

Quarter Four: Lessons of Faith from Joshua

Jill Morikone

Lesson 9—Heirs of Promises, Prisoners of Hope

Monday: The Land as a Gift

November 24, 2025

- **Last Week:** “Giants of Faith: Joshua & Caleb”
 - Joshua 14, 15 & 19
 - Lessons from the lives of Joshua & Caleb, leaders in God’s work & examples for us
- **This Week:** “Heirs of Promises, Prisoners of Hope”
 - Joshua 13 – 21 = division of the inheritance
 - Theological concepts related to the Promised Land & spiritual implications for us today

Memory Text: “Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double” (Zech 9:12, ESV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Eden & Canaan (James)
 - Gen & Heb – sin created issues in Garden of Eden; sign of their broken relationship, they had to leave the ‘land’; promise of land to Israelites was a gift from God (they didn’t earn their inheritance)
- 2. **Monday:** The Land as a Gift (Jill)
 - Multiple Scriptures – relationship between God, Israel & the Promised Land
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Challenge of the Land (John D)
 - Josh 13:1 – 7 – Israel received their inheritance, but not all the land was conquered; receiving the land & living on it symbolized by justification & sanctification
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Jubilee (John L)
 - Lev 25 – God’s guarding of the poor by jubilee & land regulations not to sell, just lease
- 5. **Thursday:** The Land Restored (SQ)
 - Multiple Scriptures – Babylonian exile & promise of land restored; promise of land still conditional; promise of eternal Home

Monday: The Land as a Gift

Ex 3:8; Lev 20:22; Lev 25:23; Num 13:27; Deut 4:1, 25, 26; 6:3; Ps 24:1; / 1 Pet 2:11; Heb 11:9 – 13

- Relationship between God, Israel & the Promised Land
 - 1. **The land meant freedom**
 - Ex 3:8 – “So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.”

- God speaking with Moses at the burning bush
 - Land means physical identity as a nation
 - Having land meant freedom
 - Slaves were rootless & belonged nowhere
 - Someone else enjoyed the fruit of their labors
- **2. The land was conditional**
- Deut 4:1 – “Now, O Israel, **listen** to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.”
 - Listen = *sha-mah*’ = “hear, listen, obey”
 - Translated hear, obey, listen (in Bible)
 - Deut 6:3, 4 – Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—a land flowing with milk and honey. (4) “**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!...”
 - Hear = *sha-mah*’
 - Lev 20:22 – “You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out.”
 - The land was a gift from God – not an inalienable right
 - God’s people could dwell in the land as long as they were in covenantal relationship with God & respected the principles of the covenant
 - They could never claim the land as “theirs”
 - Lesson: “They could not have the land & its blessings without the blessing of God.”
 - Deut 4:26 – (If you make a carved image, etc.) – “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.”
 - Northern Kingdom
 - Dispersed amongst Assyrians
 - Removed from land
 - Judah
 - 70 years of Babylonian captivity
 - Removed from land – but later restored
- **3. The land had restrictions**
- Lev 25:23 – “The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.”
 - They could not sell the land – could only lease it
 - God kept the rich from oppressing the poor
- **4. The land taught them of God**
- Deut 8:11 – 16 – “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God... (12) lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; (13) and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and

your gold are multiplied... (14) when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; (15) who led you through that great and terrible wilderness... who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; (16) who fed you in the wilderness with manna..."

- The land constantly reminded Israel of their dependance on God
 - Who provided water?
 - Who gave them food?
 - Who provided ability to build beautiful houses?
 - Who multiplied the herds & flocks?
 - Who gives the rain for the crops?
 - Who gave them power to get wealth?
 - All of it was God
- **5. The land is owned by God**
 - Ps 24:1 – “The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.”
 - Everything belongs to God
 - God can assign the land to Israel or take it away
 - We are all stewards of what God has given
 - **6. The land is occupied by faith**
 - Heb 11:9, 10 – “By faith he (Abraham) dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise, (10) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”
 - **7. The land will be restored**
 - Amos 9:14, 15 – “I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them. They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. (15) I will plant them in their land...”
 - God restoring His people to the land

Relationship between God, Israel & the Promised Land

- 1. The land meant freedom
- 2. The land was conditional
- 3. The land had restrictions
- 4. The land taught them of God
- 5. The land is owned by God
- 6. The land is occupied by faith
- 7. The land will be restored