

Joshua 12-14

Intro: Do you have your Bibles?

We pick up at chapter 12 in Joshua, and this morning we will be looking at chapters 12, 13, and 14. That is quite a few chapters but I think you will agree it will be an adequate amount. The first 11 chapters of Joshua were characterized by battle victory after victory. Joshua initially led the Nation across the Jordan, and eventually sort of split the territory right in the middle...in a wedge, took the southern kings and then took the northern kings.

The last verse of chapter 11 says... "Then the land had rest from war".

I must confess that these three chapters in front of us are really not too exciting. One of the difficult elements of these chapters are these list of kings and then the list of boundary markers and divisions that follow in the next chapters.

Notice verse 1 of chapter 12. It gives us the kings of the land that Israel took ON THE EAST Side of the Jordan.

Verse 7 gives us the kings of the land that Israel took ON THE WEST side of the Jordan. And notice it takes on "list form" beginning at vs. 9 and continues to vs. 24. Now Like I said this is not too exciting... I mean unless you are the type that gets excited over the Insurance actuary occupation...otherwise,most likely you will agree with me.

Two weeks ago we were in Aruba... and I would love to show you our pictures... and I'm sure you would cordially enjoy them for the first few minutes But then you probably would lose interest fairly quickly because they do not have the connection to you because you were not there.

That is the same with these chapters. I don't know these kings. I don't know these places or the situation that they were in. If you aren't able to associate or connect with the people it makes it harder to relate!

Years ago Gwyn and I went to Australia and New Zealand for a month. When we returned we had a lot of slides that we enjoyed. I remember inviting someone

over to share our slides with and He said he would only IF he could operate the slide projector. ... Ya see To us the slides had meaning, stories that we experienced, but to him they were just pictures without stories and he didn't want to be there all night listening to stories that he wasn't a part of. So I said...just stay home.

But what I realized was that even though I didn't know all these kings or the territories, or their kingdoms, I was reminded that God know all these details and that is why they are listed in the scriptures...to remind us of the detail that God knows and records in this last half of Joshua. It is true that the historical value of the scriptures are unequalled in certain accounts and in addition to the accurate history that you hold in your hand, God has recorded many intricate details and events.

The world is full of liberal Christians... and believe it or not, even the conservative Seminaries have their share of those who do not take a literal interpretation of the scriptures. I heard a story by a familiar bible teacher who said that a liberal seminary professor stopped him after class one day and said... "so you take a literal interpretation of the scriptures? He said "Yes I do". The professor said "So you believe that God has books, literal books that record all the details of your life? He said "Yes I do". The liberal professor just chuckled...He could not grasp the magnitude and the detail required in those books.

Revelation 20:12 ¹² *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*

I'm confident that my name is listed in the book of life. But those who do not know the Savior.... Every detail of what they had done... is recorded.

It reminds me of the verse in John when he wrote

John 21:25 - Acts 1:1 *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

If one would write down everything that Jesus did...remember he is the eternal one, the creator... I suppose... if all that he did were written down... it is true the whole world probably would not have room.

We come to chapter 13 and Here we find in verse 1 that Joshua is now Old and advanced in years.

I laugh at this verse because it reminds me of the cartoons when the narrator says something like... Elmer Fudd is looking for that rabbit.... The picture moves over to Elmer Fudd and He repeats exactly the same words... "I'm looking for that Rabbit"

Notice that Verse 1 says that Joshua was old and advanced in years..... Then the Lord said to him... "You are very old".

Now you know your old... if The Lord tells you that you are Old. It's not that Joshua just looked old... ya know sometimes that happens... people look older than they really are... OR sometimes people look younger than they really are. That also happens... but here we know that Joshua is really old. He doesn't just look old... He is old.

We do not have the exact ages and dates but we know from

Joshua 24:29 tells us that Joshua died when he was 110 years of age.

[It came about after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old. \(NASB\) Joshua 24:29](#)

Therefore we might approximate that

Joshua lived about twenty years in Egypt, forty years in the wilderness and fifty years in the promised land.

That means that Joshua carried out many of his greatest achievements, (that He was at the top of his game), when he was between 60 and 100 years old. That should tell us something...(And by the way he didn't have ibuprophen) 😊... if your up in the years... your best days may be ahead of you.

In chapter thirteen the land east of the Jordan gets divided (among the Gadites, Ruebenites and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh) and notice that twice it is recorded that "The tribe of Levi had been given no land inheritance" because the Lord was to be their inheritance as those who lead as priests. (vs. 14, 32)

In chapter 14 begins the division of the land WEST of the Jordan. That will actually continue for several chapters. Verse 5 says "So the Israelites divided the land , just as the Lord had commanded them.

If you are a surveyor you may have some interest in these verses and chapters to come.... But most will get bored.

If you are having a little difficulty with Joshua being old still very strong. Beginning at verse 6 of chapter 14 we have a story of Joshua's buddy Caleb. Remember these two were the only ones that brought back a good report concerning whether Israel could take the land many years ago. Now listen to this section.

Read vs. 6 - 15

Notice the last verse of chapter 14 again repeats the end of chapter 11.

Then the land had rest from war.

Solomon in Ecclesiastes reminds us... Life has its seasons...

Ecclesiastes 7:14 ¹⁴ ¶ *When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.*

I would like to close with those wise words from Solomon.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

Lets Pray.