

COMING UP ... JUL 7 NO CLASS (holiday weekend) **JULY 14** Judges part 1 **JULY 21** Judges part 2 **JULY 28** NO CLASS (Bill in Middle East)

BACK TO OUR STORY

God's expectation from Egypt: claim Canaan

The second generation couldn't possess their inheritance until they crossed the river

God called on Joshua, not Moses, to lead His people into His Promised Land

We can't possess our spiritual inheritance until we "cross the river," see ourselves in Jesus Christ and walk in step with the Spirit (Romans 5-8)

The people will begin to possess, little by little, what God has given them ...

... but they'll have to fight to possess & hold it

LESSON THEME: There's land to possess and battles to fight

Possessing The Promised Land

It's YHWH's Land

There is a general inheritance

There is a specific inheritance by tribe

There are certain enemies and strongholds within each tribal allotment that are especially troublesome and/or difficult to overcome and displace

It'll be possessed by YHWH's power

First, He sent His Commander

Second, His strategies varied from situation to situation

His servant-soldiers (Proverbs 21:31)

And according to YHWH's Word

God is faithful to do as He's promised no matter how difficult ... or even impossible ... it may seem to His people

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed to come to pass (21:43-45)

Two practical truths ...

Those who lived by faith and walked in obedience to His Word possessed *some*, but not *all*, of what God had promised them in their lifetime

Victory was *impossible* when living in the midst of known or self-inflicted sin (e.g. Achan)

Tribal Allotments Under Joshua (see "Tribal Allotments Under Joshua" map, p. 4)

Keeping The Promised Land

Covenant obedience will bring God's blessing and they'll remain in God's Promised Land

Covenant disobedience will bring God's discipline, disaster and even deportation from the Land

➤ Obeying God's Word is the key to usefulness, fruitfulness and blessing in the Promised Land

Application: There's "land" to possess and battles to fight
Christians aren't insulated from battles or exempt from obligations
Possess your inheritance!

Possessing The "Promised Land"

It's God's "land"

Our general inheritance (Eph 1:3; Gal 5:22-23)

Our specific inheritance (Eph 2:10)

It will be possessed only by God's power

His Commander (Heb 2:10)

His strategies (Rom 5-7; 2 Cor 10:3-4)

His servant-soldiers (Rom 8; Eph 6:10-18)

And according to God's Word

There are enemies in the "land of man-soul" that need to be killed and/or expelled

He's not asked us to what's impossible – just what's impossible for us to do alone!

We must go up against our enemies one at a time

There's "land" to possess and battles to fight

Prepare For Battle: Your Mind

1) See yourself in God's mirror

I'm saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone; I'm justified

I must put my inherent self-righteousness to death daily by looking back; Christ died for me

I can gratefully approach Him knowing my sins have been completely forgiven in Jesus Christ

I come assured that God's for me not against me

I am who *He* says I am in Christ

I'm not all I will be, but I'm no longer who I was

Prepare For Battle: Your Supplies

2) Take up your position behind Joshua

"I am second"

Don't forget your equipment (Eph 6:10-18)

Keep God's Word before you; it's the "sword of the Spirit"

3) Declare your dependence on the Holy Spirit

Pray for increasing *desire* to be changed by Him

Pray for *His power* to enable your obedience

Engage In Battle

4) Enter the battle by naming the sin

5) Attack it using appropriate Scriptures

6) Bombard that fortress by habitually praying those Scriptures against that sin

7) Involve one or more believers in the struggle

For prayer

For encouragement

For accountability

Beware Our Biggest Enemy!

Not ignorance: "I don't know ... "

Not apathy: "I don't care ... "

But complacency: "I know, but I don't care enough to do anything different ... at least not right now."

Are you complacent with respect to becoming more like Jesus?

Our Next Step

God's expectation: Christian, there's "land" to possess and battles to fight

What enemy is causing the most trouble for you in the land of "man-soul" today?

Will you begin to go into battle against it *tomorrow*, knowing the Lord is *with* you and for you in your fight?

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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AUDIO & HANDOUTS ON OUR WEBSITE: www.ccbcfamily.org/sermons/old-testament-survey
AUDIO PODCASTS (no handouts) ON ITUNES: search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

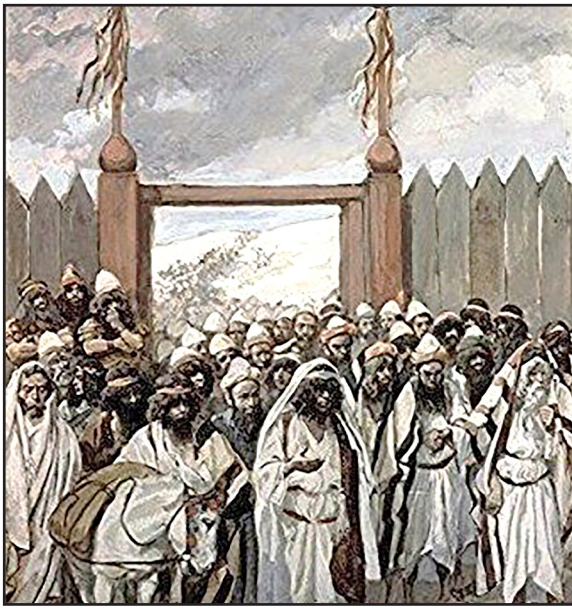
"The Taking Of Jericho" by James Tissot



"ACHAN AND HIS FAMILY STONED TO DEATH" BY JAMES TISSOT



"The Craftiness of The Gibeonites" by James Tissot



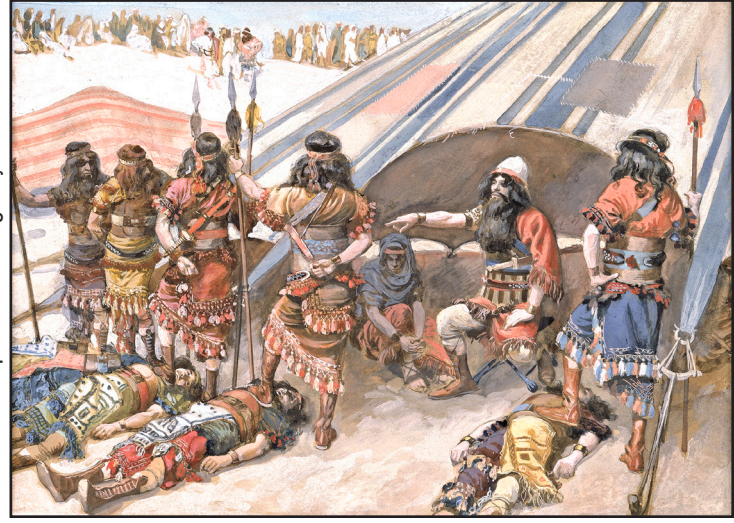
"Ai Is Taken By Joshua" by James Tissot



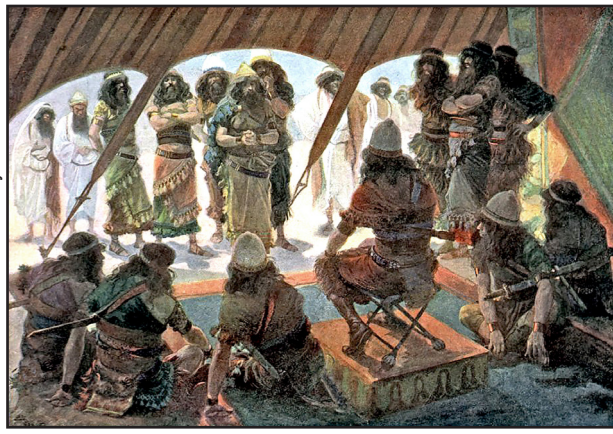
"The Seven Trumpets Of Jericho" by James Tissot



"Israel Tramples On The Kings" by James Tissot



"Achan And Joshua" by James Tissot



Tribal Allotments Under Joshua



"Joshua Destroys the Giants"
by James Tissot



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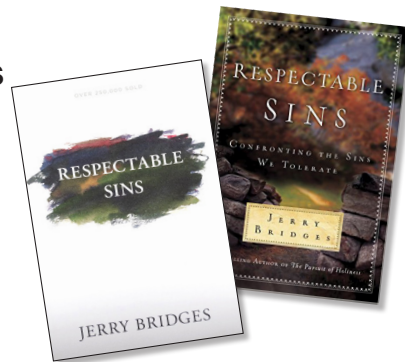


Joshua 24:28-29: Joshua dies in 1404 B.C. and is buried at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, the town he had been given as a personal reward after the conquest of Canaan (Josh 19:49-50).



Joshua 8:30-35: Joshua builds an altar on the slopes of Mount Ebal, above the Vale of Shechem, to the north of Ai (Dt 27:4-8). He reads aloud the whole of the Law of Moses including blessings if they follow the LORD and curses if they abandon Him (Dt 11:26-30).

Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges



1. The sin of ungodliness

- a. "Ungodliness may be defined as living one's everyday life with little or no thought of God, or of God's will, or of God's glory, or of one's dependence on God." (p. 54)
- b. James 4:13-15 - lack of dependence on God
- c. Compartmentalizing; prayerlessness; self-reliance; lack of conscious awareness of the presence of God; not being as mindful of God as He is toward us

2. The sins of anxiety and frustration

- a. "The opposite of trust in God is either anxiety or frustration, and Jesus had a lot to say about anxiety." (p. 63)
- b. "Anxiety is a fearful uncertainty over the future, whether short-term (such as in my [Jerry Bridge's] plane trips) or long-term, such as might result from a job loss." (p. 71)
- c. Matthew 6:25-34 - do not be anxious
- d. God doesn't know; God doesn't care; mistrust; unbelief; not accepting His providence or His agenda for my life; my circumstances loom larger than His promises

3. The sin of discontentment

- a. "Actually, the most frequent warnings in Scripture against discontentment concern money and possessions, but in this chapter, I want to address what is perhaps a more common form of discontentment among committed Christians, an attitude that may be triggered by unchanging circumstances that are trials to our faith." (p. 71)
- b. Psalm 139 - God is sovereignly in control of life
- c. Ongoing physical or emotional limitations or disabilities; loneliness; a perceived lack of God's direction or guidance; prolonged or "excessive" waiting on God for an answer or direction

4. The sin of unthankfulness

- a. "Taking for granted all the temporal provisions and spiritual blessings that God has so richly bestowed on us, and so failing to continually give Him thanks, is one of our 'acceptable' sins." (p. 81)
- b. Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17-18 - taking His provisions for granted
- c. Forgetting God with respect to skills, abilities and health; mental and physical strength; an abundance of food and material goods; even difficult circumstances that will deepen my Christian character

5. The sin of pride

- a. "In this chapter, we are going to address the sin of pride—not pride in general, but certain expressions of it that are special temptations to believers. We are going to look at the pride of moral self-righteousness, the pride of correct doctrine, the pride of achievement, and the pride of an independent spirit." (p. 89)
- b. Luke 18:11 - having a self-righteous attitude
- c. Discussing how awful society has become; holding a theological superiority over other churches or people; boasting about intellect, natural skills or talents which I was given; an inordinate desire for recognition; resistance to authority—even spiritual authority; having an unteachable spirit

6. The sin of selfishness

- a. "Selfishness may express itself in many ways, but for purposes of looking at our 'respectable' sins, I am going to address four areas of selfishness that may be observed in believers. The first is selfishness with our interests ... (2) our time ... (3) our money ... and (4) the trait of inconsiderateness." (pp. 102-105)
- b. Philippians 2:5 - having the mind of the Unselfish One
- c. Being only interested in our own affairs; talking more than listening; guarding time for our own ends, especially at home; lack of material generosity; being inconsiderate of the feelings of others

7. The sin of lack of self-control

- a. "Despite the scriptural teaching on self-control, I suspect this is one virtue that receives little conscious attention from most Christians. We have boundaries from our Christian culture that tend to restrain us from obvious sins, but within those boundaries we pretty much live as we please. We seldom say 'no' to our desires and emotions." (p. 110)
- b. Proverbs 25:28 - lack of self-control leaves a believer vulnerable to temptations
- c. Saying "yes" when we should be saying "no;" not exercising moderation in eating or drinking; not keeping our own temper under control; excessive credit card debt; spending too much time on the internet or on email

8. The sins of impatience and irritability

- a. "... in this chapter, I am going to define impatience as a strong sense of annoyance at the (usually) unintentional faults and failures of others. This impatience is often expressed verbally in a way that tends to humiliate the person (or persons) who is the object of the impatience." (p. 116)
- b. Proverbs 19:11 - overlook the unintentional offense
- c. Waiting on others who knew the scheduled departure time; an unspoken attitude of displeasure or disappointment; impatient and/or irritable driving; emotional outbursts

9. The sin of anger

- a. "What is anger? Many of us might say, 'I can't define it, but I know it when I see it, especially if it's directed toward me.' My dictionary defines anger simply as a strong feeling of displeasure, and usually of antagonism. I would add that it's often accompanied by sinful emotions, words, and actions hurtful to those who are the objects of our anger." (p. 121)
- b. 1 Peter 2:18-20 - respond in ways that maintain a mindfulness of God
- c. Reacting to someone else's unkind words or actions; looking bad in front of those you seek to impress; being the object of another's forgetfulness; not getting our way; responding to anger with anger; resentment; bitterness; holding a grudge; being angry with God

10. The sin of judgmentalism

- a. "My point here is that it doesn't matter which side of an issue we are on. It is easy to become judgmental toward anyone whose opinions are different from ours. And then we hide our judgmentalism under the cloak of Christian convictions ... Paul was saying, 'Stop trying to play God toward your fellow believers in Christ. God is the Judge, not you.'" (p. 144)
- b. Romans 14:4 - God is the Judge, not you
- c. Equating our opinion with truth; disparaging other styles of worship music; equating casual dress with casualness toward God; Christians and alcohol or cigars; condemning the flagrant sins of others while ignoring our own 'respectable' ones; being a "faultfinder;" having a critical spirit; not preserving for or allowing for scriptural ambiguity

11. The sins of envy, jealousy, competitiveness and control

- a. "Envy is the painful and oftentimes resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by someone else ... Sinful jealousy occurs, however, when we are afraid someone is going to become equal to or even superior to us ... Closely allied with envy and jealousy is the spirit of competitiveness—the urge to always win or be the top person in whatever our field of endeavor is ... There is one more subtle sin that we may include in this group. That is the sin of seeking to control others to our advantage or to get what we want." (pp. 149, 151, 153, 155)
- b. Various Scriptures
- c. Having a preoccupation with what others have, including their advantages; tearing others down to keep them in an inferior place; always having to win; always having to get your way

12. The sins of the tongue

- a. "As widespread as the practice of gossip is, however, it is by no means the only sin of the tongue. In this category, we must also include lying, slander, critical speech (even when true), harsh words, insults, sarcasm, and ridicule. In fact, we would have to say that any speech that tends to tear down another person—either someone we are talking about or someone we are talking to—is sinful speech." (p. 159)
- b. Ephesians 4:29 - words are for building others up
- c. Using negative or critical speech; practicing humorous ridicule; using off-color jokes; using put downs that get a laugh; exaggeration

13. The sin of worldliness

- a. "Based on Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians 7:31, I define worldliness as being attached to, engrossed in, or preoccupied with the things of this temporal life. The things of this temporal life may or may not be sinful in themselves. What makes our attitude toward things that are not sinful worldliness is the high value we put upon them ... It's accepting and going along with the values and practices of society around us without [first] discerning if they are biblical." (p. 166, 174-75)
- b. Colossians 3:2 - set our hearts on things above
- c. Not handling our finances as a biblical steward; keeping more and giving less; being stingy toward God; secretly enjoy reading or hearing about another's immorality; a lingering look at someone or something I cannot have; making my career or role an idol to which I regularly sacrifice; an excessive passion for sports and/or ESPN