

BOOK OF JOSHUA

CHAPTER 13

Life Lessons From The Book of Joshua



Taking Possession of their Inheritance

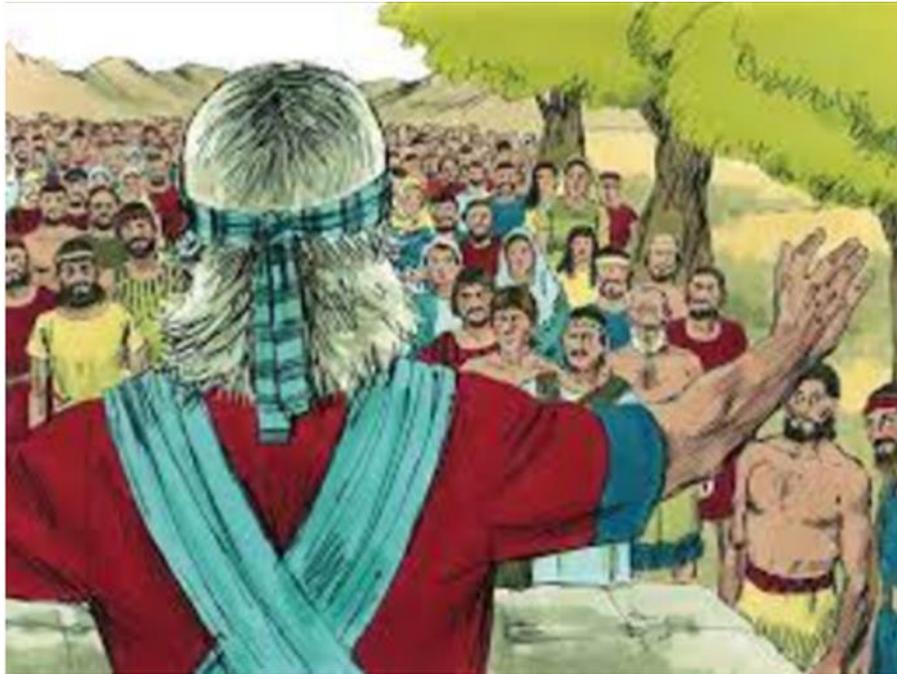
The KOG suffers violence and the violent take it by force: Mt 11:12

- The land of Canaan was a divine gift to Israel – given to Abraham at least 400 years earlier
 - yet they had to fight every inch of the way to take it!
 - that is because the Anakim and others under the influence of the Dark one occupied it before them.
 - the Enemy was aware of God's Plans for His People and tried to thwart them.
cf Job ch 1
- The KOG is given to **us** in Baptism but, since the enemy pulled Humanity down we, too, have to fight every inch of the way to possess it!
 - the spiritual hordes of the world, the flesh and the Devil oppose us.
cf 1 Pet 5:9-11 Heb 4:11 Col 3:24
- Jn 15:5 **without Me, you can do nothing.**
Phil 4:13 **I can do all things IN CHRIST who gives me the strength.**
- It is our own lower nature that we have to fight and conquer for KOG to be firm in us.
Lk 17:21 **The KOG is within you**, therefore this is INTERNAL WARFARE.
2 Tim 4:7 Paul said **I fought the good fight.**
1 Cor 9:27 Paul said **I fight my own body...**
Ps 119:101 says **I struggle (battle) to obey your Word.**
- **(NB)** Like Joshua and the Israelites we, too, have to fight **LONG** and **HARD** to take possession of our inheritance. Achieving self-mastery is a great victory.
 - Like Joshua we have to fight in accordance with the Divine Will because there is **no victory outside** of Divine Will.
- Just as Joshua now goes forward to put **GOD's ORDER** into the Land of Canaan, so we must allow Jesus to put God's order into the whole of **our** being... whole of our life, relationships, work, recreation, sleep, **EVERYTHING.**

Notice that in Eph 1:13-14 our inheritance is pledged to us in Christ, yet Col 3:5-17 shows us how to let God's order come into our lives!

- Grace is given freely to everyone: Lk 8:18, but you must use the talents. Mt 25:16
- We must deliberately and consciously **SEEK GOD** in prayer: Ps 63:4
 - if we seek Him we will find Him: Lk 11:9-11; Heb 4:16
- All our trust is in God: 2 Cor 3:5 ... and not in ourselves: Prov 3:5

13:1 Joshua was an old man now...



There was a lot done but still a lot more to do...

What age was he?

- a) He was 40 years in the Wilderness.
 - b) He led the Battle against the Amalekites, so he had to have been around 30 years old then.
 - c) Caleb – who was the other spy sent with Joshua from Kadesh Barnea in Num 13/14
In Joshua 14:10 Caleb is 85 years old at this point in time.
 - d) In Joshua 24:29 Joshua dies at 110 years old.
 - So he would be either Caleb's age or a bit older in 13:1 (**85+**)
- Joshua was ageing fast because of the very strenuous life he lived and the continuous war he waged in Canaan had taken its toll...
 - yet God was still with him.

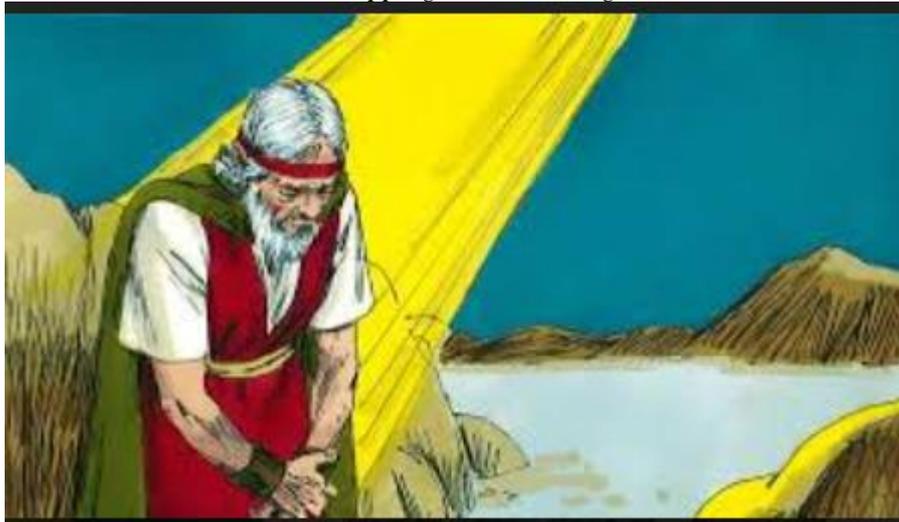
Is 46:4

**In your old age I shall still be the same,
when your hair is grey I shall still support you.
I have already done so, I have carried you.
I shall still support and deliver you.**

Ps 92:13-15

**Planted in the House of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit in old age,
still remaining fresh and green
to proclaim that the Lord is righteous,
my rock in whom no fault is found!**

Worshipping God in Old Age



13:2 There was a **lot** more to do to conquer this land but Joshua was **too old** to do it. **Therefore** the Enemy was still in possession of the **outer** regions of this land which God wanted Israel to possess... So, there would be plenty of trouble coming to Joshua's descendants: cf Judges, 1/2 Samuel for example.

- a) The land of the Philistines (Gaza strip) was **NEVER** conquered!
The 5 chiefs ("Kings") here were Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron
- this was South-West seaboard to the Mediterranean...
- b) The North-West coast was also not conquered: Sidon and Lebanon

Note

- In those days most commerce was conducted by **Sea** so those who held the coastlands held real power... whereas Jerusalem and most of the city-states conquered by Joshua were all **INLAND** places.
- Joshua's men fought **ON FOOT** in single combat and this was more suitable for the mountainous regions.

Note Joshua was old, but God didn't invent **retirement!**
Ps 92:14 **They will still bear fruit in old age, staying fresh and green... (NIV)**
Phil 3:13-14 **I press ahead... for the GOAL in Christ Jesus.**

13:7 Joshua's "**old age job**": to put God's order into the conquered land.

- Joshua and his army obviously didn't understand the importance of **sea-ports** since they had lived so long in the wilderness.
 - it would take centuries before they would realise that the reason why all the great Kingdoms of Egypt, Babylon and Assyria **WANTED** this land was because it was not only fertile (land of milk and honey)
But that it gave them **access by sea** to the rest of the known world.
 - those parts of Canaan **NOT** conquered by Joshua became rich and famous for their commerce by Sea.

Lk 16:8 **... the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the Light.**

13:6 Here, because of Joshua's increasing frailty God said that **He** would finish the job!! So the struggle continued after Joshua's death.

But in **our** case the job must be complete **before** we die! ... otherwise Purgatory!
Phil 1:6 **He who began this good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Note that **Moses** died before his Mission was complete – to take Israel **into** the Promised Land.

- a) Joshua took over to complete it for him.
Now we see that Joshua will die before completing **his** task... who will take over?
- it will be the **Judges** and chaos will fall upon the land!!
- b) In N.T. the Apostles were sent to evangelise the world – but they could only **Begin** the work!
In every generation others have to take **the torch of the faith** and continue the work until **Jesus Returns**.
cf Mt 28:20 The Mission will last to the end of Time.
Ps 145:4 **One generation will commend your works to another;
they will tell of your mighty acts.**

The Lord is overseeing the whole Mission and will bring it to completion.

Jn 6:37 **All that the Father gave to Me will come to Me.**

2 Tim 2:19 **The Lord knows them that are His.**

- Joshua's "old age job" was to set out the allotments of land for each tribe so that there would be acceptance and peace among them all.
- Joshua was the undisputed Leader, so everyone would accept his decision
 - so it **HAD** to be done by him alone.
 - No-one else had the authority to do it.
 - Even Caleb – his old companion from the Wilderness days, followed Joshua!

Why was this?

- a) Joshua's authority came from God.
- b) Joshua acted under obedience to God in everything he did; therefore he could act with **confidence**.

(NB) Considering how **much** of the land was still **TO BE** subdued, it is amazing that God gave them **all** the land **AS IF** it **were** theirs!

- Unfortunately after Joshua's death no leader would emerge with enough authority to lead the **WHOLE** land **so** we see in Judges and 1/2 Samuel that the tribes had to fight for **their own** territory... **But** that meant they were **all** fighting on **all** fronts!!
Since they **all** had to act, it amounted to an enormous attack on Satan's rule in the land.
(We see the resistance in later books: Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and Chronicles)

13:7 tells us there were 9½ tribes about to receive a portion of the land.
The other 2½ had already received their portions in Transjordan, while Moses was still alive.
Num 32; Deut 3:12-17; Josh 12:4-6

13:8-13 God ratifies the gift of territory to the 2½ tribes: Reuben, Gad, ½ Manasseh

- 13:22**
- Here we see the fate of **Balaam, son of Beor** from Num 22:5-7
 - We are told here that he was a **soothsayer**, a prophet of complex character.
 - God had to use **force** to stop him from cursing Israel in Num 22:22
 - Now we discover that, because he aligned himself with the Moabites and Midianites – he died with them!