10th Grade | Unit 4
BIBLE 1004
Israel in Canaan

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Israel in Canaan

Introduction

Our survey of the Old Testament to this LIFEPAC® study has included these topics: Creation to Abraham, Genesis 1-11; Abraham to Moses, Genesis 12-50; and The Exodus and Wanderings, Exodus through Deuteronomy. In this LIFEPAC the book of Joshua will be studied, and the outline of Joshua in this study includes these major divisions.

1. Conquest of the Land..............................(1-12)
2. Division of the Land.............................. (13-22)
3. Farewell and Death of Joshua ..............(23-24)

The book of Joshua is the first of twelve books of history. The book bears the name of the divinely chosen successor to Moses; Joshua is the central person, the main character in the book.

According to the Talmud, Joshua was the author of the book that bears this name, except for the last five verses, which were appended by Phinehas. Jewish tradition attributes authorship of the book to Joshua.

Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim (Numbers 13:8). His name means Jehovah is salvation. As a young man, Joshua was selected by Moses to be his minister (Exodus 24:13). He led Israel in their first battle, against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-14); and he accompanied Moses to the mount of God when God gave Moses the tablets of stone and the Law (Exodus 24:12-13). Joshua was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses from Kadesh to Canaan. Because of their good reports and expressions of faith in God to give them the land, only Joshua and Caleb (among all the men of Israel at Kadesh twenty years of age or older) survived the wilderness wanderings and entered Canaan (Numbers 14:26-30).

The major purpose of the book of Joshua was to record the consummation of the redemption of Israel. That redemption had two parts: out of Egypt and into Canaan (Deuteronomy 6:23).

Objectives

Read the following objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Outline the book of Joshua and identify its purpose.
2. Discuss the final preparation of Joshua and Israel for their conquest of Canaan.
3. Identify the three major campaigns of the overall war for Canaan and their significant defeats and victories.
4. Explain the division of the land.
5. Trace the revelation of God’s redemptive plan.
Survey the LIFEPAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

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1. CONQUEST OF THE LAND

The land God had promised Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the nation Israel was near; and Joshua had been chosen and commissioned to lead Israel in their conquest of Canaan. The armies of Canaan were strong; they were experienced in war and well equipped. The Canaanites had iron chariots (Joshua 17:18) and fortified cities (Numbers 13:28). Also, the kings of Canaan often joined in alliances against a common enemy.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Outline the book of Joshua and identify its purpose.
2. Discuss the final preparation of Joshua and Israel for their conquest of Canaan.
3. Identify the three major campaigns of the overall war for Canaan and their significant defeats and victories.
4. Trace the revelation of God’s redemptive plan.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

- circumcision
- manna
- Passover
- reconnaissance
- Talmud
THE FINAL PREPARATION

The final preparation of Joshua and Israel to conquer Canaan included a charge to Joshua (chapter 1), the reconnaissance of Jericho (chapter 2), the crossing of Jordan (3:1-5:1), and a spiritual renewal at Gilgal (5:2-15).

A charge to Joshua. In His final preparation of Joshua and Israel for their conquest of Canaan, God charged Joshua to cross the Jordan (1:2), to conquer the land (1:3-5), and to divide the inheritance (1:6). In Joshua 1:8, the Lord exhorted Joshua that prosperity and success were dependent upon the careful meditation in and obedience to His Book of the Law—all that was written therein. In Joshua 1:9, God encouraged Joshua to be strong, courageous, and fearless because Jehovah his God was with him at all times and in every place — “whithersoever thou goest.”

In immediate response to God’s charge, Joshua instructed Israel to prepare for entry into and possession of the land. He enlisted the men among the Reubenites, and Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to join the other tribes in the crossing of the Jordan and the conquest of the land. Joshua assured the men of the two and one-half tribes that upon victory in Canaan they could return to the east side of Jordan to their families and the land that Moses had given them.

Complete the following activities.

1.1 Write the three major divisions of Joshua in order and give the Scripture references:
   a. _____________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. _____________________________________________________________________________________________
   c. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

1.2 The book of Joshua is the first of twelve books of ________________________________.

1.3 A collection of Jewish writings of the early Christian Era that identifies Joshua as the author of the book bearing his name is called the ________________________________.

1.4 The book of Joshua records the consummation of the a. ______________ of Israel:
   b. ________________________________ the land.

1.5 The armies of Canaan were strong; they were experienced in a. ________________________________ and well b. ________________________________.
1.6 The Canaanites had chariots of a. __________________ and fortified b. __________________ .

1.7 The kings of Canaan often joined in a. __________________________ against b. __________________________ .

1.8 The final preparation of Joshua and Israel to conquer Canaan included four significant events:
   a. ____________________________________________ ,
   b. ____________________________________________ ,
   c. ____________________________________________ , and
   d. ____________________________________________ .

1.9 God's charge to Joshua included three commands: a. __________________________ ,
   b. __________________________ , and
   c. __________________________ .

1.10 What was God's exhortation to Joshua in 1:8?
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________

1.11 In Joshua 1:9, what encouragement did God give Joshua?
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________

1.12 The two and one-half tribes of Israel to whom Moses had given land on the east side of the
   Jordan and whom Joshua enlisted for the conquest of Canaan were the
   a. __________________________ , the b. __________________________ , and the half tribe of
   c. __________________________ .
The reconnaissance of Jericho. While the camp of Israel was busy with preparations for their movement into Canaan, Joshua sent two men on a reconnaissance mission to Jericho. The city of Jericho would be Israel's first point of resistance and victory in the land. The two spies entered secretly into Jericho and were hidden by a harlot named Rahab (2:1-7). Rahab confessed her faith in Jehovah and expressed the fear of Israel in Jericho and in the land of Canaan (2:8-9).

As a result of her faith, Rahab was spared later by Israel at the destruction of Jericho. Rahab is mentioned three times in the New Testament: Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31, and James 2:25. Not only was Rahab justified by faith, but also she was included in the lineage of David and of Christ. Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. God honors faith and rewards faithfulness.

Compare the report of the two spies (Joshua 2:24) to that of the ten previous spies (Numbers 13:31-33). The two spies returned from Jericho and Canaan with an encouraging report: The hearts of the Canaanites were melting with fear of the Israelites.

Complete the following activities.

1.13 Joshua sent two men on a ________________________________ mission to Jericho.

1.14 The mission of the two spies sent to Jericho had both military and spiritual significance. (true or false?) ________________________________

1.15 By faith, Rahab was spared destruction by Israel, granted justification by Jehovah, and included in the lineage of both a. ______________________ and b. ________________________ .

The crossing of Jordan. As He had done at the Red Sea, the Lord performed a spectacular miracle at the Jordan River. The miracle of God and the crossing of the river Jordan by Israel took place during the rainy season when the Jordan overflowed its banks (3:15). Early one morning, Joshua led Israel from Shittim to Jordan. After three days, officers were instructed to watch the Ark of the Covenant. When they saw the priests and the Levites bearing it, they were to follow it.
As the feet of the priests bearing the Ark touched the rushing water, the water stopped flowing and rolled back into a great wall of water providing them a passage on dry land. The priests stood on firm, dry ground in the midst of the river while the people of Israel passed over on dry ground (3:17). God instructed Joshua to remove from the midst of the Jordan twelve stones as a memorial of Israel’s experience. The stones were removed and placed at Gilgal where Israel camped (kept their women, children, and possessions) until the land was conquered and divided.

In Egypt and at the Red Sea, God had shown the impotence of the false gods and idols the Egyptians worshiped, and He demonstrated His mighty power to them. By the crossing of the Jordan, again God had revealed the powerless-ness of false gods. Among the false gods the Canaanites worshiped were Prince Yamm (sea) and Judge Nahas (river). The crossing of the Red Sea and the Jordan River affirmed to the wicked Canaanites the futility of their false worship and the power of Jehovah, God of the Israelites, Who would establish His rule and worship in Canaan.

The miracle at the crossing of the Jordan River established Joshua among the people as Moses’ successor (4:14), assured Israel of God’s presence with them (4:19-23), brought Israel into the final stage of their redemptive experience: into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 6:23), and terrified the people of Canaan (4:24-5:1).

**A spiritual renewal at Gilgal.** Israel’s first responsibility in the land was worship and renewal of a right relationship with God. Before Israel kept the Passover (5:10-12), the men were to be circumcised (5:2-9). Recall from Genesis 17:1-14 that circumcision was a token or sign of the covenant God made with Abraham, which included His promise of the land that Israel had just entered as their everlasting inheritance. The former generation that died in the wilderness had been circumcised, but this new generation had not been circumcised. By circumcision, the reproach of Egypt was rolled away (Joshua 5:9). This rite speaks of restoration or renewal through obedience. Their observance of the Passover commemorated the fulfillment of their deliverance from Egypt to the land of promise. Eating now the fruit of the land, Israel no longer needed the manna by which God had sustained them from Egypt to Canaan. After they observed the Passover and partook of the fruit of the land, the manna ceased.

On the eve of the campaigns for conquest of Canaan, the Lord appeared to Joshua (5:13-15), giving him renewed courage and strength. The sword He held and the title He claimed—Captain of the host of the LORD—suggested the source of Israel’s victories in the coming campaigns.
Complete the following activities.

1.16 As a memorial of Israel’s experience at Jordan and in response to God’s command, Joshua removed twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan and placed them at ________________.

1.17 Identify four results of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River.
   a. ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   c. ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   d. _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Complete the following activities.

1.18 At Gilgal, Israel celebrated their deliverance from Egypt to Canaan by keeping the ____________________________.

1.19 The reproach of Egypt was “rolled away” by the rite of a. ________________________________,
an act of b. _______________________________ and a sign of the c. ________________________________.

1.20 After Israel observed the Passover and partook of the fruit of the land, their ____________________________ ceased.

1.21 The Lord appeared to Joshua as a. ________________________________ of the hosts of the
   b. ________________________________.

1.22 The sword in hand and the title used by the Lord suggested the source of Israel’s
   ________________________________ in Canaan.
Israel was approaching a series of campaigns in a holy war. Not only would their war be one to conquer the land God had given them, but also the war would be one of destruction and extermination of the wicked Canaanites whose sin and idolatry God hated and would judge (Leviticus 18:24-31; Deuteronomy 12:31; Deuteronomy 20:16-18; and 1 Kings 14:23-24).

The war of conquest in Canaan can be divided into three major campaigns: the central campaign (6-8), the southern campaign (9-10), and the northern campaign (11), with a summary report (11-12).

**THE CENTRAL CAMPAIGN**

The campaign for central Canaan involved the cities of both Jericho (6) and Ai (7-8).

**Jericho.** The city of Jericho was a strategically located stronghold, a walled fortress six miles west of Jordan and on a main route through central Canaan. Israel’s means of victory over Jericho was faith and obedience; their source of victory was God. God gave Joshua a peculiar strategy for war against Jericho. No rational reason could be given for following such a strange plan, except faith in the God of Israel. Israel was instructed to form a procession and march around Jericho once a day for six days; and on the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. The thirteen marches in seven days probably increased fear in the hearts of the inhabitants of Jericho and added faith to the hearts of the Israelites (Hebrews 11:30). Observation of the massive walls could have impressed upon Israel their utter hopelessness apart from the intervention of the Lord. Studies of archaeology have indicated that the inner walls of Jericho were about twelve feet thick and that the outer wall was approximately six feet thick.

Israel’s march around Jericho was to be quiet except for the blowing of trumpets by the seven priests until the seventh day and the thirteenth march around the city. After the seventh march on that seventh day, the people were told to shout with a great shout (6:20). At the shout of the people, the walls fell down flat. Joshua had instructed Israel to destroy everyone in Jericho except Rahab and her family and everything except the silver, gold, brass, and iron which were to be brought into the Lord’s treasury (6:19).

**Ai.** Located about ten miles west of Jericho, Ai also occupied a strategic position on the main east-west and north-south routes through central Canaan and was near Bethel. God had just given Israel a dramatic victory over a strong city, Jericho. At the recommendation of the spies sent to Ai, Joshua sent only a small army of three thousand men against Ai with confidence of an easy victory (7:2-4); but, instead of victory at Ai, Israel met defeat. Apparently, when other means failed, Joshua resorted to prayer, which he should have done initially. For a moment, he sounded like
his relatives who died in the wilderness (7:7). God told Joshua to get up and to take care of a problem among the people. Their problem was not the military might of the people of Ai, but the spiritual weakness of the people of Israel—sin was in the camp; Achan had been disobedient, had coveted, and had stolen from the Lord. When sin was judged (7:22-26), Israel’s defeat was turned by the Lord to victory (8:1; 18). God would establish Israel in Canaan as a holy nation.

With their victory at Ai, Israel concluded the central campaign against the Canaanites. After the triumph at Ai, Israel traveled twenty or thirty miles to Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim (8:30-35), two great mountains that faced each other in the center of Canaan, to fulfill a commandment of the Lord by Moses (Deuteronomy 27:1-13). At Ebal and Gerizim, Israel publicly acknowledged their God and His Word in the heart of the land and openly proclaimed their allegiance to Him.

Complete the following activities.

1.23 Give two reasons for Israel’s holy war in Canaan.
   a. ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

1.24 The campaign for central Canaan involved both a. ____________________________ and b. ____________________________.

1.25 The only valid reason for following the peculiar strategy God gave Israel for Jericho was a. ____________________________ in God and b. ____________________________ to His Word.

1.26 What were two likely results of the strange marches around Jericho by Israel those seven days?
   a. _____________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. _____________________________________________________________________________________________

1.27 During their marches around Jericho, Israel probably had impressed upon them the utter hopelessness of their offensive apart from the intervention of Jehovah because of their observation of the ____________________________ of Jericho.
1.28 Israel was instructed of the Lord by Joshua to destroy everyone in Jericho except
a. __________________________________________ and everything except
b. __________________________________________, which were to be
brought into c. ________________________________.

1.29 Israel was defeated at a. ______________________ because of b. ____________________________
in the camp.

1.30 The Israelite whose sin had led to Israel’s defeat at Ai was ____________________________.

1.31 God turned Israel’s defeat into victory when ____________________________________________.

1.32 God would establish Israel in Canaan as a _________________________________ nation.

1.33 After their triumph at Ai, Israel journeyed to Mount a. _______________________________,
and Mount b. _______________ to fulfill a commandment of the Lord by c. ________________.

1.34 In the heart of the land upon the conclusion of their central campaign. Israel publicly
acknowledged their a. __________________________ and b. ____________________________.

THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

Hearing that Jericho and Ai had been destroyed by Israel, five Amorite kings of southern
Canaan formed an alliance against Israel. The Gibeonites preferred to attempt a league with
Israel.

The Gibeonites. If they were to effect a league with Israel, the Gibeonites would have
to conceal their real identity. They were, in reality, one of the seven condemned nations
that Joshua was commanded to destroy (Deuteronomy 7:1): the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites (Gibeonites, 9:7), and Jebusites. Having
disguised themselves as travelers from a far country, the Gibeonites went to Joshua at Gilgal
and convinced him to enter a league with them. Israel disobeyed a clear command of the Lord
in Deuteronomy 7:2. In addition, they sinned against the Lord by failing to seek His counsel
in the matter of the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:14). When Israel discovered their error and the
deceit of the Hivites, they would not destroy them for they had sworn in the name of
Jehovah to protect them.

The Amorites. Because of the Gibeonites’ treachery, the five Amorite kings of the south
determined to destroy the traitors. Assured by God of victory, Joshua launched a surprise
attack against the southern alliance and the Lord defeated them before Israel (10:10-11).
To assist Israel in this southern campaign, God struck the Amorites with hailstones and
answered Joshua’s special prayer causing the “sun and moon to stand still,” the length of the
day to be prolonged, giving Israel additional time to slay their enemies. The moon and
sun were worshiped by the Canaanites. This particular miracle demonstrated again the
power of Jehovah, Who alone is God. Having captured and executed the five Amorite kings
(10:15-17), Israel destroyed seven other cities in southern Canaan (10:28-43).
THE NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

Having heard of the victories of Israel in the south, Jabin, king of Hazor, brought together an even larger league of kings from the south and west (11:1-5). As in the south, God delivered defeat to all the enemies of Israel in the north, utterly destroying them at the hands of Israel (11:6-14).

Complete the following statements.

1.35 Israel was deceived into entering a league with enemies God had condemned to destruction; those enemies were the a. ________________________ or b. ______________________ mentioned in Deuteronomy 7:1.

1.36 In addition to violating a command of the Lord, Israel also failed to ________________ in the matter of the league with the Gibeonites.

1.37 To effect defeat of the five Amorite kings, the Lord sent a. _________________________ upon the enemies and caused b. ____________________________ to be prolonged, giving Israel additional c. ____________________________ to slay their enemies.

1.38 Perhaps the greatest alliance in Canaan against Israel was brought together in the a. ________________________ by b. ________________________ , king of c. ________________________

1.39 In the northern campaign, the enemies of Israel were delivered by a. ______________________ to Israel for complete b. ________________________ .

Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.
SELF TEST 1

Write true or false (each answer, 3 points).

1.01 __________ Joshua took one other man with him on a spying mission to Jericho.
1.02 __________ By the rule of circumcision, Israel celebrated their deliverance from Egypt to Canaan.
1.03 __________ After Israel observed the Passover and partook of the fruit of the land, their manna ceased.
1.04 __________ The Lord appeared to Joshua by Jericho as “Captain of the hosts of Israel.”
1.05 __________ The only valid reason for following the peculiar strategy God gave Israel for Jericho was faith in God and obedience to His Word.

On the blanks, write the letters for the correct answers (each answer, 3 points).

1.06 God’s charge to Joshua in Joshua chapter 1, included all the following commands except __________.
   a. to cross the Jordan
   b. to conquer the land
   c. to read the Law publicly at Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim
   d. to divide the inheritance

1.07 As a memorial of Israel’s experience at Jordan and in response to God’s command, Joshua had twelve stones removed from the midst of the river and placed at __________.
   a. Gilgal
   b. Jericho
   c. Mt. Ebal
   d. Bethel

1.08 All of the following items are results of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River except __________.
   a. Joshua was established among the people as Moses’ successor.
   b. Israel was assured of God’s presence with them.
   c. Israel’s redemption was complete.
   d. The Canaanites were terrified by Israel.

1.09 The reason for Israel’s defeat at Ai was __________.
   a. martial
   b. spiritual
   c. numerical
   d. psychological

1.10 Rahab was included in the lineage of __________.
   a. Saul
   b. David
   c. Jesus
   d. b and c
Complete these items (each answer, 5 points).

1.011 Outline the three major divisions of Joshua (give references).
   a. __________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________________________________________________________

1.012 Identify four significant events included in the final preparation of Joshua and Israel to conquer Canaan.
   a. __________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________________________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________________________________________________________

1.013 The first book of the twelve books of history is ________________________________.

1.014 Give two reasons for Israel’s holy war in Canaan.
   a. __________________________________________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________________________________________

Match these items (each answer, 4 points).

1.015 _____ Talmud                          a. celebrated Israel’s deliverance from Egypt to Canaan
1.016 _____ circumcision                    b. defeated the five Amorite kings
1.017 _____ Joshua (the book)               c. deceived Israel and secured a league
1.018 _____ Passover                        d. removed the “reproach of Egypt”
1.019 _____ Hivite                          e. identified authorship
                                                f. records the consummation of Israel’s redemption

“And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.” — Deuteronomy 6:23