

3rd Quarter – Week 9

(Crossing the Jordan River – Military Victories)

Day 1 Joshua 4-5	Key Thoughts: • After the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River, God commands Joshua to choose twelve men, one from each tribe, to take twelve stones from the middle of the riverbed. The stones are to be gathered from the place where the priests are holding the Ark of the Covenant (4:1-7). • Two memorials are set up. The memorials are twelve stones one in the riverbed and one at Gilgal. As soon as the priests step onto the riverbed the water rushes back. The memorial reminds Israel to fear the Lord and lets all the people know the God of Israel is mighty (4:8-24). • The people of Israel are spiritually prepared for battle. The men of Israel are circumcised leaving them vulnerable to attack testing their faith in God (5:1-9). • The Passover is celebrated and the manna ceases. The Lord appears to Joshua and declares Himself the Commander of the Lord's army (5:10-15). Jesus Christ: The Commander of the army of the Lord is a preincarnate appearance of Jesus.
Day 2 Joshua 6 <u>What on Earth is God Doing?</u> Pg. 29-30	Key Thoughts: • The city of Jericho is sealed up and barricaded with high walls. God promises Joshua the victory. God then reveals the strategy to take the city. Once a day for six days, the armed men will march around the city. On the seventh day, they will march around the city seven times with the priests blowing trumpets and horns. Joshua readies the people and they obey God's commands (6:1-14). • On the seventh day, the trumpets blast, the people shout, and the walls came down. Every living thing in the city is destroyed except Rahab and her family as promised. The city is burned except for the gold, silver, bronze and iron which is saved for the Lord's treasury. Joshua curses the city and his fame spread throughout the land (6:15-27). Jesus Christ: The Commander of chapter 5 leads His people to victory pointing to Jesus providing spiritual victory.
Day 3 Joshua 7	Key Thoughts: • Achan from the tribe of Judah disobeys God and takes plunder for himself from Jericho. When 3000 soldiers attack Ai and they are defeated, God reveals to Joshua there is sin in the camp. God tells Israel to consecrate themselves and cast lots to reveal the sinner (7:1-15). • Achan is identified and encouraged to confess. Achan confesses his sin as he saw the treasures, he coveted them, he took them and then he hid them. The items are retrieved and Achan and his family and all he owned are destroyed (7:16-26). Jesus Christ: Achan bore the literal curse of his own sin. Jesus took the curse for us on the cross to turn away God's wrath (Gal.3:13).

Day 4 Joshua 8	Key Thoughts: • With the sin issue fixed, God commands Joshua to go and take Ai. A strategy of an ambush is set up. Joshua leads the army forwards and feigns a retreat. The king of Ai rushes out to attack, and is overwhelmed by Israel's army. No survivors remain, and the king is hanged on a tree. God allows Israel to keep the livestock and valuables (8:1-29). • An altar is built on Mount Ebal where people offer burnt offerings and peace sacrifices to God. The law is inscribed onto the stones witnessed by the people. The people divide into two groups around the Ark of the Covenant to receive blessings. Joshua reads the law in its entirety (8:30-35). Jesus Christ: Mount Ebal was the mountain of the curse as the curses for not obeying the Lord were read from that mountain. Sacrifices on Mount Ebal demonstrated Jesus is the answer to sin.
Day 5 Joshua 9	Key Thoughts: • The Canaanite kings unit against Israel. The Gibeonites fake a long journey and come to Joshua to request a peace treaty. The Israelites and Joshua make a peace agreement failing to consult the Lord (9:1-15). • Three days after the peace treaty, Israel discovers the Gibeonites are close neighbors and have deceived Joshua and Israel. The congregation grumbles against the leaders (9:16-18). • The oath is upheld and honored but Joshua confront the Gibeonites and makes them permanent woodcutters and water carriers for the people and the alter of God (9:19-27). Jesus Christ: Jesus teaches the need to rely on the Word of God for true discernment.
Day 6 Joshua 10	Key Thoughts: • Five kings gather to attack Gibeon for making a peace treaty with Israel. Israel, given assurance from God, intervenes and fights for Gibeon. The five kings' army is defeated and God kills many of their soldiers with a hailstorm. Joshua prayer for the sun to stand still in order to complete the victory (10:1-15). • The five kings flee to a cave. They are captured and executed by hanging. They are buried in the cave (10:16-27). • The army of Israel heads to the southern cities. The entire southern region from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza is subdued. They glory for the victories goes to "the Lord, the God of Israel fought for Israel." (10:28-43) Jesus Christ: The king ruling over Jerusalem was Adoni-Zedek, which literally means Lord of Righteousness. He was a counterfeit and joined with the other kings to oppose God's people. Jesus taught the World will unite to oppose God's people today, and will often act as a counterfeit.