

JOSHUA

# Covenant in the Midst of Conquest

Joshua 8:30-35



Wassilla

# Before Jericho...

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- The Israelites memorialized the crossing of the Jordan in Chapter 4.
- They were circumcised and celebrated Passover in Chapter 5.
- Jericho was an overwhelming victory.

# But Before Ai...

- Israel failed to properly purify themselves and suffered a humiliating defeat before consecrating themselves, purging Achan's sin, and achieving a resounding victory.

# A Quick Review

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“covenant”

*běriyth* (בְּרִית)

Remember, the covenant is not mutual.

It does not presuppose that Yahweh and Israel are peers who have entered this relationship on equal footing.

This covenant is instituted by the Master on His terms.

# Deuteronomy 29:10-13

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**10** “You stand today, all of you, before the Lord your God: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the men of Israel, **11** your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, **12** that you may enter into the covenant with the Lord your God, and into His oath which the Lord your God is making with you today, **13** in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your God, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

# Back to God's Holiness

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We can be sure that since God is the originator and master of His covenant with Israel, the covenant will not and cannot be broken.

# Joshua 7:11a, 15a

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11 Israel has sinned, and *they have also transgressed My covenant* which I commanded them.... 15 It shall be that the one who is taken with the things under the ban shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because *he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord...*

# The Lord Has Forgiven

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And Joshua wants to make sure that a similar mistake doesn't happen again.

It's time for a renewal.



**Remember**

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**Who You Are**

**And**

**Whose You Are**



Joppa

Shechem

Shiloh

JABBOK R.

Jazer

Bethel

Ai

Jericho

Rabbath-a

Gezer

Gibeon

Makkedah

Gilgal

Heshbon

AM

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

MT. NEBO

Libnah

Ashkelon

Jahaz

Eglon

Lachish

AMORITES

Hebron

SALT SEA  
(DEAD SEA)

Dibon

ARNON R.

Debir

## Genesis 12:6-7

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**6** Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. **7** The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So **he built an altar there** to the Lord who had appeared to him.

# Genesis 33:18-20

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**18** Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city. **19** He bought the piece of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money. **20** Then **he erected there an altar** and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

## Joshua 8:30-31a

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**30** Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal  
**31** just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the sons of Israel

**Ed Noort:**

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“The altars are fixed points in the theological geography of the land. They claim the land for YHWH, his chosen one and his descendants.”

# Deuteronomy 27:4-5

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4 So it shall be when you cross the Jordan, you shall set up on Mount Ebal, these stones, as I am commanding you today, and you shall coat them with lime. 5

Moreover, you shall build there an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones; you shall not wield an iron tool on them.





# Joshua's Altar



## Joshua 8:31b

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**31** as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of uncut stones on which no man had wielded an iron tool; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings.

## Exodus 20:25

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**25** If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it.

## Mirrors Exodus 24:5

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**5** He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord.

# Sacrifice #1

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## 1. Burnt Offerings

- **Leviticus 1:9b – “And the priest shall offer up in smoke all of it on the altar for a burnt offering, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the Lord.”**
- **Burnt offerings entirely consumed the animal, and they were offered to atone for the sin of the one sacrificing.**
- **Clearly the need for atonement of the nation’s sin is in view here.**

# Sacrifice #2

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## 2. Peace Offerings

- Also called “fellowship offerings”
- Found in Leviticus 3:1-17; 7:11-21
- A joyful offering in which portions of the sacrificial animal were to be eaten by the ones presenting them.
- Fellowship with God and others was at their core.
- The nation is recognizing their need to reestablish their relationship with God.

## Joshua 8:32

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**32** He wrote there on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written, in the presence of the sons of Israel.

# Deuteronomy 17:18-19

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**18** “Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. **19** It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes



# Joshua is No King...

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- But his actions prefigure what a king who follows the Lord would do.
- And he is also following the example of Moses and the law being set in stone, from the two stone tablets (Exodus 32:15) to the 12 stones set up to confirm the Sinai Covenant (Exodus 24:4), one for each tribe in Israel.

## Joshua 8:33a

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**33** All Israel with their elders and officers and their judges were standing on both sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, the stranger as well as the native.

# A Nationwide Ceremony

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- “All Israel”
  - “elders”
  - “officers”
  - “judges”
  - “Levitical priests”
  - “the stranger”
  - “the native”

“the stranger?”

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Who are these  
people?

Why are they  
participating in this  
ceremony?

# “foreigners” (*nokrim*)

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- **Exodus 12:43** – “The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘This is the ordinance of the Passover: no *foreigner* is to eat of it.’”
- **Leviticus 22:25** – “nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a *foreigner* for offering as the food of your God”
- **Deuteronomy 14:21** – “You shall not eat anything which dies of itself...you may sell it to a *foreigner*, for you are a holy people to the Lord your God.”

# “stranger” (*ger*)

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- **Leviticus 19:10** – “Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the *stranger*.”
- **Exodus 22:21** – “You shall not wrong a *stranger* or oppress him”
- **Deuteronomy 10:18** – “He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the *alien* by giving him food and clothing.”
- **Deuteronomy 24:17** – “You shall not pervert the justice due an *alien* or an orphan, nor take a widow’s garment in pledge”

# These “strangers”

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- Could participate in Israel’s festivals, such as:
  - **Passover (Ex. 12:43-49)**
  - the Sabbath (Ex. 20:10)
  - **the Feast of Weeks (Deut. 16:10-12)**
  - Tabernacles (Deut. 16:13-14)
  - **firstfruits (Deut. 26:10-11)**

On One Condition...

# Exodus 12:43-45, 47-49

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43 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the ordinance of the Passover: no foreigner is to eat of it; 44 but every man’s slave purchased with money, after you have circumcised him, then he may eat of it. 45 A sojourner or a hired servant shall not eat of it...47 All the congregation of Israel are to celebrate this. 48 But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it. 49 The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.



# So, these “strangers”

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- Were true converts to faith in Yahweh.
- The LXX, translates this term *proselutos*, “one who converts.”
- A Gentile could come to God, but he or she had to come through Israel.

# Rahab

**Joshua 2:11b, 6:25b –**

**“for the Lord  
your God, He is  
God in heaven  
above and on  
earth beneath....  
and she has lived  
in the midst of  
Israel to this  
day”**





# Ruth

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- **Ruth 1:16 –**

**“But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.’”**

## Ephesians 2:19

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**19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household

# Bridging Contexts

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- Israel's faith was not a closed system: it was open to outsiders.
- In the case of its aliens, Israel was to treat those within its own borders in such a way that they would be desirous of entering fully into a relationship with Israel's God.
- This is exactly how the church should relate to those outside the faith, as well.

# Matthew 5:14-16

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14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

# 1 Peter 2:11-12

JOSHUA

**11** Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. **12** Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

## Joshua 8:33b

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**33** Half of them stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had given command at first to bless the people of Israel.



# Deuteronomy 11:26-29

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26 “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known. 29 “It shall come about, when the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, that you shall place the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.”



# Joshua 8:34-35

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**34** Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law. **35** There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them.

Turn to

JOSHUA

Deuteronomy

30:15-20

# Notice the Emphasis

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- **In v. 34:** “he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law”
- **And in v. 35:** “There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read”

Turn to

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Deuteronomy

31:9-13

# This is:

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- The 1<sup>st</sup> public reading of the law since Moses' death, and it is in perfect obedience to the instructions of Deuteronomy 27.
- And Joshua reads the law “before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them.”
- There was not a word that Joshua didn't read, and there was not a man, woman, or child in all of Israel that did not hear.

# Joshua's Leadership

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- He “built an altar to the Lord”
- He “wrote there on the stones a copy of the law of Moses”
- He “read all the words of the law”



**The devil doesn't fill us  
with hatred for God, but  
with forgetfulness of God.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

# In the Home

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- Husbands and Fathers:
- Are you leading your home in this way?
  - Reading Scripture
  - Prayer
  - Family Devotions
  - Catechism
  - Godly Conversations

# Renewal In the Church:

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- Preaching the Word of God
- Public Reading of Scripture
- Corporate Prayer
- The Lord's Supper
- Christmas & Easter

Let's Close with

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2 Peter 1:1-15

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