

# Step 7: Wandering

Suggested Reading: Numbers 13-14; Psalm 106



Spying out the Land.

1. God's Plan

- a. "The land which *I am giving* to the Israelites" (Numbers 13:2)
- b. But..., "stretch out your hand."

2. The spies observed...

a. A *great* land but...

b. fortified cities... walls... armies... **GIANTS**

"... we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes... and we looked the same to them" Numbers 13:33

3. The majority report: \_\_\_\_\_ !

4. The minority report: \_\_\_\_\_ !

5. Biblical commentary on the wandering:  
(Caleb&Joshua)

"A stubborn and rebellious generation whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him..." "they forgot his deeds..." "they continued to rebel against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High" "How often they rebelled against him in the desert..." "and grieved him..." "and pained the Holy One of Israel." Psalm 78:8ff

"Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with this generation..." "See to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart..." "those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness..." "So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief..." "those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience." Hebrews 3:17ff; 4:6

Did Israel wander because of thier...

Unbelief Yes No or Disobedience Yes No

Meanwhile, God's plan *will* be fulfilled:

“As I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord” - Numbers 14:21

But the cost to that generation was high:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson for us:

1. God can handle \_\_\_\_\_...
2. ...but He can't work with:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
3. When we say, “God \_\_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_\_ it short-circuits the purpose of God working through us.

[Note Also: Korah, Dathan, & Abiram; Miriam; Striking the Rock; The Serpent in the Wilderness; Sihon & Og; Balak; Balaam & The Talking Donkey!]

The Pentateuch” Closes and “Moses my servant is dead.” Joshua 1:2

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND CONCEPTS: Step 7, The Wandering

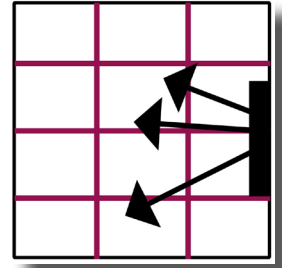
1. Were the Israelites unable to enter the Land because of their unbelief or disobedience?
2. What were the costs to that generation for their unbelief and disobedience?
3. At the time of Moses' death, summarize the progress that had been made in the fulfillment of God's promise to make a nation.
4. Sketch out to identify the specifics of a graphic illustration of the period (covered by the five books of Moses) from the prologue through step seven.

Step Seven (The Wandering) Concepts

1. Grasshoppers!
2. Majority Report
3. The report from the minorities
4. Caleb & Joshua
5. Unbelief / Disobedience

## Step 8: The Land Conquered (Joshua)

Suggested Reading: Joshua 1-12



The Torah closes with the death of Moses:

“... never a prophet like Moses whom the Lord Knew face to face.” Deuteronomy 34:10

The transition from Moses to Joshua

We now move from the Books of Moses (Pentateuch/Law/Torah) to the 12 books of history (Joshua - Nehemiah):

1. The 17 history books tell what God \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The book of Joshua and July 4 or December 12

He did this (brought Israel into the land) so that all the people of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your GOD. Joshua 4:22-24

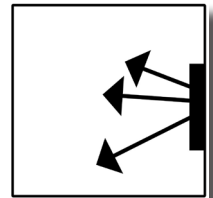
As I live..., all the earth will be filled with the glory for the LORD. Num. 14:21

### ***Overview of the structure of the book of Joshua: Two Phases***

The Land \_\_\_\_\_ (1-12)  
Preparation & Military Campaign

The Land \_\_\_\_\_ (13-22)  
In the tent at Gilgal

Conclusion: Joshua's Message (23-24)



## **The Land Conquered**

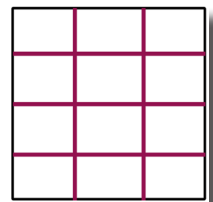
***God commissions Joshua:***

1:2 Moses my servant is dead. Arise; cross this Jordan; you and all the people; to the land which I am giving.

1:5 As I have been with Moses I will be with you -- be strong and courageous.

1:6 You shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

And the Lord said to Abram..., “all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.” (Genesis 13:14, 15)



- 1:9 The Lord your GOD is with you.
- 2:9 The Lord has surely given this land to you;
- 2:24 the Lord has surely given the whole land.

*On The Move*

1. Over the Jordan River
2. Two piles of stones
3. The Camp at Gilgal



*The Military Campaign*

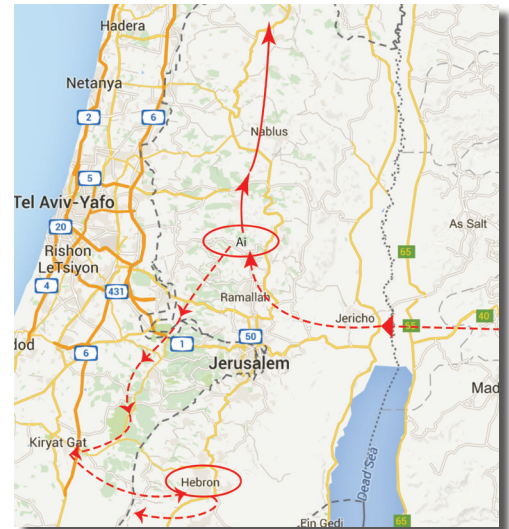
1) **Central Campaign**  
Jericho, Ai



2) **Southern Campaign**  
Philistines, Canaanites, Ai, Jebusites, the 5 Kings



3) **Northern Campaign**  
Phoenicians, Hamor, Giliad, etc.



Summary: Joshua 10: 40, 41

“So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with their kings. ....[He] subdued them from Kadesh-Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon.”

*Two notable Campaigns:*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ campaign illustrated an underlying principle.

Joshua meets “the soldier.”

Question: “Are you for us or are you for our adversary?” (5:13)

Answer: \_\_\_ Us \_\_\_ Them \_\_\_ NO!

“I’ve come in the name of the

\_\_\_\_\_!”  
Joshua responds (having fallen on his face!):

“What message does my Lord have for His servant?” (5:14)

The Lord reveals His Plan: \_\_\_\_\_ is going to do it without their help (!)  
in a way He never does again.

A terrible aftermath of Jericho Campaign. (Joshua 7)

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign

The battle plan

Joshua grieves over the loss, and God reveals the problem:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*A Hard Lesson*

- 1 “I will not be with you anymore” (7:12)
- 2 Individual sin has \_\_\_\_\_ repercussions.

“It is never just, “between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Israel is Camped at Gilgal*

“Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.”  
Joshua 4:20; 5:10; 9:6; 10:6,7,9,15; 43; 14:6

The land is \_\_\_\_\_ but not yet \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Land Assigned (13-24)**

#### **Joshua’s Farwell Message (23-24)**

*You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done (23: 3-5)*

1. Be very strong... hold fast to the LORD (23: 6-8)
2. Great and powerful nations [have been unable] to withstand you (23: 9-11)
3. But if you turn away ... and if you intermarry with them... (23:12-13)
4. Not one of all the promises the LORD your God has given you has failed. (23: 14-16)
5. A history lesson (24: 1-13)

***Now fear the LORD and serve Him with all faithfulness...  
But as for me and my household, we will choose the Lord! (24: 14-16)***

The People Reply:

“Far be it for us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ... We too will serve the LORD...”  
(24: 16-18)

#### ***Joshua’s Warning:***

***“You are not able to serve the LORD.” (24: 19-24)***

#### ***The Covenant at Shechem (24: 25-27)***

#### ***The Death of Joshua (24: 28-30)***

### **Review Questions & Concepts: Step 8, The Land Conquered**

1. Explain the organization of the book of Joshua
2. Why would “General” Joshua be of interest to military strategists?
3. In what sense was the battle of Jericho unique in how God works?
4. How does Ai illustrate that my sin is never just “between myself and God”?
5. Sketch out and identify the specific of a graphic illustration of Step 8

Step Eight (the Land Conquered) Concept

- |           |                |              |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Torah  | 3. Gilgal      | 5. Achan     |
| 2. Stones | 4. Ai: 3000/36 | 6. Jebusites |