

May 23–29
Joshua 1–8; 23–24
“Be Strong and of a Good Courage”



Destruction of the Inhabitants of Canaan

"The Hittites, Hivites, and Jebusites were direct descendants of Canaan. By the time Israel approached the promised land, these Canaanites had become an extremely wicked and idolatrous people....

"Sexual immorality had become religious practices to the point where the people were entrenched in depravity and proud of it. Their iniquity was 'full' or total. Accordingly, God sentenced them to death and made Israel the executioner." (Rushdoony, Institutes of Biblical Law, pp. 92–93.)" (Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel)

Destruction of the Inhabitants of Cannan

Deut 9:3

Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee.

Destruction of the Inhabitants of Canaan

Deut 7:1-2,16

What were the Israelites commanded to do?

With our understanding of the gospel of Christ, how can we accept the commandment to “utterly destroy them” and “have no pity”?

1 Nephi 17:32,35

32] And after they had crossed the river Jordan he did make them mighty unto the driving out of the children of the land, yea, unto the scattering them to destruction.

35] Behold, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one; he that is righteous is favored of God. But behold, this people had rejected every word of God, and they were ripe in iniquity; and the fulness of the wrath of God was upon them; and the Lord did curse the land against them, and bless it unto our fathers; yea, he did curse it against them unto their destruction, and he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it.

Joseph Smith

"That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another. God said, 'Thou shalt not kill;' at another time He said, 'Thou shalt utterly destroy.' This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted--by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire." (TPJS, pp 256)

Joshua

Num 14:6-9

6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes

7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.

Joshua

Josh 1:5-9

What does the Lord counsel Joshua to do?

What is Joshua promised will be the result?

How can we apply this counsel to ourselves when we think the Lord has asked us to do things seem beyond our abilities?

Young Men and Young Women General Presidencies

In the space of four verses in the first chapter of Joshua, the Lord commands Joshua to be strong and courageous—three times! (see verses 6–9). Then the Lord promises Joshua that he will succeed in bringing the Israelites to their land of inheritance, that strength and courage will come to him because of his obedience to all the law, and—most significantly—that the Lord will be with him wherever he goes.

That same call to courage is yours. And the same promises are yours as well. With the Savior’s help, you too will succeed in your callings and in your life. You will have strength to withstand any temptation as you obey the commandments.

There were many unknowns facing Joshua. He didn’t know how he would be able to bring the children of Israel into the promised land, but he trusted in the Lord. You might feel uncertain about your future in these troubled times. But be of good courage. The Lord is with you. You can trust in Him. He will help you succeed. (“Facing Challenges with Courage,” New Era, Jan. 2010)

Crossing the River Jordan

Josh 3:6-8, 15-17

How did the priests who bore the ark show their faith in the Lord?

Neal A. Maxwell

"We all have a need to understand that we must walk to the edge of the light, obediently going as far as the Lord has told us to go before expecting him to help us with the next step. Why not, in this connection, link the better known and far more dramatic crossing of the Red Sea with the episode involving Joshua and the children of Israel when the time came for them to cross the flood-swollen Jordan River. Notice that in the latter episode the Lord required them to get the soles of their feet wet first before he stopped up the swollen Jordan so dramatically." ("Teaching Opportunities from the Old Testament," Ensign, Apr. 1981)

Jericho

Josh 5:13-15

Why might we conclude that it was the Lord himself who appeared to Joshua?

Bruce R. McConkie

"Christ himself is the chief soldier in his own army; as Commander, he carries the title captain of the Lord's Host. By this name he appeared to Joshua, who seeing 'him with his sword drawn in his hand,' and hearing him say, 'As captain of the host of the Lord am I now come'.

"Among righteous messengers from the spirit realms, none but Deity will accept worship from mortals, and none but the Lord himself hallows a spot so that mortals are commanded to remove their shoes." (Mormon Doctrine, pp 112)

Jericho

Josh 6:2-5

What does it tell us about the Israelites that they followed these directions just as commanded?

Howard W. Hunter

"Joshua carried out the instructions he had been given by a messenger of the Lord. His commitment was to complete obedience. His concern was to do precisely as he was instructed, that the promise of the Lord would be fulfilled. The instructions no doubt seemed strange, but his faith in the outcome urged him on.

"As Joshua and his people approached Jericho, the instructions of the Lord were followed precisely, and according to the scriptural account, 'the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city' (Josh 6:20)." (CR, Oct. 1982)

Jericho

Hebrews 11:30

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days

The Sun Stood Still

Josh 10:12-14

Joshua's Final Admonition to Israel

Josh 23:11-13

What will happen to Israel if they fail to drive these nations out, but instead cleave to their ways?

Joshua's Final Admonition to Israel

Josh 24:13-16

Ezra Taft Benson

“Now during this critical period, and it is a critical period that we are passing through, I hope that we will keep ever burning in our hearts the spirit of this great work which we represent. If we do so, we’ll have no anxiety; we’ll have no fear; we’ll not worry about the future because the Lord has given us the assurance that if we live righteously, if we keep his commandments, if we humble ourselves before him, all will be well. I turn to two passages of scripture today which I’d like to read:

“...Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.’ (Joshua 1:9.)

Ezra Taft Benson - continued

“...choose you this day whom ye will serve; ...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’ (Joshua 24:15.)

“Embodied in these two passages of scripture are the two principal essentials for security and peace: first, trust in God; and second, a determination to keep the commandments, to serve the Lord, to do that which is right. Latter-day Saints who live according to these two admonitions—trust in God and keep the commandments—have nothing to fear.” (CR, Oct 1950)

For Next Week:

May 30–June 5

Judges 2–4; 6–8; 13–16

“The Lord Raised Up a
Deliverer”

