

Conquering the Promise Land

Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Joshua 3

¹ Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. ² After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³ giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. ⁴ Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

⁵ Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

⁶ Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

⁷ And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Transition

- This is a year of conquering.
- This year is a year of victory.
- A year in which the enemy of your soul will be conquered.

- The territory that God has for you to conquer will be yours.
- This is a new season of conquering.
- Things that have plagued you for years are already being broken.
- Victory awaits you.
- Wait and see.
- See what God is about to do.

This is the WORD that Joshua spoke to the people of Israel.

This is the WORD that God is saying over you.

Point

- The Israelites are assured that they will defeat the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.
- Here will be the sign.

Joshua 3:11-13

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Question

- How do you know that God has ensured your victory?
- Is there a sign that God has given you to give you confidence that your victory is guaranteed?
- Is there something that we can see or know or experience that will help our faith?
- What sign has God give you that will say – yes this is what I have done!

I. God has given you his conquering son.

- A. The foundation for our faith.
 1. Jesus Christ God’s son.
 2. He is the promised one.
 3. He is the anointed one.
 4. He is the overcoming one.
 - 5.

Romans 8:31-37

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- B. Joshua was a type or foreshadowing of Jesus.
1. Joshua and Jesus
 2. The name **Joshua** in Hebrew is **Yehoshua**.
 3. It is the same name as **Jesus**.
 4. Joshua crossed over the Jordan River
 5. The Arc entered into the Jordan
 - a. The Stone Tablets
 - b. The Budding Rod of Aaron
 - c. The golden Jar of manna.
 6. Jesus entered into the Jordan in the same spot that the Arc crossed.
 - a. He is the fulfillment of the Law
 - b. He is the Chosen son of God – and all authority has been given to him in heaven and on earth.
 - c. He is the bread of Life and if you eat of him you will never be hungry again.
 7. When the Arc entered the Jordan the water stopped flowing and heaped up at a city called Adam.
 8. When Jesus entered the Jordan and began his earthly ministry his work on the cross broke the curse of Sin all the way back to the first man Genesis calls Adam.
 9. Joshua led Israel into the **earthly promised land**.
 10. But Jesus Christ leads believers into a **spiritual inheritance**.
 11. Joshua conquered physical enemies.
 12. Jesus conquers
 - a. Sin
 - b. Death
 - c. Satan

d. The world

Matthew 3:16-17

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

And because He conquered, believers share His victory

The river where Israel entered the promise became the river where Jesus began the mission to conquer sin.

C. Two important pieces of evidence.

1. The empty grave.



Matthew 28:1-6

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

2. The scars on his body.

John 20:24-29

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

II. The Inhabitants are completely conquered

Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

- The nations listed in Joshua 3:10 were historically real peoples inhabiting Canaan. But many teachers have seen spiritual parallels between their characteristics and the enemies believers face.
- The number **seven** often represents **completeness** in Scripture. The picture is this:
- God gives **complete victory**.

A. Canaanites represent - Spirit of this World.

1. They were traders and merchants who dominated the land economically.
2. Their culture revolved around **prosperity, idolatry, and material success**.
3. Modern parallel:
4. The believer must conquer **worldliness**.
5. The New Testament warns:
6. “Do not love the world...” (1 John 2:15)
7. Through Christ, we conquer the pull of the world’s values.

B. Hittites represent - Fear.

1. The Hittites were one of the most powerful military civilizations in the ancient Near East.
2. Their name may derive from a word meaning **terror** or **dread**.
3. When the spies first saw the land, fear spread through Israel.
4. But believers conquer fear through Christ.

5. "God has not given us a spirit of fear..." (2 Timothy 1:7)
6. Because we have a conquering Savior, fear cannot dominate us.

C. The Hivites represent - Deception

1. The Hivites were known for cunning diplomacy
2. In Joshua 9, they deceived Israel into making a covenant through trickery.
3. Their story illustrates **spiritual deception**.
4. The enemy still works through:
 - a. Lies
 - b. half-truths
 - c. spiritual compromise
5. But through Christ and the Spirit we overcome deception because the Spirit leads us into truth (John 16:13).

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

D. The Perizzites represent - Disorder or Vulnerability

1. Perizzites were people living in unwalled villages.
2. Their name implies **rural or unprotected communities**.
3. Spiritually this reflects **a life without spiritual boundaries**.
4. Many believers struggle because their lives lack:
 - a. Discipline
 - b. Protection
 - c. Spiritual structure

Through Christ we conquer chaos by walking in the Spirit.

E. The Gergashites represent – Compromise

1. Historically the Gergashites seem to have been absorbed into other cultures.
2. They represent spiritual compromise and assimilation.
3. The danger for believers today is blending into culture instead of transforming it.
4. But those who belong to Christ are called to live differently.
5. Victory in Christ empowers us to stand apart.

F. The Amorites represent – Pride

1. The Amorites were known for their towering stature and strong fortified cities.
2. Their name is often associated with **arrogance and prominence**.

3. Spiritually they represent **human pride and self-exaltation**.
4. But the gospel conquers pride.
5. Because our victory comes **through Christ**, not ourselves.

G. The Jebusites represent – The Spirit of Entrenched Strongholds

1. Jebus is the ancient name for Jerusalem
2. The Jebusites occupied Jerusalem and were so confident in their defenses that they believed no one could conquer them.
3. They represent **deep spiritual strongholds**.
4. Habits.
Bondages.
Long-standing battles.
5. Yet even Jerusalem eventually fell under David (2 Samuel 5).
6. Through Christ, **even the strongest strongholds fall**.

Illustration

- God had already provided a pathway for victory they just needed to follow the water upstream and dig a little.

Application

- But the promise of God was clear:
- Every enemy would be driven out.
- And through Christ the same promise applies spiritually.
- Fear can fall.
- Sin can fall.
- Addiction can fall.
- Strongholds can fall.

Why? -- Because God has given us His conquering Son.

III. It takes courage to conquer.

- A. Recap what God told Joshua earlier in verse 1.
 1. Unpack the text.
 2. Talk about what had to transpire in Joshua first.
 3. God implanted within him a mission – a purpose – a vision – a powerful challenge.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

- B. Epidemic of weakness in Joshua's day.
 - 1. The people needed Courageous Leadership

Courageous Leadership does what is right regardless of the consequences.

Nothing in life ever happens apart from courage. Do you understand me? Nothing in your ministry will ever take place apart from courage. Somebody has to pull the trigger. The very nature of leadership means the willingness to stand by yourself and be the visible, prophetic reality of what the future looks like.

That's the very nature of leadership. That is it by its nature. Leadership is not a reflection of where things are. Leadership is the prophetic statement of where things ought to be. Inherent in leadership is a call to embrace aloneness and resilience. And that's the message of Joshua 1.