

JOSHUA
CHAPTER
FOUR

1. When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,
2. "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe,
- 3 and ~~first~~ tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."
4. So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,
- 5 and said to them 'Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites.
6. To serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you "What do these stones mean?

7 "tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

8 As the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.

9 Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

10 Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over.

11. and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched.

12. The men of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them.

13. About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.

14.

That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the day of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.

15. Then the Lord said to Joshua, ¹⁶Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan."

17. So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."

18. And the priests came up out of the river carrying

the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

¹⁹ On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.

²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.

²¹ He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?'

²² tell them, 'Israel your God crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

²³ For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what He had done to the Red Sea when He dried it up before us until we had crossed over.

JOSHUA 4

13

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24. ~~the ark~~ He did this so that all the peoples 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
CHAPTER
FIVE

Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they have crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

- 2) At that time, the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again."³⁾ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.
- 4) Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt.
- 5) All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not.

6. The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the Land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us a Land flowing with milk and honey.

7. So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumstances. They were still uncircumcised because they have not been circumcised on the way.

8. And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

9. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you. So the place has been called Gilgal to this day."

10. On the evening of the fourteenth day

8. of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.

11. The day after the passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain.

12. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

13. Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

14. The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Joshua 6

13 Circuit Eisteddfod

'Now Jericho was shut up inside and out because of the Israelites; no one came out and no one went in.'² The Lord said to Joshua 'See, I have handed Jericho over to you, along with its king and soldiers.³ You shall march around the city, all the warriors circling the city once. Thus you shall do for six days,⁴ with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark.

On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets.⁵ When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and all the people shall charge straight ahead.'^b So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant, and have seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark of the

Lord.'⁷ To the people he said, 'Go onward and march around the city; have the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord.'

As Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them.⁹ And the armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets; the rearguard came after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually.

To the people Joshua gave this command: 'You shall not shout or let your voice be heard, nor shall you utter a word, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.'¹⁰ So the ark of the Lord went around the city, circling it once; and they came into the camp, and spent the night in the camp.

Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.¹³ The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of ram's horns before

the ark of the Lord passed on, blowing the trumpets continually. The armed men went before them and the rearguard came after the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets blew continually.¹⁴ On the second day they marched around the city once and then returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵ On the seventh day they rose early, at dawn, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on ¹⁶ that day that they marched around the city seven times. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, 'Shout! For the LORD has given you the city.'¹⁷ The city and all that is in it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers we sent.

¹⁸ As for you, keep away from the things devoted to destruction, so as not to covet and take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel an object

for destruction, bringing trouble upon it.¹⁹ But all silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are sacred to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.²⁰ So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it.²¹ Then they devoted to destruction by the edge of the sword all in the city, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.

²² Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house, and bring the woman out of the house and all who belong to her, as you swore to her."²³ So the young men who had been spies went in and brought Rahab out, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her.

to her — they brought all her kindred out — and set them outside the camp of Israel.²⁴ They burned down the city, and everything in it; only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.²⁵ But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared. Her family has lived in Israel ever since. For she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

²⁶ Joshua then pronounced this oath saying, 'Cursed before the Lord be anyone who tries to build this city — this Jericho! At the cost of his firstborn he shall lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest he shall set up its gates!' ²⁷ So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

1.

But the Israelites broke faith in regard to the devoted things: Achan son of Carmi son of Zabdi son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things; and the anger of the Lord turned against the Israelites. Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, 'Go up and spy out the land.' And the men went up and spied out Ai.

³ Then they returned to Joshua and said to him, 'Not all the people need to go up; about two or three thousand men should go up and attack Ai. Since they are so few, do not make the whole people toil up there.'

⁴ So about three thousand of the people went up there; and they fled before the men of Ai. The men of Ai killed about thirty six of them, chasing them from outside the gate as far as Shebarim and killing them on the slope. The hearts of the people failed and turned to water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the ground on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. ⁷

Joshua said, 'Ah, Lord God! Why have you brought this people across the Jordan at all, to hand us over to the Amorites so as to destroy us? Would that we had been content to settle beyond the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has turned their backs to their enemies! ⁹ The Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will you do for your great name?' ¹⁰

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Stand up! Why have you fallen upon your face? "Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I imposed on them. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have acted deceitfully, and they have put them among their belongings."

¹¹ Therefore, the Israelites are unable to stand before their enemies; they turn their backs to their enemies; because they have borne a thing devoted for destruction themselves. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. Proceed to sanctify ^{12,13}

the people, and say, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'There are devoted things among you, O Israel; you will be unable to stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you.'¹⁴ In the morning therefore shall come forward tribe by tribe. The tribe that the Lord takes shall come near by clans, the clan that the Lord takes shall come near by households and the household that the Lord takes shall come near one by one.¹⁵ And the one who is taken as having the devoted things shall be burned with fire, together with all that he has, for having transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and for having done an outrageous thing in Israel."¹⁶ So Joshua rose early in the morning, and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken.¹⁷ He brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken; and he brought near the clan of

the Zerahites, family by family, and Zabdi was taken.¹⁸ And he brought near his household one by one, and Achan son of Carmi son of Zabdi son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and make confession to him. Tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." And Achan answered Joshua, "It is true; I am the one who sinned against the Lord God of Israel. This is what I did:²⁰ when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, then I coveted them and took them. They now lie hidden in the ground in my tent, with the silver underneath."²¹

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent with the

silver underneath.²³ They took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and they spread them out before the Lord.

²⁴ Then Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan son of Zerah, with the silver, the mantle, and the bar of gold, with his sons and daughters, with his oxen, donkeys, and sheep, and his tent and all that he had; and they brought them up to the Valley of Achan. ²⁵ Joshua said, 'Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord is bringing trouble on you today.' And all Israel stoned him to death; they burned them with fire, cast stones on them,
²⁶ and raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger. Therefore that place to this day is called the Valley of Achan.