



Conquering Canaan

Lesson 1: Jesus Miracles Prove That He Is The Son Of God

(Joshua 1:1-5:15)

After Moses had died, God spoke to Joshua. Joshua had helped Moses, but now God made him the leader of the Israelites. God told Joshua that He had given the land of Canaan to the Israelites. He said that no one would be able to stand against Joshua while he lived because He would be with Joshua. So, God told Joshua to be strong and courageous to do whatever God commands. If Joshua would do exactly what God said, God would make Joshua successful.

So, Joshua commanded the Israelite officers to go through the camp and tell the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River. Within three days, God promised that they would cross the Jordan to go in and take the land God had promised to give them. This was the land God had promised to give Abraham's descendants – the land of Canaan

Then, Joshua sent two spies into the city of Jericho. They came to a house that belonged to a woman named Rahab and stayed with her. Whenever the king of Jericho was told that some Israelite men had come to spy out the city, the king sent a message to Rahab. He told her to bring out the men who had gone into her house. But, the woman lied. She said that they had come to her, but that they had left – and she said did not know where they were. However, she had hidden them on the roof of her house.

Rahab told the men that she knew God had given them the land and that the Israelites terrified the people of Jericho. They had heard about what God had done for them by drying up the Red Sea when they came out of Egypt and destroying the two Amorite kings across the Jordan. So, Rahab wanted the men to promise her that since she had been kind to them, they would be kind to her and her family whenever they attacked the city.

The men agreed. If Rahab would not tell anyone about their mission, they would make sure she and her family were safe whenever they attacked the city. So, she let them down with a rope through a window so they could escape and told them where to go so they could be safe. And, they told her to tie a scarlet cord to that window and bring her family into her house. When the Israelites would attack Jericho, they would see the cord and save the people in that house.

When the spies returned to Joshua, they told him what had happened and said the people were afraid of them. Early the next morning, Joshua and all the Israelites left the Acacia Grove and went as far as the Jordan River. The people were told to break camp when they saw the ark of the covenant being carried by the Levites and follow it. But, they were to stay about 1,000 yards away from the ark.

Now, at this time of the year, the Jordan River flooded. But, when the Levites brought the ark of the covenant to the Jordan River and their feet touched the water, the water stopped flowing downstream. The priests carrying the ark of the covenant stood in the middle of the Jordan on dry ground so that the people could cross.

Then, one man from each of the twelve tribes were told to go into the middle of the Jordan and get a stone. Each man lifted a stone on his shoulder and brought it to the land. They carried the stones to the camp and built a memorial so that the people would always remember what God had done for them. When everyone had crossed, the priests carrying the ark came out of the Jordan River. As soon as they did, the water flowed as it did before.

The Israelites were now in the Canaan land. While they camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they observed the Passover. The next day, they ate unleavened bread and roasted grain from the produce of the land. And, since they now ate from the land of Canaan, God stopped sending Manna to them.

Study Questions:

1) Who was the new leader of the Israelites? What was the name of the land God promised to give the Israelites?

2) How many spies were sent into Jericho?

3) Who let the spies stay with her? What did she tell the king about the spies?

4) Why did this woman let the spies stay with her?

5) What did the men promise the woman? What did the woman have to do?

6) How did the Israelites cross the Jordan River?

7) What were the Israelites told to build? What was this for?

8) Why did God stop sending manna to the Israelites?

Memory Verse:

“Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get provisions ready for yourselves, for within three days you will be crossing the Jordan to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit’” (Joshua 1:7).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: