)

Previously, the Israelites had been defeated at Ai because of Achan's sin. But after Achan's sin was dealt with, God said again to Joshua:

"Do not be afraid, nor be alarmed."

God commanded Joshua to lead the army to attack Ai again, and this time He handed Ai over to them.

One touching point here is that **the Israelites once failed, but failure is not the end of the story**

God did not abandon them just because they had once failed.

However, this time God gave Joshua a new strategy—setting up an ambush and using a stratagem to capture Ai.

This reminds us:

Relying on God does not mean we do nothing; We still need to listen to God, our thoughts, plans, and actions.

2. The Israelites Use a Scheme to Capture Ai (Verses 3–29)

Joshua arranged for part of his army to lie in ambush behind Ai, while he led another force in front of the city.

They deliberately feigned retreat, luring the people of Ai City out of the city to chase after them.

Once the entire army of Ai had left the city, the ambush force entered and set the city ablaze.

The people of Ai City turned around and realized their own city had already fallen.

In the end, the Israelites completely defeated the city of Ai.

This victory was completely different from the first.

For the first time, they did so on their own terms, and the camp was not punished for guilt.

The second time, they acted according to God's command.

So this chapter shows us:

Failure is not necessarily because we lack ability; sometimes it is because we do not act according to God's will.

3. Joshua builds an altar and re-worships God (verses 30–35)

After the victory, Joshua did not focus solely on celebrating.

He did something very important:

He built an altar for the LORD.

They made sacrifices according to the command of the Mosaic Law and wrote the Mosaic Law on stone.

Afterwards, Joshua read the law before the Israelites.

On both sides of Mount Kelichum and Mount Ebal, the people stood together, listening to God's word.

This ending is very important.

Because Joshua chapter 8 does not simply talk about "how to win battles," but rather:

After victory, we must still return to God's word.

The Israelites could not forget God just because they had won a battle.

Joshua chapter 8 gives us a reminder

(1) Failure is not the end of God's work

After the first failure in Ai, God said again to Joshua:

"Do not be afraid, nor be alarmed."

Sometimes we also get discouraged by our own failures:

"Why did I make the same mistake again?"

"Have I let God down?"

"Will the gods still use me?"

Joshua chapter 8 reminds us:

When sin is dealt with and life is restored, failure can become the starting point for relearning to obey God.

(2) God gives us a second chance

God did not let Joshua remain forever in the defeat at Ai.

He said:

"Arise, take all the troops with you, and go up to Ai."

God called Joshua to "get up."

Sometimes, what we need most is not to constantly look back and blame ourselves, but to be:

Confession → Turn → Listen to God's Word → Rise Again.

(3) After victory, remember God even more

After Joshua's victory, one of the first important things was to build an altar, offer sacrifices, and read the law.

This reminds us:

God gives us blessings not to distance us further from Him, but to draw us closer to Him.

When work is successful, family is peaceful, and things go smoothly, we also need to pause and thank God.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You,

Because You are a God full of mercy, grace, and faithfulness.

Lord, we admit that we have weaknesses and failures.

Sometimes, even though we clearly know Your intentions, yet still acted according to his own methods;

Sometimes, because of a single failure,

They become discouraged, depressed, and even feel like they never have another chance.

Remind us:

Failure is not the end,

As long as we are willing to turn back to You,

You are still able to lead us to stand up again.

Lord, please forgive us for all the places in which we have sinned against You in the past.

Help us not to avoid our own mistakes,

And don't keep living in failure and self-blame.

Grant us faith like Joshua's,

When You say, 'Do not be afraid,'

We will learn to believe in You;

When You say 'arise,'

We will rise again by Your support.
 Lord, please grant us wisdom,
 Let us know how to plan and act,
 But more importantly,
 Let all that we do seek Your will.
 When we face the 'Ai City' in our lives—
 Facing difficulties, failures, family issues, and work pressure,
 Even those invisible battles within my heart,
 Please do not let us rely on our own strength.
 Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen us,
 so that when we are agitated, confused, or anxious,
 can be quiet before You.
 Lord,
 Please bring our hearts back to Your Word.
 Just as Joshua built an altar, offered sacrifices, and read the law after his victory,
 Ask that we be made in good times or bad,
 Do not forget You.
 When You bless us, let us be thankful;
 When we fail, let's turn back;
 When we are afraid, let us trust;
 When we prevail, let us give You glory.
 Lord, please personally comfort our hearts today.
**Let us let go of the restlessness and chaos within,
 Give all the burdens to You.**
 May Your peace fill us,
 Give us strength again,
 Standing up again,
 Step by step, follow You.
 I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Amen.

9 **Joshua chapter 9: The tricks of the Gibeons and the teachings of the Israelites**

Joshua chapter 9 says that after the Israelites entered Canaan, Jericho and Ai were successively captured, and the kings throughout Canaan began to unite to resist the Israelites.

But there was one nation—the **Gibeons**—who did not choose to fight head-on, but instead used schemes to deceive the Israelites

1. The Gibeons deceived the Israelites with cunning

The Gibeons knew that God had already handed over the land of Canaan to the Israelites, so they were very afraid. They put on worn-out clothes and worn-out shoes, carrying moldy bread, and pretended to have come from a very distant place.

They said to Joshua:

"We come from a distant land. Now please make a covenant with us."

They even said, "We have heard of the fame of the Lord your God, and of all the things He has done in Egypt."

When the leaders of Israel saw the food and clothing they had brought, they thought they had truly come from a distant place.

2. The most important question: The Israelites did not seek Jehovah

Joshua 9:14 contains a very important sentence:

"The Israelites received some food from them but did not ask the Lord."

This is the most thought-provoking aspect of the entire chapter.

The problem was not necessarily that Joshua lacked the ability to discern, but that they did not bring this matter before God.

Seeing the evidence before them, they made their judgment.

Sometimes we're the same:

When they see a good environment, they assume it is God's guidance.

When you hear others make sense, you assume it must be the truth.

Feeling experienced, I assume I can make decisions.

When things get too urgent, they forget to pray.

The greatest danger is not necessarily that we do not know the answer, but that we think we already know the answer and therefore stop asking God.

3. The Israelites made a covenant with the Gibeon

As a result, Joshua and the leaders of Israel made a covenant with the Gibeons without consulting the Lord.

Three days later, they realized:

It turned out that the Gibeon people did not come from afar, but lived near them.

The Israelites deeply regretted it, but since they had already sworn in the name of the Lord, they could not easily break the covenant.

Here is also a reminder:

Sometimes wrong decisions can have real consequences.

Even if we make mistakes, God can still teach us through errors, but we should not think, "God will forgive me anyway, so I don't need to be careful about making decisions."

4. Joshua did not kill the Gibeons but made them his servants

The Israelites could not kill them, because they had already sworn an oath to them.

So Joshua commanded the people of Gibeon to write:

"Those who chop wood and water for the assembly and the altar of the Lord."

Although the Gibeon people's plan succeeded, they also became servants of the Israelites.

Here we see an important principle:

God's people must take their words seriously.

Especially when making promises in God's name, they must not be taken lightly.

Joshua chapter 9 gives us several reminders

1. Do not rely solely on your own judgment; seek God.

We can analyze, think, and investigate, but in the end, we must ask:

"Lord, what is Your will?"

2. Appearances can be deceiving.

The Gibeon people's tattered clothes, worn-out shoes, and moldy bread all look very real.

Therefore, we cannot judge things solely by what we see.

3. Prayer is not necessary because something is too big.

Joshua chapter 9 reminds us that even things that seem ordinary require us to ask God.

4. After making mistakes, do not turn away from God.

The Israelites did make a wrong decision, but God did not abandon them because of it.

This is also a great comfort for us:

We may make wrong decisions, but God can still work in our errors.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You because You are the true guide of our lives.

Lord, we admit that many times we are like Joshua and the leaders of Israel, making decisions too quickly based on our own eyes, experience, and judgment, without quietly seeking You.

Please forgive us.

When we face choices, please remind us:

Don't just ask, "What do you think?"

Instead, they first ask, 'What is God's will?'

Lord, please grant us spiritual discernment—not deceived by appearances, not swayed by what others say, and not forget to seek You just because things seem reasonable.

When our hearts are restless, confused, and directionless, please calm us down.

Let us place the worries, plans, and decisions in our hearts into Your hands.

If we have made wrong decisions, please do not let us live forever in regret and self-blame. Please teach us to learn from our mistakes, return to You, and continue to rely on You.

Lord, please also help us to be careful with our words, especially the promises we make to others, so that we may become honest and trustworthy people.

May we learn one thing every day:

Always seek Yourself first, look to Yourself in all things, let You be the Lord of our lives in all things.

Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort us, calm our restless and chaotic hearts, and restore peace within us.

I pray in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

10 **Joshua chapter 10: God fights for His people**

Joshua chapter 10 is a very important passage that shows us that **when God's people face a powerful enemy, what truly determines victory is not human power, but God's presence and His works**

1. The five kings join forces to attack Gibeon

When the king of Jerusalem heard that Gibeon had made a covenant with Israel, he was very afraid. Gibeon was a great city, larger than Ai, and the people in it were very brave.

So the five kings of the Amorites joined forces to attack Gibeon.

The Gibeons hurriedly sent men to Gilgal to find Joshua, pleading with him:

"Come up quickly to save us and help us, for the kings of the Amorites living in the hill country have gathered against us."

Joshua did not abandon the Gibeon. Although the Israelites had previously made a covenant with the Gibeons because they had not consulted the Lord, since they had already sworn an oath, they would keep the covenant.

This reminds us:

Faithfulness is not only true when it benefits us.

Joshua chose to take responsibility and lead the Israelite army to help Gibeon.

2. God Himself fought for the Israelites

God said to Joshua:

"Do not fear them; for I have delivered them into your hands."

This statement is very important.

Joshua faced an army of five kings, whose numbers and strength far exceeded those of Israel, but God did not tell Joshua to first count the number of enemies, but instead told him:

"I have handed them over to you."

The Israelites launched a sudden attack on the enemy forces, and the LORD threw the enemy into confusion before them.

Even more remarkable is that the scripture says:

The Lord sent down a great hailstorm from heaven.

As a result, more people were killed by hail than by the Israelites with the sword.

This is the work of God.

Sometimes we think:

"This matter is something I have to resolve myself."

But God reminds us:

You must faithfully do what you should, but true victory is in God's hand.

3. Joshua prayed for God to stop the sun

Before the war ended, Joshua saw the enemy about to flee and prayed to God.

Joshua 10:12 says:

"O sun, stop in Gibeon; O moon, stop in the Valley of Ayaron."

As a result, the sun stopped and the moon stopped until the Israelites avenged their enemies.

This is a truly striking scene in the Bible.

The key point is not just the miracle of "the sun stopping," but more importantly:

Joshua believed that God could intervene in impossible things.

Joshua did not stop praying because of difficult circumstances.

He believes:

If God commands me to act, He can also fulfill His will for me.

Four and five kings were captured

The five Amorite kings fled into the cave to hide.

When Joshua learned of this, he sealed the entrance of the cave and waited until the battle was over before bringing the five kings out.

Joshua had the commanders of Israel put their feet on the necks of these kings and said:

"Do not be afraid or discouraged; be strong and courageous. For the Lord will deal with all your enemies that you are about to conquer."

This statement is very worth pondering.

God does not tell us to be brave on our own, but because He is with us, we can be strong.

5. Several reminders from Joshua chapter 10

1. When facing difficulties, don't look at your enemies first; look to God first

When we encounter difficulties, it's easy to keep thinking:

"How big is the problem?"

"Do I have the ability?"

"Is there any other way?"

Joshua chapter 10 reminds us:

Don't just look at the environment; look up to God.

2. Keeping promises is important

The Gibeons had deceived the Israelites, but Joshua still remembered his oath.

This reminds us that the Christian life should be a life worthy of trust.

Words we have said and promises should not be easily backed out.

3. Prayer can bring the impossible before God

Joshua dared to ask God for something very significant.

This does not mean that every time we pray, God will always fulfill it as we ask; rather, it says:

We should not hesitate to bring things before God just because they seem impossible.

We can entrust the most difficult tasks to God.

4. True victory belongs to God

The Israelites did need to go out and fight, but the scriptures repeatedly show us God's work.

Hail is a sign sent by God.

The enemy's chaos is caused by God.

The sun stopping is a miracle performed by God.

So we can work hard, but not take glory for ourselves.

People can fulfill their responsibilities, but victory ultimately comes from God.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for letting us read Joshua chapter 10.

Lord, we admit that many times when we face difficulties, we are easily afraid, restless, and confused in our hearts. We keep looking at the environment, people's abilities, and the size of the problems, but forget to look up to You.

Please forgive our little faith.

Lord, please place in our hearts the kind of faith Joshua had in You. When we face problems we cannot solve, please tell us not to be afraid, but to come before You and pray.

"Do not be afraid, for the Lord is with us."

Lord, please quiet our hearts.

Put all our restlessness, worry, confusion, and unease into Your hands.

There are some things we cannot control, some outcomes we cannot grasp, and some problems we do not know how to solve.

But we know:

You still sit on the throne, You still reign.

Please help us faithfully do what we ought to do, and then hand the results over to You.

When we encounter difficulties like the 'Five Kings,' please remind us: **we are not fighting alone; You are the God who walks with us**

Lord, please also keep us as faithful people, so that we may keep our promises, and live out the life of Christ before others.

Finally, please grant us a heart of peace.

Let us no longer be led by our circumstances today, nor controlled by worry, but instead quietly look to You.

May we declare:

"The Lord is my God, and He is with me, so I have no need to fear."

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

11 Joshua chapter 11: God fights for His people

Joshua chapter 11 records that after the Israelites entered Canaan, they faced another very great war. This time, it was no longer just a few cities or kings, but many northern Canaanite kings united to resist the Israelites.

1. Many kings united to attack Israel

When King Jabin of Hazor in the north heard of Joshua's victory in the south, he gathered many kings, including those from the hill country, the northern plains, and the Lebanon region, to march out together.

The Bible describes their army:

"This king has a large army and many chariots and horses."

This poses a very significant threat to the Israelites.

From a human perspective, it seemed difficult for the Israeli army to overcome such a massive coalition.

But God first said to Joshua:

"Do not fear them; tomorrow at this time, I will deliver them to Israel and kill them all."

—Joshua 11:6

This statement is very important.

God did not tell Joshua to first look at the number of enemies, but to listen to God's promises first.

We will encounter similar situations in our lives.

Sometimes all the problems come before us all at once:

- Family issues
- Work pressure
- Economic difficulties
- Interpersonal relationships
- Physical weakness
- The worries in her heart
- The future is uncertain

It's easy to be like Joshua, and when we see 'many chariots and horses,' we start to feel afraid.

But God said to Joshua:

"Don't be afraid of them."

Not because the enemy does not exist, but because God is greater than the enemy.

2. Joshua suddenly sent troops

Joshua did not shrink back because the enemy was strong.

The Bible says:

"Joshua and all the soldiers suddenly attacked them by the waters of Miron and attacked them."

Joshua took the initiative.

God had promised victory, but Joshua still needed to act faithfully.

Here we see an important spiritual principle:

Believing in God does not mean doing nothing; True faith brings obedience and action.

God said, "I will deliver them over to you," and Joshua went out to fight.

So after we pray, we should also ask:

"Lord, what do you want me to submit to today?"

Some things require us to entrust to God;
Some things require us to bravely face them through God.

3. God enabled the Israelites to win

The Israelites defeated the northern coalition.

Even the chariots and horses were dealt with.

Chapter 11 shows us that the Israelites' victory was not because they were stronger than their enemies, but because God fought for them.

This is also a theme repeatedly found in the Book of Joshua:

The true reason for victory is not human power, but God's presence and faithfulness.

Sometimes we ask:

"How can I become even stronger?"

Of course, we need to grow, learn, and prepare ourselves.

But more importantly:

Don't just ask how much power you have; ask yourself whether you rely on God.

4. Xiasuo became the most important city in the north

Joshua specifically captured Hazo.

The Bible says:

"Because Xia Suo was previously the leader among these nations."

Xia Suo can be considered an important center of the Northern Alliance at the time.

Joshua captured Hazzo and burned the city.

This incident has a profound reminder:

Sometimes God is dealing not just with surface problems, but with the root causes behind them.

We also have some 'summer slots' in our lives.

It could be something that has troubled us for a long time, or a recurring problem.

It's easy to just deal with the surface:

"Lord, please take this question away."

But sometimes God leads us to face things more deeply:

"Why does this problem persist?"

"What do I need to learn?"

"What do I need to let go?"

"Have I been unwilling to hand over some things to the gods?"

God not only wants us to temporarily escape difficulties but also changes us within those difficulties.

5. Joshua did not stray from God's command

Chapter 11 has a line worth noting:

"Just as the Lord commanded his servant Moses, Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did the same."

This sentence is beautiful.

Joshua did not act according to his own will, but according to God's command.

So Joshua's success was not just because he was brave, but because:

He was willing to obey God.

This is very important for us Christians.

We often hope God will bless our plans.

But the deeper step of spiritual life is:

It's not about asking God to bless my plan, but rather asking God to let my life enter into His plan.

6. After the war, the land will enjoy peace

Chapter 11 ends with the words:

"Thus, the country is peaceful and there is no more war."

This is a very beautiful ending.

There was much war, fear, enemies, and pressure ahead; But in the end, God led the Israelites into rest.

This also reminds us:

Just because God leads us through battles doesn't mean He wants us to live in battle forever.

Sometimes God allows us to go through a difficult path, but His purpose is not to make us fear forever, but to lead us step by step into the rest He has prepared.

Joshua chapter 11 gives us three reminders

1. Don't judge by how big the enemy is; first look at how great God is

敵人的「車馬甚多」，並不代表神不能得勝。

When we encounter difficulties, we shouldn't just calculate how big the problem is—remember:

God still sits on the throne.

2. God's promises require us to respond with faith

Joshua did not sit and wait, but acted after hearing God's promise.

Faith is not doing nothing, but about being willing to obey because we believe in God.

3. True victory is faithfully following God

Joshua "walked as usual."

This may be one of the most important messages in this chapter.

Not every battle in life is easy, but we can ask God to give us a heart:

Without taking sides, without relying on oneself, never losing faith because of circumstances, faithfully following the Lord.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You,

For You are the faithful God,

He is also the God who fights for us.

Lord, sometimes our lives are like Joshua's,

Suddenly, many problems arose with "too many carriages and horses."

When we see difficulties, we become afraid;

When you see your environment, you become discouraged;

Seeing his own limitations, he felt helpless.

Lord, please speak to us again today:

"Don't be afraid of them."

Help us not to focus only on our environment,

Don't just look at a person's abilities,

Don't just judge by how big the problem is,

but let us lift our heads up and look to You.

Lord,

We admit that sometimes we are easily irritable, confused, and worried,

There are many voices in my heart,

There are many things you can't let go of.

Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet our hearts.

Let us remember You amid the chaos,

Still believe in You in fear,

Not knowing the road ahead,

Still willing to hold Your hand and walk forward.

Lord, please grant us a heart as obedient as Joshua's.

Whatever You command,

Let's do it that way.

Do not ask us to only ask You to change our circumstances,

But we are unwilling to let You change us.

If there are some 'summer trivia' in your life,

It is what we have never truly entrusted to You,

Grant us courage to face it,

It also gives us the strength to let go.

Finally, Lord,

Lead us through every spiritual battle,

so that we may not win by our own strength,

but stand firm by Your grace.

May we remember:

Though the enemy is strong, You are greater;

Though the environment is chaotic, You still reign;

Though the road is difficult, You are still walking with us.

Put the peace that comes from You in our hearts,

So that our hearts are no longer restless, no longer confused,

Instead, be quiet, trusting, and waiting in You.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Joshua chapter 12 may seem like just a "list of kings" and may sound dull to read, but it is actually very important because it counts the victories God has given to the Israelites.

1. The king Moses defeated east of the Jordan River

Verses 1 to 6 first mention that before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into Canaan, Moses had already led them to defeat two important kings:

King of Amorit, Sihon

King of Bashan, E

The lands of these two kings were later divided among the tribes of Reubin, Gad, and Manasseh.

This reminds us:

God's work did not begin with Joshua, but was He leading His people all the way.

When the Israelites reached Joshua's time, they could continue forward because God had already opened the way for them in Moses' time.

Our lives are the same.

Looking back, we may realize that many things were not made by our own abilities, but that God kept us step by step.

2. The king Joshua defeated in the west of the Jordan River

Verses 7 to 24 list the kings Joshua defeated in the land of Canaan.

In total, there are:

Thirty-one kings.

These kings came from different cities and regions.

From a human perspective, this is a very massive enemy.

But God had promised Joshua:

"In your lifetime, no one will be able to stand before you."

——Joshua 1:5

By chapter 12, we see God's promises gradually becoming reality.

This does not mean the Israelites had no wars, no danger, and no difficulties, but rather:

God was with them in battle.

3. The Most Important Message in This Chapter: 'Count God's Grace'

If we only look at the list of kings in chapter 12, it's easy to ask:

"Why does the Bible record so many names?"

But from another perspective, this is actually a record of God's grace.

Each king represents a battle.

Each name represents a chapter in the history of the Israelites.

Every victory tells the Israelites:

"Don't forget, it was God who led you to where you are today."

This is also very important for us today.

It's easy for us to remember:

Something he hadn't yet gotten

The difficulties I am facing

Prayers have yet to be answered
Things others do better than themselves
But it's easy to forget:

God has already done so much for us.

Therefore, Christians need to learn to 'count grace.'
Not because we deny the current difficulties, but because we know:

Today's God is still the faithful God of the past.

4. The thirty-one kings also remind us not to fear the 'great mountains' before us

The Israelites did not eliminate all their enemies at once.

They fought one battle after another.

This is much like our faith life.

Sometimes we wonder:

"God, why hasn't my problem been completely resolved yet?"

"Why does one difficulty pass and another arises?"

Joshua chapter 12 shows us that God led the Israelites step by step.

God did not require them to accomplish everything in one day.

Similarly, God's work in our lives may also proceed step by step.

So we should not assume that God is not working just because we still face difficulties today.

God may be leading us through another battle.

5. The glory of victory is given to God

Joshua chapter 12 is not praising Joshua's greatness, nor is it praising how strong the Israelites are.

The real focus is:

God keeps His promises.

Joshua had courage because God was with him.

The Israelites were able to possess the land because God gave it to them.

So we must also be careful not to turn God's grace into our pride.

When we look back at our own lives, we can say:

"I worked very hard."

But more importantly, it says:

"Thank God, You have always led me."

Joshua chapter 12 gives us three reminders

(1) Do not forget God's past grace

When you encounter difficulties today, reflect on how God has helped you in the past.

(2) Do not lose confidence just because you have many enemies

Thirty-one kings were a lot for the Israelites, but not one was too great for God.

(3) Do not take credits for yourself God's work

After achieving victory, one must be all the more humble and give thanks to God, for all grace comes from Him.

Prayer

Joshua chapter 12 prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You because Joshua chapter 12 reminds us that You are a faithful God.

Lord, when we look back at our lives, we realize there are many difficulties. We once thought we couldn't get through it, but You have always held our hands, guiding us step by step.

Forgive us. Many times, we only see the difficulties before us and forget Your past grace; We only see what we have not yet received, yet forget what You have already given us.

Lord, please help us learn to count grace.

When we face the 'Thirty-One Kings' in life—facing one difficulty after another, one pressure after another—please do not let us lose heart, nor let us be controlled by fear.

Remind us that true victory is not by our own strength, but because You are with us.

Lord, if we are now facing some unresolved issues, please grant us patience and faith, so that we may believe that You are still at work.

Please help us not only look at our surroundings, but fix our eyes on You.

And ask that we not be proud in times of victory, nor disappointed in times of difficulty; Know that You are still our God, in good times and bad.

Please calm our restless and chaotic hearts.

Let us entrust the burdens of our hearts to You, and place the things we cannot control into Your hands.

Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen us, so that we may have the strength to continue following You every day.

Lord, let us always remember:

Just as You have led us in the past, You remain faithful today;

Just as You protected us in the past, You will never leave us in the future.

May our lives be not just about remembering our own battles, but also remembering Your grace.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

- 13 At the beginning of Joshua chapter 13, Joshua was already old. God said to him:

"You're getting old, and there are still many places left ungained."

——Joshua 13:1

This saying is worth pondering.

Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan, winning many battles and gaining considerable land, but God told him: **there was still much land left ungained**

1. Even in old age, God still has work to entrust us

Joshua was old, but God did not say, "Your work is done; you may retire."

Instead, God told him there were still lands yet to be conquered.

This reminds us:

People's ages change, but God's will for us does not necessarily stop because of it.

Sometimes we feel:

"I'm getting old. What can I still do for God?"

But what God values is not just how much we can do, but whether we are still willing to be used by Him.

Some people can no longer serve as they did when they were young, but they can still:

- praying for the family
- Pray for the church
- Encourage young believers
- Share your own faith experiences
- Leading people to know God
- Become a blessing to others with your life

As long as we are still in the world, God can still use us.

2. "The Untouched Land" reminds us not to dwell on the past

The Israelites had many victories, but God did not tell them to only recall the past. They still have unclaimed land.

Our spiritual life is the same.

We may have believed in the Lord for many years, experienced God's grace, and even had many testimonies, but there are still some places in life that need God's control.

For example:

- Some tempers have not yet been handed over to God
- Some fears have not truly been confided yet
- There are some people we still cannot forgive
- There are still things we are unwilling to let go of
- Some habits still prevent us from drawing near to God
- Some family members and friends have not yet prayed urgently for them

Therefore, the "unclaimed land" is not necessarily just external land; it can also remind us:

Where else in life has Christ not fully reigned?

3. God's promises are closely linked to human faith

Chapter 13 records a large number of land allocations among the tribes of Israel. These lands were not earned by the Israelites by their own means, but were inheritances promised by God.

But 'God has promised' doesn't mean people can do nothing.

They still need to enter, endure, and manage.

This gives us an important spiritual principle:

God's promise is not to passively wait, but to step forward by faith.

God can promise

"I am with you."

But we must still learn to trust Him every day.

God has promised to provide for us, and we must continue to work faithfully.

God promises forgiveness, and we must still repent.

God promises to guide, and we must still seek His will.

4. The tribe of Levi did not receive any ordinary land or property

Another important point in chapter 13 is the tribe of Levi.

Joshua 13:33 says:

"But for the tribe of Levi, Moses did not give them any inheritance; The LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, just as the LORD has promised them."

This is a very beautiful phrase.

Other tribes had land as their property,

But the Levites took the Lord Himself as their possession.

This makes us think:

What is our truly largest industry?

Is it a house?

Is it money?

Is it retirement security?

Are they children?

Is it health?

Is it an achievement on earth?

None of these things are eternal.

The truly most precious inheritance is God Himself.

If a person has a lot of wealth but loses God, he remains poor.

But even if a person has little on earth, God is with him, and he is still rich.

So we can remind ourselves every day:

"Lord, my greatest treasure is not what You have given, but You Yourself."

A reminder for us today

Joshua chapter 13 can be summarized into three sentences:

First, old age is not a reason to stop serving God.

As long as we still have life, God can still use us.

Second, don't stay only on past experiences of faith.

God still has 'unreached land' in our lives.

Third, God Himself is our true inheritance.

We can lose what is on earth, but we must not lose trust in God.

So today we can ask ourselves:

"Lord, is there any part of my life that I have not fully entrusted to You?"

Perhaps that is the "untouched land" that God wants us to face today.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 13,

Your work will not stop with us just because we are old or our abilities have diminished.

Lord, sometimes we look at our own weaknesses,

Looking at your age,

Look at your own limitations,

and feel that they can no longer do anything for You.

Please forgive our discouragement,

Let us believe again:

As long as we still have life, You can still use us.

Lord, please shine upon us as well,

It helps us see those "unreached places" in our own lives.

Are there places we still refuse to give to You?

Is there something we're still holding onto?

Are there some people we still cannot forgive?

Whether there are fears, worries, or unease,

We say we entrust ourselves, but in our hearts we still bear the consequences?

Lord, please help us let go.

Let us not only believe in Your promises,

He was more willing to step forward with confidence.

Lord, please help us understand,

The wealth of the earth is not our true inheritance,

Praise from others is not our true value.

You Yourself are our most precious inheritance.

No matter how the environment changes,

No matter how much we have or lose,

Please guard our hearts,

Let's still say:

"Lord, having You is enough."

Let our lives be more than just enjoying Your grace,

Even more willing to be vessels in Your hand,

Offer the remaining days to You.

Pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ victorious,

Amen.

14 **Joshua Chapter 14 — Caleb devoted himself to following God**

Joshua chapter 14 is a very moving passage, with Caleb as the central figure. When the Israelites entered Canaan and divided their territory, Caleb was already old, but he still remembered God's promises and did not shrink back because of his age or difficulties.

1. Caleb did not forget God's promises

Caleb recalled that forty-five years earlier, Moses sent twelve spies to spy on the land of Canaan.

At that time, the ten spies saw the strength of the Canaanite and were afraid; only Joshua and Caleb focused on trusting God.

Caleb said to Joshua:

"The Lord has made me live for these forty-five years, just as He promised.....

Behold, I am now eighty-five years old."

—Joshua 14:10

This shows us that **God's promises do not fail over time**

People may forget, circumstances may change, and our abilities may decline, but God remains faithful.

2. Caleb is eighty-five years old and still has faith

Caleb said:

"I am still strong, just as Moses sent me on the day he sent me." —Joshua 14:11

This not only means his body still has strength, but more importantly, his confidence has not declined.

He didn't say:

"I'm already eighty-five years old. Forget it, let the young people go."

Instead, he said:

"Give me the mountain land the Lord promised me that day."

What he wanted was not the easiest place, but the Hebron hill country. There were the tribes of Anak, the giant tribe most feared by Israel at that time.

Caleb knew the difficulties still existed, but he believed:

Since God has promised, even giants cannot hinder His work.

3. True faith is not the absence of difficulties, but that one still believes in God amid difficulties

Caleb was not invisible to giants.

He knew there were the Anak people there, and he knew the city was strong.

But his eyes did not stop at 'how big the giant' was, but on how great God was.

This is also an important reminder for us today.

Sometimes we face:

1. Family issues
2. Work pressure
3. Physical weakness
4. Difficulties in interpersonal relationships
5. Challenges in church ministry
6. Worry about the future

It's easy to be like those ten spies, only seeing the 'giant.'

But Caleb reminds us:

Don't just look at the environment; remember God's promises.

4. Why was Caleb able to obtain Hebron?

The Bible has a very important comment about Caleb:

"For he has devoted himself to following the LORD, the God of Israel."

—Joshua 14:14

"Focused Following" is the most important message in this chapter.

Caleb did not trust God occasionally, but followed Him throughout his life.

At forty, he believed in God.

Forty-five years later, at the age of eighty-five, he still believed in God.

True faith is not a momentary zeal, but a lifelong faithfulness.

We can also ask ourselves:

Do I follow God because circumstances are going well, or do I still believe in Him even when circumstances are difficult?

Today's information

Joshua chapter 14 reminds us of three things:

First, do not forget the promises God once gave you.

The longer time passes, the easier it is to forget how God once led us. But Caleb always remembers

Second, do not limit God because of age or circumstances.

Caleb, at eighty-five, still believed he could fulfill the mission God had given him

Third, devote your whole life to following God.

What God values is not just how much we have done, but whether we faithfully follow Him

Sometimes we wonder, "I'm old, what can I do for God?"

Joshua chapter 14 tells us:

As long as life is still in God's hands, it can still be used by Him.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for allowing us to see Caleb's life through Joshua chapter 14.

Lord, we admit that we often tend to be suspicious of our environment, fear difficulties, and lose faith when we see problems. Please forgive us so that we will not be like those ten spies, only seeing the giant before us and forgetting that You are Almighty God.

Lord, please grant us faith like Caleb's.

No matter how circumstances change, may we still remember Your faithfulness; No matter how many years pass, may we still believe in Your promises; Whether we are young or old, please let us know that You can still use us.

Lord, when we face our own "Hebron"—those difficulties, fears, and impossibilities—please help us not to shrink back.

So that we may say, like Caleb:

"If the Lord is with me, I will be able to receive it."

May You help us not just follow You in good times, but remain faithful in hardship; Not just love You when we are young, but devote ourselves to following You throughout our lives.

Please guard our hearts and remove the restlessness, confusion, worry, and fear within us.

Lord, please quiet our hearts personally so that we may entrust all burdens to You. Let us look to You again, no longer controlled by circumstances, but strengthened by Your faithfulness.

May we all be like Caleb, becoming people who wholeheartedly follow the Lord.

I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

15 **Joshua chapter 15: The inheritance God gave and Caleb's faith**

Joshua chapter 15 mainly records the land the tribe of Judah received, and how Caleb received the Hebron promised by God. On the surface, this chapter is full of place names, borders, and cities, which may seem difficult to read, but behind it lies a very important message:

What God has promised, He will accomplish; But God's people will also rise up by faith to receive the inheritance God has given.

1. God designated the inheritance for the tribe of Judah

Chapter 15 begins with a detailed description of the territory the tribe of Judah acquired, from south, east, west, all the way to the northern border.

These place names may be unfamiliar to us today, but for the Israelites at that time, they represented something very important:

God's promises are gradually becoming reality.

God had already promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would give the land of Canaan to their descendants. By Joshua's time, this promise began to be concretely implemented in every tribe.

This reminds us:

God's promises sometimes take a long time to be fulfilled, but God has not forgotten what He has spoken.

2. Caleb obtained Hebron

Verse 13 specifically mentions Caleb.

When Caleb was young, he once scouted the land of Canaan with Joshua. While other spies were afraid of the tribe of Amalek and the fortified towns, Caleb believed God could grant the land to the Israelites.

So God once promised Caleb:

"The place you step on will surely be yours."

Now, after many years, Caleb is eighty-five years old, yet he still believes in God's promises.

He didn't say:

"I'm getting old, let the younger ones go."

Instead, he took the initiative to ask Hebron.

Moreover, Hebron was not an easy place to obtain, because there were the tribes of Amalek and tall towns there.

But Caleb still spoke by faith:

"The Lord has kept me alive for these forty-five years, as He promised..... I am still strong, just as Moses sent me on the day he sent me." (See 15:10).

This is a very beautiful example of faith.

True faith is not the absence of difficulties, but the belief in God even in the face of adversity.

3. Caleb drove Gilead Apbal out

Caleb attacked Hebron and drove out the tribe of Arna.

This is quite interesting.

Over forty years ago, Caleb saw the people of the Arnas, and what others saw was:

"They're too strong; we can't win."

But what Caleb saw was:

"God has promised, so I can overcome by Him."

The same enemy, yet with completely different perspectives.

This is something we really need to learn today.

When facing difficulties, it's easy to just look at:

1. How big is the problem?
2. How strong is the opponent?
3. How weak he was
4. How difficult the road ahead is

But faith will lead us to turn our eyes to God:

"How big is my god?"

It's not that difficulties don't exist, but that we know God is greater than difficulties.

4. Absar and the spring

Verses 16 to 19 record another very special event.

Caleb married his daughter Abza to the brave man who captured Gileadipher, and Ottoniah successfully took the city, thus marrying Assa.

Later, Abzah asked his father for fields and also for springs.

She knew that having land alone wasn't enough; without water, the land couldn't be used properly.

So Caleb gave her both the upper and lower springs.

Here we can also remind us:

The grace God gives us is not just "having a piece of land," but that He knows our true needs.

God not only gives us a mission, but also provides the grace we need to walk this path.

5. This chapter gives us spiritual reminders

Although Joshua chapter 15 contains much geographical information, it can at least provide us with three important messages:

First, God's promises will not be broken.

A person's timeline may be long, but God has not forgotten His promises.

Second, faith requires action.

Caleb did not just say, "I believe in God," but he truly rose up to conquer Hebron.

Faith is not passive waiting, but about believing in God and then bravely taking the first step.

Third, do not stop serving God because of age, circumstances, or difficulties.

Caleb, eighty-five years old, still said, "I am still strong."

His strength was not just physical, but also his unwavering faith in God.

We can also ask ourselves:

"Do I still believe in God now?"

"Is there any 'Hebron' that God wants me to face, but I keep avoiding it out of fear?"

"Am I only seeing my own weakness and forgetting God's power?"

Joshua chapter 15 tells us:

What God promises, we can grasp by faith; What God entrusts, we must bravely do.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You because You are a faithful God. You have never forgotten what You have promised; Even after many years, You have fulfilled Your word according to Your timing.

Lord, please grant us faith like Caleb's.

When we see difficulties, circumstances, and our own weaknesses, don't let us focus only on the immediate problems. Help us to look to You and see that You are greater than all difficulties.

Lord, sometimes we feel that we can no longer be used by You because of age, ability, circumstances, or even past failures. Please remind us that as long as we still trust You, life can still be a vessel in Your hands.

Grant us courage to face the "Hebron" in our lives, and not to avoid what You want us to confront.

Also, please help us understand that You do not only give a mission, but also provide everything we need. Just as Absa received the field and also the upper and lower springs, please grant us enough grace and provision along the path we walk.

Lord, please quiet our restless and confused hearts.

When we are filled with worries, worries, and unresolved matters in our hearts, please be Your personal peace.

Let us learn from Caleb—not because circumstances are easy, but because he still says in difficult circumstances:

"God is faithful, and His promises will surely be fulfilled."

Strengthen our faith, so that we may follow You throughout our lives, not retreating because of difficulties, not losing hope because of age, and not losing hope because of circumstances.

We place all our worries into Your hands, asking You to guard our hearts, so that within us we may find peace, strength, and hope once again.

In the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray, Amen.

Joshua 16 may seem like it only records the boundaries and divisions of the land, but behind it lies an important spiritual reminder: **God's promises are faithful, but people still need faith to obey and receive the inheritance God has given**

The tribe of Ephraim were descendants of Joseph, and the land they received was located in the central part of Canaan, making it a very important land. The scripture describes their boundaries in detail, indicating that God had already given the land to His people according to His promise.

But by verse 10, a passage reveals something worth our attention:

"They did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer."

The people of Ephraim did not completely drive out the Canaanites; instead, they lived among themselves, later making the Canaanites sufferers.

This event reminds us that **God's command for the Israelites to remove the Canaanites was not only about the land, but also about the purification of faith and life**

If the Israelites allowed the idols and lifestyle of the Canaanites to remain among them, over time, they would be easily influenced.

This is also an important reminder for Christians today.

After we believe in the Lord, some things can't just be said: "I shouldn't be a problem with keeping a little longer."

For example, some habits, thoughts, and values that do not align with God's will—if we know they will keep us away from God but still deliberately hold onto them, over time, they may actually influence our faith.

Sin often does not pull us away from God all at once, but rather allows it to remain in our lives bit by bit.

So Joshua chapter 16 makes us reflect:

God has given promises—have we received them by faith?

God points out problems in life—have we truly obeyed?

Are there any things we are unwilling to fully entrust to God?

Sometimes we think we love the Lord very much, but we still hold some "Gizar people" in our lives—things we are unwilling to let go.

God does not want us to be perfect by our own strength, but wants us to be willing to let Him reign in our lives.

Today's reminder

First, God's promises are always reliable. The

land the Israelites received was God's promise to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. After many years, God continues to fulfill His promise step by step

Second, to receive God's blessing, we also need to obey.

God gave the Israelites an inheritance, but they still had to face the enemies on the land according to God's commands

Third, do not compromise with sin.

If we leave things that do not please God in our lives, they may seem fine today but may become obstacles to our spiritual life in the future

Fourth, do not settle for "almost." The

tribe of Ephraim received the land but did not fully complete what God commanded. This reminds us that faith is not just about asking, "Have I believed in the Lord?" It must also ask, "Have I let the Lord fully reign in my life?"

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 16 that You are the faithful God. What You promised, You will accomplish; Your word is always reliable.

Lord, we admit that sometimes our faith is like that of the Ephraimites—willing to accept Your blessings, but not necessarily to fully obey You.

There are things in our lives that we know are not pleasing to You, yet we still refuse to let go. We may also compromise with sin, with the values of the world, and even think, 'Keeping a little should be fine.'

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, please shine Your light on our hearts and help us see the places in our lives that do not please You. Grant us courage to no longer run away or compromise, and to be willing to entrust everything into Your hands.

Lord, please help us not only to receive Your grace but also to be willing to obey You in our daily lives.

When our hearts are troubled, confused, or weak, please comfort us personally and help us regain peace.

Let us know that we are not fighting by our own strength, but moving forward step by step by Your grace.

Please keep our families, churches, and brothers and sisters safe, so that we may be kept away from sin and from everything that turns us away from You.

Lord, please help us not just to place You as a part of our lives, but to be willing to make You the Lord of our lives.

I pray in the victorious and precious holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

17 Joshua chapter 17: Do not dwell on lack but inherit the land by faith

Joshua chapter 17 mainly records the division of land among Joseph's descendants—the tribe of Manasseh and the tribe of Ephraim

1. The tribe of Manasseh received the inheritance

Manasseh was Joseph's eldest son, and some of his descendants had already acquired land east of the Jordan River; another part had acquired land in Canaan as their inheritance.

One particularly special thing was the daughters of Silofiha.

Their father had no sons, only daughters. Moses had long followed God's command so that they could inherit their father's inheritance.

This reminds us:

God is just; He will not forget the people He has promised.

People's eyes may only see "no sons," as if they are unqualified to inherit; But God values them and grants them an inheritance according to His promise.

Therefore, before God, we should not think:

"Has God forgotten me?"

God has not forgotten.

2. Joseph's descendants felt their land was insufficient

The descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh came to Joshua and said:

"Since the Lord has blessed us until now and we have many people, why have you given us only a lot of land or a portion as an inheritance?"

In other words, what they mean is:

"We have a lot of people, but the land we get now is too little."

They feel they deserve more.

Joshua did not simply agree to their request, but instead asked them back:

"If you have many people and think the hill land of Ephraim is too small, you can go up to the forest of the Philizzites and cut down trees there."

Meaning:

Since you have many people and sufficient strength, don't just wait for others to give you more; You can go and cultivate the places God has already given you.

3. The biggest problem was not the lack of land, but that the Canaanite had iron carts

They then answered Joshua:

"The hill land is not enough for us; and the Canaanites living on the plains all have iron chariots.....

This is what they are truly afraid of.

They are not completely landless, but rather:

Even in the land God has given, there are difficulties, enemies, and things that seem hard to overcome.

The Canaanites had iron chariots, which were a very powerful military force at the time.

So what they saw was:

"The enemy is very strong."

But what Joshua wanted them to see was:

"God has given you the land."

Joshua encouraged them again not to shrink back because of the strength of the Canaanites.

Chapter 17 gives us several important reminders

1. God's promises do not mean we should not strive

God has already given the land of Canaan to the Israelites, but they still need:

1. War
2. Deforestation
3. Land development
4. Drive out the enemy

This makes us understand:

God's grace does not mean we do nothing, but that we rely on Him to do what we normally could not do.

Sometimes we pray:

"Lord, bless me."

But God may have already placed opportunities before us, but we are afraid to step forward because we fear difficulties.

2. Don't just look at the 'iron chariot'—look at the God who gives promises

Manasseh and Ephraim saw iron chariots.

But what Joshua saw was God's promise.

This is also an important lesson in our faith life.

We may see:

1. Family difficulties
2. Economic pressure
3. Physical weakness
4. The difficulty of serving
5. Problems between people
6. I don't know how to walk the road ahead

These are like 'iron carts.'

But God reminds us:

Don't let the iron cart in front of you get too caught up in your thoughts.

It's not that difficulties don't exist, but rather:

Though the difficulties are real, God is even more real.

3. "We have more people" can also become a complaint

Ephraim and Manasseh said:

"Our clan leader has many people."

They turned their "many" into a reason to demand more land.

But Joshua instead told them to use the resources God had already given them.

This reminds us:

The more God gives us, the greater the responsibility may be.

Let's not keep asking:

"Why didn't God give me more?"

You can also ask:

"What has God given me? Have I used it faithfully?"

Perhaps God has already given us time, gifts, family, church, brothers and sisters, opportunities for work and service.

The problem isn't necessarily "God gives too little"; sometimes, it is:

We have not yet properly used what God has already given.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 17 that You are a faithful God. What You promised, You will accomplish; You have not forgotten those who belong to You.

Lord, we admit that often we only see the "iron chariot" before us, seeing difficulties, pressures, and our shortcomings, yet forget that You are our true strength.

Please forgive our hearts that lack faith and are prone to complaints.

When we feel "not enough," please help us see the grace You have already given us;

When we face difficulties, please give us courage so that fear does not hold us back.

Lord, please help us not just ask You to remove difficulties, but also grant us the strength to face challenges; Don't just ask for more from us, but also teach us to faithfully use all that You have already given us.

Grant us faith, like Joshua, not to be intimidated by the "iron chariot," but to believe that Your promises are greater than the difficulties before us.

And ask the Holy Spirit to calm our restless, confused, and uneasy hearts, so that we may set our eyes back on You.

Lord, if we are facing something difficult, please remind us:

It is not because we are strong enough to move forward, but because You are with us, so we can move forward by Lord.

May You lead our families, work, church, and daily lives so that we do not complain, do not shrink back, and do not waste the grace You have given.

Pray that You make us Christians who have faith, action, and faith.

We entrust all our worries and burdens to You.

I pray in the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

18 **Joshua Chapter 18: Key Message and Prayer**

1. Key Information

Theme: Don't just wait—rise by faith and receive the blessings God has promised.

Joshua chapter 18 records that after the Israelites entered Canaan, the seven tribes still had not received their inheritance. Joshua rebuked them and encouraged them to take action to inherit the land God had promised.

This chapter reminds us: God has His promises, but we also need to respond to Him by faith and actively walk in His will.

1. Do not stay still; keep moving forward (verses 1–3)

At that time, the Israelites had already set up the tabernacle in the land of Canaan, and Shiloh became the center of worship for God. However, seven tribes had not yet received any land.

Joshua asked them, "How long will you delay and take possession of the land that the LORD is the God of your ancestors has given you?"

This statement is worth our reflection.

God had already led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the land of Canaan. But at this stage, they did not continue forward.

Spiritual reminder:

Sometimes, after believing in the Lord for many years, hearing many sermons, and understanding many biblical truths, we may remain stuck in place and have not truly lived out God's teachings.

For example:

1. Knowing to pray, yet never having time to draw near to God.
2. Knowing to forgive, yet unable to let go of the harm others have caused her.
3. Knowing they need to preach the gospel, they dare not speak out for fear of rejection.
4. Knowing they must serve God, yet always waiting for the right moment.

Joshua's reminder is also God's reminder to us: do not stay at the stage of knowing, but also act by God's grace.

2. Faith is not just about waiting; it also includes practical action (verses 4–10).

Joshua instructed each tribe to select three men to travel through the undistributed lands, carefully record the situation in each area, and then report back.

They had to go out personally to inspect and record the land, and then Joshua would cast lots before God to divide the land for them.

Here we see an important truth: the Israelites believed in God's promises, but they still needed to make an effort to fulfill what God entrusted to them.

Faith is not doing nothing and just waiting for God to arrange everything; Faith is trusting God's guidance while faithfully doing what you are meant to do.

Spiritual reminder:

When we face difficulties or uncertain futures, we can pray for God to guide us, but we must also learn to take appropriate actions.

1. Pray for your family, and also strive to practice loving one another.
2. Pray for the church and serve one another according to the gifts.
3. Pray for gospel work, and also seize the opportunity to share the gospel with others.
4. Pray for your spiritual life, and also keep reading the Bible, praying, and obeying God.

We cannot control all outcomes, but we can faithfully take every step before God.

3. God's arrangement has His sovereignty and wisdom (verses 11–28)

The latter half of this chapter records in detail the lands acquired by the tribe of Benjamin, including the borders, towns, and surrounding areas of various places. These place names may be unfamiliar to us, but they are not redundant records. These details indicate that the inheritance allotted by the tribes of Israel had clear boundaries and arrangements.

God's promises are not abstract slogans, but enter into the actual lives of His people.

Each tribe did not receive exactly the same amount of land, but each tribe had its own inheritance.

Spiritual reminder:

We easily compare ourselves to others:

Why are other people's families happier? Why do others' service be more effective?

Why do others get more opportunities than I do?

But Joshua chapter 18 reminds us that God has His arrangements. We do not need to envy others' grace, nor doubt whether God favors us simply because our circumstances are different.

This does not mean everyone's life will be smooth sailing, but rather reminds us that in different circumstances, we can still trust God, seek His will, and faithfully walk the path He has entrusted to us.

2. Three reflections this chapter brings to us

First: Have I become stagnant in my spiritual life?

Am I content only with listening to the sermon and understanding the truth, yet not actually obeying God? May the Lord help me not to delay the tasks He has entrusted to me.

Second: Am I willing to act in faith?

Don't just wait for your environment to change; first ask God, seek direction in His word, and take the right step forward.

Third: Can I trust God's arrangement for me?

There is no need to compare ourselves to others in everything, nor to blame God for not getting what we want. May the Lord teach us gratitude, faithfulness, and growth under His guidance.

3. Summary

Joshua chapter 18 not only records how the land is distributed but also reminds us how to respond to God's grace.

God led the Israelites into the promised land, but they still needed to rise and act to receive the inheritance God had given.

Today, we should also examine ourselves: Are there things God has long warned us to do, yet we keep procrastinating? Are there burdens that should be let go but we refuse to entrust them?

May the Lord help us not to be people who only hear the word but not practice it, nor stop because of difficulties.

True faith is not waiting for God to do nothing, but faithfully taking every step of His guidance while trusting Him.

4. Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You.

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 18 that You are the faithful God, and what You promised will not fail. You led the Israelites into the land of Canaan, and in their distribution of inheritance, You revealed Your sovereignty and leadership.

Lord, forgive us. Many times, even though we know Your will, we still delay; We know we should obey, yet we hesitate to act because of fear, laziness, or lack of faith.

Ask the Holy Spirit to shine upon us, so that we may see the stagnation in our lives.

Grant us a heart willing to obey, so that we may not only hear Your word, but also be willing to put it into practice in our lives.

Lord, when we face the road ahead and feel lost, uneasy, or even unsure how to proceed, please guide us personally. Grant us faith and courage so that we are not bound by fear or lose hope because of adverse circumstances.

Help us to entrust everything to You, stop constantly comparing ourselves to others, no longer feel jealous because others have gained more than we do, and not blame You for the difficulties we have experienced. Help us understand that everyone's life has different experiences. Teach us to be faithful in our own roles and grow in Your grace.

Dear Lord, please especially comfort those of us who are restless, troubled, and burdened within. Calm us down, let go of our worries before You, and regain the peace that comes from You. When we do not know what tomorrow will bring, remind us that You still reign and Your grace is sufficient for us.

May the Lord revive our church and strengthen the faith of every brother and sister, so that we may not only know You in knowledge but also live out the image of Christ in our lives. Please help us love and support one another, bravely spread the gospel, and faithfully fulfill the mission You have entrusted to us.

Ask that You make us people willing to listen to You, follow You, and willing to take practical action. Whether the road ahead is easy or difficult, please help us to lean closely on You and walk step by step in Your will.

Thank You for being the Lord of our lives, because we firmly believe that Your faithfulness lasts forever.

Prayer is a request in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

19 **Joshua chapter 19: God gave His inheritance to His people according to His will**

1. Key Scriptures and Messages

Joshua chapter 19 records the distribution of the land of Canaan among the other six tribes of Israel, including the territories of Simeon, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad (Asher), Issachar, Zebulun, and others, as well as Joshua's final inheritance.

On the surface, this chapter seems to record only place names and boundaries, but behind it lies an important message: God is faithful; He has not forgotten any tribe or those who faithfully serve Him.

1. According to His arrangement, God gave an inheritance to every tribe (verses 1–9).

The inheritance received by the tribe of Simeon was divided from the land inheritance of the tribe of Judah. This relates to Jacob's prophecy about Simeon in Genesis chapter 49, showing that God's arrangement was not arbitrary, but had His sovereignty and plan.

Spiritual Lessons:

The gifts, positions, and living environments God gives each person are not exactly the same. We easily see what others possess, yet forget to thank God for what He has already given us.

Sometimes, we ask: "Why does God give more to others? Why is my way different from others'?"

But faith reminds us that God does not necessarily require everyone to walk the same path, yet He calls everyone to faithfully walk the path He has arranged.

We do not need to measure our worth by others' inheritance, but rather learn to be faithful where God has entrusted us.

2. Gaining an inheritance does not mean you can stop fighting (verses 10–48)

This chapter records the lands acquired by the tribes of Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan. Each tribe had its own borders and towns, but owning land did not mean all challenges disappeared.

From the records before and after the Book of Joshua, it is clear that the Israelites still had to face their enemies and continue to obey God in order to truly enjoy the inheritance God had given them.

Spiritual Lessons:

Believing in the Lord does not mean life will go smoothly from then on, nor does it mean all problems will be resolved immediately.

Even though we have already experienced God's grace, we still need to continue moving forward in faith.

1. Families need to be continuously built with love.
2. Faith requires drawing near to God daily, reading the Bible, and praying.
3. The church needs brothers and sisters to support one another and serve faithfully.
4. When facing difficulties, we need to continue relying on God rather than giving up easily.

God's grace does not tell us to stop, but gives us the strength to keep walking the road ahead.

3. But the experience of the tribe reminds us to bravely face the responsibilities entrusted by God (verses 40–48).

However, the land the tribe received included Zorah, Ishtaw, and other lands.

However, the latter part of Joshua chapter 19 also mentions that later, since the tribe could not fully acquire their original land, they sought another place to live (see Judges chapter 18).

This reminds us that receiving promises and actually experiencing them are two different things. God's promises are not about passively waiting, but about obeying Him by faith.

Spiritual Lessons:

Sometimes we know God's Word and know what we should do, yet we fail to take the first step of obedience because we fear difficulties, lack faith, or seek comfort.

For example, knowing you should be reconciled with others, yet refusing to take the initiative; knowing you need to change your bad habits, yet repeatedly procrastination; knowing you should draw closer to God, yet always leaving your time for other things.

We need to ask God for help—not just to hear His word, but to be willing to put it into practice.

4. Joshua received his inheritance last (verses 49–51)

Key Scripture: Joshua 19:49–50

After the tribes of Israel had distributed their land, the people gave it to Joshua. The land he received was Tannath-shihar in the hill country of Ephraim.

This detail is very worth our attention. Joshua was the leader who led the Israelites into Canaan, but he did not first seek benefits for himself; instead, he waited until all the other tribes had been distributed before receiving his inheritance.

Spiritual Lesson: Those who faithfully serve God should not only care about their own interests.

Today, in our families, churches, and ministry, we also need to reflect on our own mindset.

Do we serve to gain others' praise, or because we love God and people?

When our needs are unmet, are we still willing to be faithful?

Joshua's example reminds us that true leaders do not just demand from others to give, but are willing to take responsibility and keep others' needs in mind.

However, this does not mean that those who serve God can never attend to their own needs, but rather that we should not let personal interests override the responsibilities entrusted by God.

2. The three reminders Joshua chapter 19 gives us

First, don't compare often; learn to be grateful.

God's gifts, circumstances, and responsibilities vary from person to person. We can appreciate others' blessings, but we don't need to feel unfair just because others have more than we do. Ask God to help us see the grace we have already received.

Second, do not only receive promises but be unwilling to take actions of faith.

Even after receiving the inheritance of the land, the Israelites still had to face challenges. Today, we also need to hold fast to God's word in difficult times, responding to Him with prayer, obedience, and practical actions.

Third, serving God is not about seeking personal gain, but about faithfully fulfilling the commission.

Joshua waited until the other tribes had distributed his inheritance before receiving his own inheritance. His example reminds us not to think only of ourselves in church and life, but to learn humility, responsibility, and service.

3. Closing prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You!

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 19 that You are a faithful God.

You remember every tribe and arrange their inheritance for Your people. Although each person's land is different, Your heart has never forgotten Your people.

Lord, please forgive us, because sometimes we see what others have but overlook the grace we ourselves have received. We tend to compare, complain, and become agitated when circumstances are unfavorable. Pray that the Holy Spirit calms our chaotic hearts, so that we may learn to entrust, no longer bound by jealousy, worry, and dissatisfaction, but instead learn to be thankful in all things and trust in Your guidance.

Lord, please grant us courage so that we may not only hear Your word, but also be willing to put Your teachings into practice in our lives. When we face difficulties at home, pressure at work, the burden of service, or unclear paths ahead, please strengthen our faith, so that we do not lose heart or retreat, and continue to rely on You to move forward.

Lord, please also help us to learn from Joshua's example, not to focus only on our own interests, but to serve You with a humble heart and care for others. Please protect the brothers and sisters in our church, so that we may love and support one another, without contending or competing, so that the life of Christ may be revealed among us.

Grant us a heart of contentment and gratitude, so that we may believe that You still reign whether in good times or bad. Guide us to walk in Your will, so that we may remain faithful in the positions You have entrusted to us, becoming vessels for blessing others.

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for accomplishing salvation for us, giving us eternal hope and a heavenly inheritance. May we never forget Your grace throughout our lives, and glorify Your holy name in all things.

Prayer is a plea in the victorious holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

20 **Joshua Chapter 20: The Establishment of the City of Refuge—Mercy in Righteousness, Grace in Judgment**

1. Key Information

Joshua chapter 20 records that God commanded Joshua to establish a 'city of refuge,' so that those who accidentally killed someone could escape to a designated city for temporary protection, protected from those who avenged their blood until the case was tried.

This chapter shows us that God values not only justice but also mercy; He neither allows sin to be ignored nor allows innocent people to be treated unfairly.

1. God is a just God and full of mercy

God commanded the Israelites to establish cities of refuge, so that those who killed by mistake could have a place to escape the pursuit. This does not mean that killing someone means no responsibility, but rather distinguishing between intentional and accidental killing, so that people do not resort to unjust revenge out of momentary anger.

Spiritual reminder: Sometimes we easily judge others based on our own feelings, and even rush to blame or retaliate out of anger. But God reminds us not to handle matters based solely on emotion, but to act according to truth, justice, and mercy.

When we are hurt, we can confide in God, but do not let anger control us; When others make mistakes, we must also learn to discern the truth and respond appropriately.

2. The city of escape gives people a chance to receive a fair trial

Joshua 20:3-6 points out that a man-killer may flee to the city of refuge and present his case to the elders at the city gate for investigation. If he did not kill intentionally, he could remain in the city until he stood before the congregation for trial, or until the high priest passed away.

This arrangement shows that God does not allow people to arbitrarily condemn others without verification. Even if someone is harmed, the one who avenges blood cannot replace a fair trial.

Spiritual reminder: When we hear something, we should not jump to conclusions based on just one side of the story; nor should we immediately condemn others when we see their weaknesses.

In church life, misunderstandings, conflicts, and hurt are inevitable among brothers and sisters. We need to learn to listen, clarify facts, encourage one another, and handle issues with love and truth.

Justice does not mean the absence of mercy, nor is mercy without principles. A truly pleasing approach is neither favoritism nor easy condemnation.

3. The city of escape is a refuge God has prepared for the weak

Joshua 20:7-9 records that the Israelites established six cities of refuge, distributed along both banks of the Jordan River, so that Israelites, sojourners, and outsiders could all escape there.

These cities of refuge are not designed for a single tribe or group of people, but to protect those who meet the requirements.

This shows us that God cares for human life and also prepares a way out for those in need.

In life, we sometimes feel fearful, helpless, or even feel trapped because of our own mistakes, others' harm, or uncontrollable circumstances.

But God is the Lord we can rely on. When our hearts are troubled, trapped by guilt, or facing difficult difficulties, we can come to Him seeking forgiveness, comfort, wisdom, and guidance.

God's mercy does not tell us to evade responsibility, but gives us the opportunity to face our mistakes before Him, stand up again, and continue on the path ahead.

4. The death of the high priest and the arrangement of the city escape remind us of the seriousness of sin

Verse 6 mentions that those who kill by mistake must remain in the city of refuge until the high priest dies, before returning to their city and home.

We must first understand that this is a specific statute established by God for Israelite society in the Old Testament, and cannot be simply equated with the doctrine of salvation in the New Testament. However, looking at the whole Bible, we can further consider: human sin and the harm suffered by life are not trivial, yet God has prepared a way out for people.

The New Testament shows us that Jesus Christ is our true refuge. He paid the price for our sins so that by trusting Him, we can receive forgiveness and be reconciled with God.

Hebrews 6:18 mentions that those of us who flee to refuge can be greatly encouraged.

Therefore, the city of refuge can help us reflect on God's protection and grace, but the true foundation of our salvation is the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ for us.

2. What can we learn today?

First, do not easily condemn others.

When facing conflict, first listen and clarify the facts; don't make hurtful decisions out of anger.

Second, learn to live out mercy in justice.

We should have an appropriate attitude toward others' mistakes, not tolerate evil, and do not replace justice with revenge.

Third, turn to God when facing difficulties.

Don't let fear, guilt, or irritation control us. Come before God and ask for peace, wisdom, and strength.

Fourth, be thankful that Christ has prepared salvation for us.

We do not come before God by our own righteousness, but through the redemption of Jesus Christ, receiving forgiveness and the grace of reconciliation with God.

3. Summary

Joshua chapter 20 reminds us that God is a just and merciful God. He established the city of refuge not to indulge sin, but to prevent unjust retaliation, protect human life, and ensure things are handled properly.

Today, we must also learn not to condemn lightly, not to be controlled by anger, to uphold justice in truth, and to practice mercy in love.

When we feel weak, afraid, or confused in our hearts, do not forget that God is our refuge, and Jesus Christ is the foundation of our salvation.

4. Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You!

Thank You, through Joshua chapter 20, for showing us that You are a righteous, holy, and merciful God. You know human weakness, and also the fear, anger, and unease in people's hearts, so You have established cities of refuge for man-killers, so they can be protected and tried fairly.

Lord, please forgive us. Sometimes we judge others based on our own feelings, rushing to criticize, blame, or even harbor resentment before understanding the truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us learn to listen slowly, speak cautiously, and not get angry easily; so that we may uphold righteousness in truth and practice mercy in love.

Lord, when we make mistakes, please grant us a humble and repentant heart, so that we do not shirk our responsibilities, are willing to admit our faults, accept Your discipline, and stand up again by Your grace.

When we are hurt, feel wronged in our hearts, or are troubled by others' words and actions, please be our refuge. Comfort wounded hearts, calm our inner agitation and confusion, remove unnecessary fear, so that we are not bound by anger and bitterness, but instead can entrust everything to You.

Lord Jesus, thank You for paying the price for our sins so that through You we may be forgiven and reconciled with our Heavenly Father. Please help us cherish Your salvation even more, always dwell in Your love, and become people who know how to have mercy, are willing to forgive, and hold fast to the truth.

May the Lord also watch over our church and all our brothers and sisters, so that we may love and tolerate one another, be willing to listen when there are differences, seek reconciliation when there are misunderstandings, and support one another in times of weakness. Please guard our thoughts and minds, so that we are not taken away by worldly turmoil, but instead find rest in You.

May You guide our daily lives, so that the words we speak and the actions we do reflect Your justice, love, and grace.

Prayer is a request in the victorious holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

21 **Joshua chapter 21: God's promises have not been fulfilled**

1. Key Information

Joshua chapter 21 records that the tribe of Levites was allotted cities to live in.

Unlike other tribes, the Levites did not receive a large portion of land as an inheritance, but God commanded the Israelites to carve out cities and countryside from each tribe's territory for them to live in.

The most important message of this chapter is: God is a faithful God, and whatever He promises, He will surely fulfill.

1. God has not forgotten His servants (verses 1–8)

The Levites came before Joshua and all the leaders of Israel, demanding that cities be distributed to them as God had commanded through Moses.

The main duties of the tribe of Levi were to serve God, manage matters related to the Tabernacle, and teach the people God's law. Therefore, God arranged for other tribes to provide cities so that the Levites had a place to live and live.

This reminds us that God not only calls people to serve Him, but also arranges the necessary provisions according to His will.

Spiritual reminder: Sometimes we feel that we serve God in silence, giving a lot, yet no one sees us. But God does not forget His servant. He knows our needs and every bit of effort we put in.

However, this does not mean that those who serve God will necessarily gain material wealth; rather, it reminds us to trust God's arrangements and remain faithful to the very end in the positions He has entrusted to us.

2. God's arrangements are different, yet all have His own intention (verses 9–42)

This chapter details the cities the Levites acquired from the tribes of Israel, including the settlements of the Kohat, Geshun, and Mirari.

These arrangements may seem like mere distribution of towns, but behind them they reflect God's will for the entire nation.

The Levites were scattered among the tribes, enabling them to take on service responsibilities in different places, helping the people know God, obey the law, and maintain the faith of the Israelites.

This also shows us that God's work does not happen in one place but extends throughout the entire community.

Spiritual reminder: Today in the church, every believer's gifts, roles, and responsibilities are different. Some preach, some lead Bible studies, some care for those in need, and others silently pray and support the church.

We do not need to envy others' positions, nor do we need to think our work is unimportant. What matters is not where we stand, but whether we faithfully fulfill the mission entrusted by God.

3. God's promises have not been fulfilled (verses 43–45)

This is the most important summary of the entire chapter.

Joshua 21:43–45 points out that the Lord gave them all the land He swore to give to the ancestors of Israel, so that they might inherit and dwell in peace; God gave them peace in all directions and delivered their enemies into their hands.

Section 45 Special Declaration:

"Not a word of the word the Lord promised to bless the house of Israel was fulfilled; it was fulfilled."

This statement is the core of the entire chapter and a very important truth in our faith.

The Israelites experienced the hardships, shortages, and battles of the wilderness, and also went through times of waiting and not understanding God's leading. But at this stage, they could look back and see that God had always led them according to His plan.

This does not mean that Israelites will never face difficulties again, but rather that God's faithfulness will not change with circumstances, and His promises will not lose reliability because of human weakness.

For us Christians, sometimes we pray for a long time and things still don't change; We hope God will open a way, but it seems we can't see a way out. But we cannot judge whether God is faithful based solely on our immediate circumstances.

We must trust Him according to the disposition and promises revealed in the Bible, and remember that God's promises may not be fulfilled in the exact time or manner we expect.

True faith is not asking God to act according to our plan, but believing He is faithful before seeing the results.

2. Today's spiritual reflection

Through Joshua chapter 21, we can reflect on three questions:

1. Have I forgotten God's past grace? When we face new difficulties, it's easy to focus only on the immediate problems and forget how God has led us through tough times.

2. Have I faithfully fulfilled my duties? Do not only envy others' gifts and service; cherish the role God has entrusted to you.

3. When God's promises have not been fully fulfilled, do I still trust Him? Faith is not without doubt and weakness; rather, even amid confusion, we are still willing to return to God's word and continue to look to Him.

We can summarize the message of this chapter in one sentence:

A person's circumstances may change, and their abilities may be limited, but God's faithfulness never changes; The words He spoke will never return in vain.

3. Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You!

Thank You, through Joshua chapter 21, for showing us once again that You are a faithful and covenant-keeping God. Not a word of Your promise to the Israelites was fulfilled. Although they experienced the hardships, battles, and waiting of the wilderness, You continued to guide them until Your promises were gradually fulfilled.

Lord, please forgive us. Many times, when we see the difficulties before us, we begin to worry, complain, and even doubt whether You still care for us. We often forget Your past graces and how You once supported us through life's lows.

May the Holy Spirit help us to quiet our restless and chaotic hearts, so that we can let go of unnecessary worries and no longer be led by external sounds and environments. Please teach us to learn calmness amid the chaos, to wait when we do not understand, and to look to You even when we cannot see a way out.

Lord, please help each of us Christians, whether at home, at work, in church, or in daily life, to faithfully fulfill the responsibilities You have entrusted to us. Let us not envy others' gifts, not belittle our own work, and not be discouraged because our service has not received recognition from others, because we know You see our hearts and know our efforts.

Please especially strengthen those brothers and sisters who are experiencing difficulties, illness, family problems, financial pressure, or hearts full of sorrow. Please personally comfort them and grant peace and strength from You. When our faith is weak, please support us; When we do not know the road ahead, please guide us; When we wait a long time without seeing an answer, please help us not lose hope.

Dear Lord, please make us a group that truly trusts You—not only to praise You in smooth times, but also to hold fast in the face of difficulties. Let us often count Your grace, remember Your faithfulness, and bear witness to Your glory with our lives. May Your word be a lamp at our feet and a light on our path, so that we may walk in Your will every day.

Thank the Heavenly Father, for You are the God who was, present, and everlasted, and Your faithfulness lasts forever.

The above prayers are made in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

1. Key Information

Joshua chapter 22 records that after the Israelites conquered Canaan, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh fulfilled their promise to help other tribes in battle and prepared to return to their own lands east of the Jordan River.

But when they built a tall altar by the Jordan River, the Israelites west of the Jordan thought they were about to betray God and establish a separate center of worship, which nearly triggered a civil war. In the end, both sides clarified their misunderstandings through communication and restored peace to each other.

1. Serve God faithfully, and also be faithful to your brothers and sisters (verses 1–9)

Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh's tribe stayed with the other tribes of Israel in battle as promised until the brothers found rest. They did not care only for their own interests just because they had already received land.

Joshua praised them for keeping Moses' instructions and faithfully following God, and urged them to continue keeping God's commandments and loving the Lord with all their heart and soul.

Spiritual reminder: True faith is not just about caring about your own family, church, and needs, but also about being willing to give to other brothers and sisters.

Sometimes, we may feel that we have fulfilled our responsibilities and do not want to do more. But this passage reminds us that faithfulness is not just about completing the work; it is also about continuously living out a life of love for God and others.

2. Do not judge by appearances; first understand the truth of the matter (verses 10–20).

Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh's tribes built an altar by the Jordan River. When the Israelites west of the Jordan heard this, they were greatly shocked, fearing they would abandon God, set up a new altar, and even cause all Israelites to offend God. They remembered the judgments Israelites had endured for idolatry, and took this matter seriously.

Their intention was to uphold God's faith, but the problem was that they had not yet fully understood the other person's true intentions.

Spiritual reminder: Even with good intentions, misunderstandings can hurt others.

In the church, sometimes a word, a decision, or an action can arouse suspicion. If we do not understand the truth and rush to criticize, blame, or even treat the other person as an enemy, we may undermine the unity that should be cherished.

Therefore, when facing conflict, we need to learn to listen first, then understand, and only then make judgments.

3. Resolve differences in faith with truth and honesty (verses 21–29)

Faced with the accusations, the Jordan River East tribal did not immediately retaliate with force, but instead solemnly explained their motives.

They showed that this altar was not meant for sacrifice, betrayal of God, or an altar to replace Shiloh, but as a testimony so that future generations would know they also belonged to Jehovah's people.

They feared that in the future, the descendants of the West of the Jordan would say to those east of the Jordan, 'You have no share with the Lord anymore.'

Therefore, the purpose of this altar is not division, but to prove our shared identity before God.

Spiritual reminder: When conflicts arise, don't just focus on proving you're right; also clearly express your feelings and give the other person a chance to learn the truth.

At the same time, we must discern: true unity of faith does not mean saying nothing or ignoring anything, but handling issues with honesty and love under God's truth.

4. Willingness to listen and clarify, able to avoid division (verses 30–34)

After the priest Phinehas and the leaders of the tribes heard the explanation, they accepted the other's explanation. They understood that this altar was not evidence of betrayal of God, but rather to preserve the faith relationships among the tribes.

Phinehas said, "Today we know that the Lord is among us." (See Joshua 22:31)

In the end, neither side started a war but returned with news of peace. This altar was called the "Witness Altar," serving as a witness that they belonged to the same God.

Spiritual reminder: Unity does not mean never having misunderstandings, but that when misunderstandings arise, we are still willing to seek the truth, listen to each other, and take God's will as our refuge.

The biggest regret in the church isn't necessarily disagreement, but the unwillingness to communicate, which gradually turns small misunderstandings into barriers between people.

2. Three important lessons this chapter brings us

First: Love God faithfully, and also love one another.

Faith is not about focusing solely on one's own matters, but about being willing to take responsibility, support brothers and sisters, and build God's community.

Second: Don't jump to conclusions; listen first.

When things are unclear, don't jump to conclusions based solely on appearances.

Being willing to listen often helps avoid unnecessary harm.

Third: Establish unity through God's truth.

True unity is not about forcing everyone to agree, but about jointly respecting God's Word and resolving differences with humility, honesty, and love.

3. Summarize information

Joshua chapter 22 reminds us that sometimes what destroys unity is not betrayal, but misunderstanding; The key to establishing unity is not just avoiding conflict, but being willing to communicate honestly before God.

In our families, churches, and among brothers and sisters, we all need to ask God for wisdom so that we do not easily doubt, do not rush to condemn, and do not become estranged because of differing opinions.

May we not only become faithful followers of God, but also promote peace, uphold truth, and build unity, allowing others to see God's presence in our lives.

Closing prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You.

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 22 that You value not only our faithfulness to You, but also our relationships with one another.

Lord, please forgive us. Sometimes, without understanding the truth, we speculate about others based on our own ideas; Sometimes, when we hear some words, we rush to judge, and even misunderstandings may hurt our brothers and sisters around us.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help us to have a humble and receptive heart, to know how to listen, to understand, and to speak honestly with love. When we disagree with others, please grant us wisdom and patience, so that pride, suspicion, bitterness, and anger do not control our hearts.

Lord, please especially protect Your church, so that we may stand firm in truth and support one another in love. Help us not to be divided over small misunderstandings, nor forget that we are all Your children because of personal preferences and positions.

Please quiet our restless and chaotic hearts, removing the anxiety, worry, and injustice within us. When we face conflict and difficulties, please help us to first quiet before You, seeking Your heart, rather than making decisions based solely on our own emotions.

May You make us messengers of peace, bringing harmony in families, building unity in the church, and living out Christ's love among people.

Lord, may our lives be Your witnesses, so that people may see Your grace and faithfulness in our words, attitudes, and actions.

Thank You for always leading us. May all glory and praise be to You.

We pray this way in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

23 **Joshua Chapter 23: Love the Lord with all your heart and faithfully obey God's word**

1. Key Information

Joshua chapter 23 records that Joshua, being old and knowing his days were numbered, gathered the leaders of Israel to give them a final exhortation. He reflected on how God had led the Israelites into Canaan to defeat their enemies, and reminded them to continue faithfully following Him.

This chapter reminds us: God's grace is worth remembering for a lifetime, God's word is worth following throughout our lives, and our love for God must be held to the end.

1. Remember God's grace and faithfulness (verses 1–5)

Joshua reminded the Israelites that their acquisition of the land of Canaan was not due to their own ability alone, but because God Himself fought for them.

Joshua 23:3 says:

"The Lord your God has done all that he has done against the nations for your sake, and the one who wages war for your sake is the Lord your God."

The victory experienced by the Israelites was God's faithful work. Similarly, when we look back on our own journey of faith in the Lord, we find that many times, when we are weak, lost, or helpless, God has not left us.

Spiritual reminder:

1. Don't just remember your own difficulties; also remember how God has helped us in the past.
2. Don't attribute everything you have today to your own efforts.
3. When the road ahead remains unclear, believe that the God who once led us still rules tomorrow.

Faith is not just about looking at the immediate environment, but about learning to have faith in God's future leadership through His past faithfulness.

2. Be strong and keep God's word, not turning away from the right (verses 6–8)

Joshua urged the people to be strong, to faithfully observe all the teachings of the Mosaic law, not to stray, and not to follow the idols and customs of neighboring peoples.

Joshua 23:8 says:

"Just as you have done until today, trust in the Lord your God."

Here, 'exclusive reliance' is very important. God not only wants the Israelites to call upon Him when they need help, but also wants them to center on Him and faithfully follow His word in their daily lives.

Today's Christians also face various temptations: money, fame, human judgment, worldly values, and their own desires. Sometimes, we do not completely abandon God; rather, unconsciously, we gradually place Him in a secondary position.

Spiritual reminder:

1. Reading the Bible is not just about increasing knowledge; it is about letting God's word change our lives.
2. Do not abandon principles that please God just because of difficult circumstances.
3. Do not let the values of the world replace the Bible as the standard for our lives.

True faith is not just about acknowledging God with our mouths, but also about showing our willingness to follow Him in our choices, actions, and attitudes toward life.

3. Be careful not to compromise with the world and distance yourself from God (verses 9–13)

Joshua warned the Israelites not to compromise with the remaining Canaanite peoples, not to serve their gods, and not to follow their ways.

This was not simply a request for the Israelites to be cut off from all foreigners, but a warning not to be tempted by pagan beliefs and idolatry, and to abandon the covenant they had made with God.

Joshua 23:11 says:

"Be especially careful and love the Lord your God."

Notice that Joshua did not just say, "Be careful not to sin," but linked caution with loving God.

Because when we truly love God, we cherish our relationship with Him and are unwilling to let anything replace God's place in our hearts.

Sometimes, turning away from God doesn't happen overnight; it starts with compromises that seem trivial: less prayer, neglecting God's word, and even knowing it doesn't go against God's will, still sticking to your own ways.

Spiritual reminder:

1. We must examine our hearts to see if certain things are gradually replacing God.
2. We must guard ourselves and not treat sin as trivial matters.
3. Loving God is not just a feeling, but also a willingness to maintain a relationship with Him.

We cannot draw near to God only during gatherings while following the world in daily life. Loving God requires daily practice and the Holy Spirit continually helping us.

4. God's promises will surely be fulfilled, and His warnings must not be taken lightly (verses 14–16)

Joshua 23:14 records that Joshua knew he was about to walk the path that the world must walk, so he testified to the people:

"The word the Lord your God promised you to bless you, not a single word was ever failed; it has been fulfilled in you."

This is a very important message for the entire chapter.

Not a single word of God's promise to bless the Israelites fell short. His faithfulness is not empty talk, but is truly fulfilled throughout history.

However, Joshua also reminded the people: if they break God's covenant and serve other gods, they must bear the consequences of disobeying God.

This reminds us not to accept only the promises of blessing in the Bible while ignoring God's warning against sin. God is loving and just; His grace is not a reason for us to sin at will.

Spiritual reminder:

1. God's promises are reliable; even if we cannot see the results for now, we must learn to trust Him.
2. Do not take God's patience as if He does not care about our sins.
3. When God's word rebukes us, we should be willing to repent, not make excuses for ourselves.

For Christians, we do not earn salvation by keeping the law, but are saved by God's grace and live a life of obedience to God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

2. The three practical lessons this chapter gives us

First: Count God's grace every day.

When life feels stressful, irritated, or uncertain about the future, try to recall how God has led you in the past. Remembering His faithfulness can help us regain peace and hope.

Second: Let God's word determine our direction.

Don't only read the Bible when facing difficulties. Let God's Word remind, correct, and guide us every day, so that we can learn to act according to God's will in work, family, relationships, and financial management.

Third: Do not love the Lord only at the beginning, but hold on to it to the end.

Believing in the Lord for many years does not mean we will never fall. May the Lord help us to constantly examine ourselves, turn back in times of weakness, stand firm in temptation, and never leave the Lord in both good times and bad.

3. Summarize information

Joshua chapter 23 is a spiritual elder's final exhortation to the next generation.

Joshua did not only remind the people of past victories, but also reminded them to continue faithfully following God in the future.

From this chapter, we can learn three things: remember God's grace, follow God's word, and devote ourselves wholeheartedly to loving the Lord.

The most important thing in faith is not just how much we have done for the Lord or how much grace we have experienced in the past, but whether we are still willing to trust, love, and obey Him today.

May we never forget the love we had at the beginning, no matter how many years we believe in the Lord; No matter how circumstances change, never let our faith be shaken by the world; Even at the end of life, we can calmly witness: Lord, You are faithful, and not a single word of Your word has been in vain.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You!

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 23 that You are a faithful God.

Just as You led the Israelites in the past, you still care for Your children today. Many times, we only see the difficulties before us and focus only on our own worries, forgetting how You once helped, supported, and led us through hard times. May the Holy Spirit help us remember Your grace once more, so that our faith may be strengthened once again.

Lord, please forgive us. Sometimes we say we love You, but in our daily lives, we do not truly put You first; Sometimes, even knowing Your word, we still act according to our own will; Sometimes, because circumstances are unsatisfactory, we complain, lose heart, and even lose faith in You. Please have mercy on us, cleanse our hearts, and bring us back to You.

Help us to keep Your word and not stray from the left and right. In this chaotic world, please guard our hearts and minds, so that money, fame, human judgment, and worldly values do not take Your place. Grant us the wisdom to discern, so that we may know what pleases You, and also grant us the strength to obey, so that we may not only hear the word, but also walk it.

Lord, we especially pray for all brothers and sisters. Strengthen the faith of every believer, support the weak, comfort the sorrowful, heal wounded hearts, and lead those who are going through difficulties and trials. When our hearts are restless and

our thoughts cannot be calmed, please let Your peace enter our hearts, quiet us before You, and entrust all burdens to You.

Please protect our church and brothers and sisters, so that we may love and support one another, be rooted in truth, grow in faith, and bear witness to Christ in our lives. Please bless our families, so that we may remain close to You in our busy lives, be thankful in good times, rely on You in adversity, and experience Your presence in every day.

Lord, please help us not only love You at the beginning of our faith, but also follow You faithfully throughout our lives. Until our journey in life reaches its end, we may still witness Your faithfulness, hold onto Your love, and never stray from the path You have prepared for us.

May our entire lives be Your testimony, so that people may see Your grace, love, and glory in our lives.

Prayer is a plea in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

24 **Joshua chapter 24: As for me and my household, we will surely serve the Lord**

Joshua chapter 24 is an important summary of Joshua's lifelong service to God and his final encouragement to the people of Israel. He reminded the people to reflect on God's grace, urging them to devote themselves wholeheartedly to serving the Lord and make firm choices of faith.

The core message of this chapter is: remember God's grace, remove the idols from your heart, and decide today to devote yourself wholeheartedly to serving Jehovah.

1. Review God's grace and not forget His guidance (verses 1–13)

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and recounted to the people how God led their ancestors, starting from Abraham's calling, through the Exodus and the wilderness drift, until entering the Promised Land.

God repeatedly shows grace to the people:

1. Choosing Abraham: God actively called him to lead him on the path of faith.
2. Saving the Israelites: God led the people out of Egypt and from slavery through Moses and Aaron.
3. Protecting the people: In the wilderness, God protects them and provides for their needs.
4. Given the promised land: The people receive cities, fields, and orchards, enjoying everything that was not earned by their own efforts.

Verse 13 especially reminds the people that the abundance they enjoy is a reward from God's grace.

Spiritual reminder: It's easy to focus only on immediate difficulties and forget God's help in the past. But when we look back on life, we find that God has often been secretly leading, guarding, and providing for us.

Don't just ask God when you lack, but give thanks to Him in times of abundance; Don't just remember your own hard work, but also remember God's grace.

2. Fear the Lord and Remove the Idols from Your Heart (verses 14–15)

Joshua made a clear appeal to the people:

"Now fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly." (Joshua 24:14.....)

He demanded that the people remove the gods they had worshipped before and return solely to the Lord.

This is not just a change in external religious behavior, but also a redefinition of inner loyalty.

Today, we may not worship tangible idols, but there may still be many things in our hearts that replace God's place, such as:

1. Excessive reliance on money, material things, and the security of life.

2. Fame, achievements, and how others evaluate you.

3. Worry, fear, and unwillingness to entrust things to God.

4. Their own plans and intentions even surpass God's will.

These things themselves may not be wrong, but when they become the most important and dominant things in our lives, they are worth reflecting on before God.

Spiritual reminder: God not only wants us to worship Him in gatherings, but also wants us to make Him the center of our lives in our daily lives.

True service begins with a heart that loves and trusts the Lord single-mindedly.

3. Making a Choice Today: As for Me and My Family (verse 15)

Joshua said:

"As for me and my household, we will surely serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

This is the most famous and powerful declaration of this chapter.

At that time, the people of Israel faced a choice: should they serve the gods their ancestors worshipped, or serve the Lord who led them out of Egypt and brought them salvation?

Joshua did not let the people continue to hesitate, but made his position clear.

This sentence contains three important messages:

1. Faith requires a choice.

We cannot claim to trust God on one hand, while on the other, entrust the sovereignty of our lives entirely to the world's values. Following the Lord requires a clear stance.

2. Faith requires perseverance.

"Certain Service" is not a momentary impulse, but a willingness to continue following God, no matter how smooth or difficult the circumstances are.

3. Faith needs to start at home.

Joshua not only cares about himself but also values the life of worshiping God together within the family. Parents can build an example of reverence for their family through prayer, Bible reading, loving one another, and practicing faith.

We cannot make faith decisions for our families, but we can lead them to know God more through love, patience, and the testimony of life.

Life Application: Today, we can also declare again: "Lord, I am willing to entrust my life, my family, and my future into Your hands. Please help our family walk Your path."

4. The people respond to God, but also earnestly keep the covenant (verses 16–28)

After hearing Joshua's exhortation, the people responded that they would never dare to abandon the Lord to serve other gods, because they had witnessed God's works with their own eyes.

However, Joshua also solemnly reminded them that Jehovah is a holy God, a jealous God. They cannot make promises based on momentary passion and later betray God.

Joshua demanded that they remove the foreign gods and devote themselves to the Lord. The people again expressed their willingness to serve God, so Joshua made a covenant with them and set up stones as witnesses.

This passage reminds us:

1. Faith commitments cannot remain just words. Our words need to be consistent with life.

2. Repentance requires practical action. If you find yourself distant from God, you should turn back and remove anything that hinders your closeness to God.

3. Faith needs to be constantly renewed. Every day, we must relearn to trust God, rather than relying solely on past spiritual experiences. God's grace is not to make us neglect sin, but to make us more willing to fear Him, love Him, and live a life after His own heart.

5. Even after Joshua's death, God's faithfulness continues (verses 29–33)

The chapter ends by recording Joshua's death at the age of 110 and his burial in the hill country of Ephraim Hill; Joseph's remains were also buried at Shechem.

Joshua's life came to an end, but God's work did not stop because of it.

This reminds us that human life is limited and spiritual leaders will pass away one day, but God's faithfulness will not change. What truly matters is not just how many things we have done, but whether we faithfully follow God and pass our faith on to the next generation.

Spiritual reminder: May we walk the Lord's path throughout our lives, not only fearing God ourselves but also becoming a blessing to others, so that the next generation may see God's faithfulness in our lives.

6. The four practical directions given to us in Joshua chapter 24

1. Count grace

Spend a few minutes each day reflecting on God's protection, provision, and leadership, cultivating a grateful heart.

2. Examine your inner self

Ask yourself: What has recently taken hold of my heart and made me forget to rely on God?

3. Build a godly family

Through prayer, Bible reading, care, and forgiveness, make the family a place where you experience God's presence.

4. Follow the Lord steadfastly every day

Do not easily give up your faith because of changes in your environment, and seek God's will in every choice.

7. Conclusion: Who are you going to serve today?

Joshua chapter 24 is not just a historical record, but also a reminder from God to every believer today.

We may be facing family pressures, work difficulties, financial worries, or unspeakable restlessness and turmoil within. But God remains faithful, and the way He led His people in the past reminds us to continue trusting Him today.

We may not always know what will happen tomorrow, but we can decide who to follow today.

May we not forget God in our busyness, learn to entrust in our worries, regain strength in weakness, and firmly say:

"As for me and my household, we will surely serve the Lord."

Prayer: Pray that the Lord calms our hearts so that our whole family may devote themselves to serving Him

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You!

Thank You for reminding us through Joshua chapter 24 that You are the faithful God. From ancient times to the present, You have always led, protected, and provided for Your people. Even when we are sometimes weak, lost, or even forget Your grace, You still call us back to Your presence with your love.

Lord, please forgive us, because sometimes we are swept away by the burdens of life, the voices of the outside world, and the worries in our hearts, losing our peace and forgetting that You are the true foundation of our lives.

May the Holy Spirit personally comfort us and calm our restless and chaotic hearts. When our hearts are troubled, please grant us peace from heaven; When we do not know which path lies ahead, please grant us faith so that we may follow Your guidance step by step.

Dear Lord, please help us remove the idols in our hearts, so that money, achievements, human judgment, fear, and worry do not take Your place. Grant us a clean, humble, and fearful heart, so that we not only speak of serving You but also live out testimonies of loving You in our daily lives.

Lord, we have especially entrusted our families into Your hands. Please protect every family member, granting us hearts that love, accept, and are willing to forgive. Please watch over the difficulties in our families, comfort the grieving, support the weak, and personally lead family members who have not yet known You, giving them the opportunity to experience Your love and faithfulness.

Help us to choose You firmly, whether the circumstances are smooth or difficult. When the world troubles us, please help us to be quiet before You again; When we feel weary and powerless, please be our strength; When we face an unknown tomorrow, teach us to trust and entrust ourselves, believing that Your grace is sufficient for us.

Lord, may we faithfully follow You throughout our lives, and may our families become families that glorify You.

"As for me and my household, we will surely serve the Lord."

Please make this not just a slogan, but a true faith and life for us every day.

May Your peace fill our hearts, may Your grace accompany our steps, and may all glory and praise be to You.

We pray this in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.