

James Rafferty 2025 Q4 L12 All Came to Pass

Q - LESSONS OF FAITH FROM JOSHUA

Lesson 12

**December 13-19*

God *Is* Faithful!

Next week: Choose This Day!

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Josh. 21:43-45; 2 Tim. 2:11-13;*

Joshua 23; Rev. 14:10, 19; Deut. 6:5.

Memory Text: "Not one word of all the good promises that the

LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to

pass" (*Joshua 21:45, ESV*).

When John F. Kennedy addressed America at his inauguration, on January 20, 1961, his speech was only 1,366 words, but it left an indelible mark on the American mind. As he encouraged his country to focus on their responsibilities instead of their privileges, he said: "With a good conscience

our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

As Joshua, the aging leader of the Israelites, sensed that he was nearing the end of his life, he decided to address the leaders of the nation and the Israelites (*Joshua 23 and 24*). Joshua 23 is focused more on the future and on *how* to worship God: exclusively. Joshua 24 reviews God's faithful acts in the past, with the purpose to prompt a decision concerning *who* alone deserves to be worshipped: Yahweh.

This week, we will study together the first speech of Joshua, in which he glances back at the victories of Israel, but at the same time traces the path of future success for Israel.

SUNDAY

December 14

All Came to Pass

In Joshua 21:43-45, what picture does the book paint of God? How do these words apply not only to the historical Promised Land but also to the reality of our salvation (2 Tim. 2:11-13)?

And the LORD gave unto Israel ALL the land which He sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to ALL that He sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of ALL their enemies before them; the LORD delivered ALL their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of ANY good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; ALL came to pass.

GOD IS FAITHFUL. TRUE TO HIS WORD. GOD IS ABLE.

These verses constitute the climax of the book and its theological summary. They highlight one of the major themes of the whole book: the covenant faithfulness of Yahweh, who keeps His promises and fulfills His oaths.

ADDED – HEBREWS 6:17, 18 WHEREIN GOD, WILLING MORE ABUNDANTLY TO SHEW UNTO THE HEIRS OF **PROMISE** THE IMMUTABILITY OF HIS COUNSEL, **CONFIRMED IT BY AN OATH:** THAT BY TWO IMMUTABLE THINGS, [PROMISE AND OATH] IN WHICH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, WE MIGHT HAVE A STRONG CONSOLATION, WHO HAVE FLED FOR REFUGE TO LAY HOLD UPON THE HOPE SET BEFORE US:

This short section also summarizes the entire content of the book so far. Joshua 21:43 speaks of the allocation and settlement of the land (Joshua chapters 13-21), while Joshua

21:44 refers to victories won over the enemies and control gained over the land (Joshua chapters 1-12). All this retrospective is viewed through the prism of God's faithfulness. The Israelites must always remember that they can never claim the victories over their enemies or the land as their inheritance—except through God's loyalty to His given word.

He gave "all the land" (*Josh. 21:43, NKJV, emphasis added*), delivered "all their enemies into their hand" (*Josh. 21:44, NKJV, emphasis added*), and according to "all that He had sworn" (*Josh. 21:44, NKJV, emphasis added*) "all came to pass" (*Josh. 21:45, NKJV, emphasis added*). The repeated use of the word *kol*, "all," six times in three verses (*Josh. 21:43-45*), emphasizes once again the truth that the land is the gift of Yahweh, and Israel can take no credit for receiving it. It was the Lord who swore to "give" the land and who "had given" their enemies into their hands.

All Israel's success has to be solely attributed to God's divine initiative and trustworthiness. This is equally true concerning our salvation: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (*Eph. 2:8, 9, ESV*).

FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

LIKE THE HEBREWS, OUR SALVATION FROM OUR EGYPT BY GODS MIGHTY POWER AND OUTSTRETCHED HAND BRINGS US HIS REDEMPTION MANIFESTED IN WORKS OF OBEDIENCE - THE SIMPLE YET SURE OUTWORKING OF GENUINE GRACE THE SAVES THROUGH FAITH.

IF WE ARE ACTUALLY SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH GOOD WORKS WILL BE SEEN IN OUR LIVES ACCORDING TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, ABILITY AND POWER.

Indeed, emphasizing God's faithfulness, Paul also wrote: "The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself" (2 Tim. 2:11-13, *ESV*).

How does God's faithfulness in keeping His promises give us confidence that none of His promises for the future will fail?
(See 1 Cor. 10:13, 2 Cor. 1:18-20.)

