

The Story Continues

Though Israel's leader died, the story of God's people continued and is fulfilled ultimately in the person and work of Jesus.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Joshua 24:28-33

May 17, 2020

(Joshua 24:28-33) ²⁸ Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance. ²⁹ After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. ³⁰ And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. ³¹ Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel. ³² And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants. ³³ And Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah, which had been allotted to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- **What preparation is necessary to send others out with confidence?**
- **Recall a time you were prepared for a task and then sent out to do it. How did your leader prepare you? How did this preparation affect the way you handled the task?**

The time came for Joshua to relinquish his leadership of the nation. Having led the Israelites to reaffirm their covenant with God, Joshua sent them out to claim their inheritances in Canaan. He trusted them to do what he had led them to do by his example and teachings and by their covenant renewal. Though Joshua's story ended, the story of God's people would not. The story of God's people would culminate in the coming of the promised Messiah, Jesus.

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Joshua 24:28-33

- **Joshua sent the people away with their inheritance; what was their inheritance?**
- **What is our inheritance as those who are trusting in Christ?**
- **What can be learned about leading in a godly way from Joshua's life?**
- **Moses' legacy was to lead the Israelites out of Egypt through the wilderness. Joshua's legacy was to lead them to conquer the Promised Land. Who is someone you have benefited from their spiritual legacy (family member, pastor, boss, etc.)?**

Sometimes leaders find it hard to let go of their leadership positions. They care for the people and want their best in the years ahead. Still, if we lead and teach well, we must trust the people to be faithful to God and to depend on God to lead them in His ways.

- **In what ways did Joshua prepare the people in advance for continued faithfulness to God?**
- **What evidence is there that his efforts were successful?**

Joshua died at the advanced "age of 110," and the Israelites buried him "in his allotted territory" (24:29-30). Joshua led so effectively that the nation remained faithful to the Lord throughout Joshua's lifetime. Furthermore, the Israelites continued worshiping God during the lifetimes of the elders who outlived Joshua. These elders served alongside Joshua and experienced all the works the LORD had done for Israel. They were there when God enabled all the Israelites to cross the Jordan River and to triumph in the conquest of Canaan.

- How did Joshua's leadership of the people show that he did not believe that God's story would be finished once he died?
- How did Joshua point forward to the true leader of God's people, Jesus?
- How can we live in such a way that even in our deaths we will glorify Christ?

There are many similarities to be found between Joshua and Jesus. In fact, even their names are linked, both meaning "to deliver" or, "to rescue." Both Joshua and Jesus delivered God's people from the enemies of God. Both led God's people into the promised land, Joshua in an earthly sense and Jesus in a final spiritual sense. Another parallel is shared in terms of inheritance. The Israelites did not receive their inheritance until Joshua led them to conquer the Promised Land, and as he died, he sent them to their inheritance (homes and land). But it would really be King David who would conquer the whole land. Similarly, when Jesus died and rose again, we received an inheritance – salvation, a relationship with God, and the Holy Spirit within us. But there's even more to come, for after we leave this life, we will receive a home in heaven eternally with God. This is the "already/not yet" nature of the gospel. We have already received much from God at the moment of salvation, but we have not yet received our full inheritance that He is preparing for us in heaven.

Joshua was always pointing to Jesus as the final leader of God's people who would be without sin before God. Joshua led God's people into a temporary rest, but Jesus is the One who leads us into a final, eternal rest (Heb. 4:8-9).

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- Where has God given you opportunity and influence to point others to Jesus?
- How can you, like Joshua, seek to encourage others in faithfulness to God?
- How does a humble life of faithfulness before God give opportunity to share the gospel with others?

PRAYER: Pray and thank God for the faithfulness of Joshua that points us to Jesus. Thank God for the promised final rest for those who are found in Christ.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Judges 6-7
 DAY 2 – Judges 13-14
 DAY 3 – Judges 15-16
 DAY 4 – Ruth 1-2
 DAY 5 – Ruth 3-4

KEY VERSE: Ruth 1:16-17

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

Joshua 24:28-33. Joshua's life and ministry had finished. He died at the age of a hundred and ten, and they buried him in his city. What a tribute to a pastor or Christian leader— Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel. Some commentators criticize Joshua for not training a single successor the way Moses did. But that was obviously not God's plan. Joshua represents the classic transition into team leadership. The team that he pulled together and charged did not fail, as verse 31 tells us.

All three funerals at the end of our chapter took place in the territory of Ephraim. Joshua was buried at Timnath Serah, Joseph at Shechem, and Eleazar at Gibeah. As we think back on Joshua's leadership, we are continuously reminded that he never exalted himself. Up to his final speech he exalted God. What a stark contrast to many political and religious leaders of our day. We watch conventions of "candidate glorification" with balloons, banners, lights, cameras, speeches, chants, flags, funny hats, and cliches. Instead, we need to focus on the history of what God has done for us and let that motivate us to stand firm in our commitment to serve him. Joshua 24:15 raises the flag high over this entire book: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."