

Program: SS Panel 2025 4 Q

Quarterly title: Lessons of Faith From Joshua

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Lesson Title: #11 Living in the Land

Section title: Tuesday - Commitment

For Lesson Dates: December 6–12, 2025

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Note: This color and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

John Dinzey.2025.Q4.L11. Commitment

]]> Emphasize this

Question:

> [=] Story:

REF:>>

READ

NIL: Not in Lesson

Next week: # 12 God *Is* Faithful!

Hebrews 10:23-25 23 Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Lesson 11

**December 6–12*

Living *in the* Land

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Joshua 22; Eph. 6:7; John 7:24; Numbers 25; Prov. 15:1; 1 Pet. 3:8, 9.*

Memory Text: *"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1, NIV).*

Living in a community can, at times, lead to disputes and tension. This is especially true in a community, such as the church, where people from different backgrounds and social strata—and sometimes brought up in completely different cultures—live and work together for a common purpose.

This week we will study Joshua 22 and a challenge that arose from a great misunderstanding among the people. At the beginning of the book, Joshua commanded some tribes to cross the Jordan and participate in the conquest, along with the tribes on the west side of the Jordan (*Josh. 1:12–18*). Now that the task is accomplished, they are free to return. **However, at the west side of the Jordan, they build an altar that raises concern among the West Jordan tribes.**

*****READ*****

Why is it dangerous to jump to a rash conclusion about the behavior of others? How can we foster unity in the church? Why is it important to keep in mind the larger scope of our calling and not get caught up in distractions? These are some of the questions we are going to deal with this week.

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, December 13.*

SUNDAY

December 7

Commitment

Read Joshua 22:1–8. What do these verses tell us about the commitment of the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh?

Joshua 22:1–8 1 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh,

2 and said to them: “**You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you**, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you.

3 You have not left your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the Lord your God.

4 And now **the Lord your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them**; now therefore, return and go to your tents *and* to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

5 But take careful heed to **do the commandment and the law** which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to **love the Lord your God**, to **walk in all His ways**, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Joshua 22:6-8 6 So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

7 Now to half the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the *other* half of it Joshua gave *a possession* among their brethren on this side of the Jordan, westward. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them,

8 and spoke to them, saying, “Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.”

Joshua affirms that the tribes from the other side of the Jordan have fully satisfied the obligations set out by Moses and himself, which meant a significant dedication to, and sacrifice on behalf of, Israel’s common cause. They fought alongside their brothers for “many days,” which in reality meant about six to seven years (*compare with Josh. 11:18, Josh. 14:10, Deut. 2:14*). Their wives and

children were left at home, on the east side of Jordan, yet they decided to fight loyally along with their brothers, facing the threat of injury and death in war.

*****READ*****

These verses indirectly underline **the importance of the unity of the nation and that of the land. They also prepare the way for the ensuing story, which is ultimately about unity.** Will the Israelite tribes stay united, despite the strong natural border that the Jordan forms between them? Will they allow geography to set its mark on their national identity, or will they let their common worship of the only God keep them as His chosen nation, united and strong under His theocratic guidance?

Joshua explains the only way that such fidelity has been possible: they did not serve their fellow Israelites but Yahweh Himself, who charged them with their mission.

We find this same principle in the New Testament. The apostle Paul admonished Christians to render their service as if they were working for God and not only for human beings (see *Eph. 6:7, Col. 3:23, 1 Thess. 2:4*). What higher calling is there than working for, ultimately, the Creator of the cosmos?

Ephesians 6:5-8 5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;
6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

>[=] Story: The bus fare

Colossians 3:23, 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

1 Thessalonians 2:4) 4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

In everyday life, we often face challenges and difficulties that can easily discourage us and make us want to give up the fight. It's easy, at times, to do. Yet we can call upon the power of the Lord, who promises to be with us and enables us to do what He asks of us. If we keep our higher calling before us, we can be motivated to press on ahead, despite the inevitable challenges and discouragements that are part of our fallen existence here.

Joshua 22:5, 6 reports that Joshua appealed to the departing tribes to remain faithful to the Lord, and then he blessed them. How would our relationships in the church be transformed if we prayed for each other more than we do?

Hebrews 10:23-25 23 Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

>>> The Christian church of today brings together people of different background....

>>> One of the things that can unite us is the understanding we are all related because.....

He has made from one blood every nation

Acts 17:24-26 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Romans 12:3-5 **3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

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Additional Notes