

**All That Is Written In The Book
Joshua 8 & Hebrews 10:1-7**

There are many ways in which what transpires in Joshua 8 is the high-water-mark of redemptive history in the OT.

- Israel has entered the Promised Land
- They have conquered Jericho and Ai
- They have arrived at the city of Shechem and built an altar on Mount Ebal (Deut 27:4-5)
- They have renewed the covenant God made 40 years ago

They have inherited the initial stages of God's promise and witnessed God's power to deliver everything to them.

Looking back on this time frame, Paul reveals to his readers that the promises God made were actually not made to a nation but to a single person who would come from that nation.

Galatians 3:15-16 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

Genesis 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 22:18 - I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, "and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

First: A Review

- a) The book opens at the death of Moses.
- b) God replaces Moses with Joshua as the people's representative
- c) Joshua sent spies into Canaan and Rahab helped them

2:9-11 - I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction." And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

The Canaanites knew that God promised the land to Abraham who had lived there 400 years earlier. But instead of accepting Israel's God, they continued to worship their false gods, even in the face of defeat.

- d) God miraculously parted the Jordan River and Israel crossed into Canaan
- e) The people set up a memorial to God's goodness
- f) At Gilgal, the people renewed the covenant by circumcision
- g) Jesus appeared to Joshua and reminded him of God's divine provision

- h) The people worshipped around Jericho for 7 days and the walls fell
- i) Achin disobeyed God and caused catastrophe
- j) Even so, God gave Ai into Joshua's hands and the people marched to Ebal

Second: The Altar and the Offerings. 30-32

- a) The altar

God commanded the use of "uncut stones" in Exodus 20:25.

The altar wasn't the product of Israel's work but God's. Just like God commanded Cain and Abel to bring a sacrificial animal and not the work of their hands, which Cain disobeyed, Israel made an altar of uncut stones to remind them that it wasn't their efforts but God's grace that saved them in Canaan.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - 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.

- b) The burnt offering

In a burnt offering, the entire animal is consumed in the fire. It's an offering to God. The burnt offering atoned for the sins of the people.

- c) The peace offering

The peace offering is also known as the fellowship offering. The animal wasn't burned but roasted and Israel enjoyed eating it.

The meal was a picture of God's fellowship with the nation.

Colossians 1:20 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

It was also a foreshadowing of the Last Supper and, even more, of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Luke 22:15 - I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Revelation 19:9 - Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Down in the valley below Mount Ebal, Israel could smell the aroma of those sacrifices. They rejoiced that their sins were forgiven and God was in fellowship with them.

IMP: This is the meaning of our Communion this am. God is satisfied with Jesus's sacrifice which has brought us into fellowship – a meal -with God

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Hebrews 10:1-7 - For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of

sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

d) The law of Moses. 32

The Scripture bore witness to God's promises. It was a powerful reminder to Israel and a warning to the surrounding tribes who witnessed the event.

Third: The People's Response. 33-35

a) Sojourner as well as native born

There are not words to express this scene or its sentiment.

Abraham built an altar to God in Shechem as did Jacob, who even settled there (cf. Genesis 35:4; 37:12-14). But now as God's promises are fulfilled, other nations join in the worship in fulfilment of Genesis 12:3 - *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

- Descendants of the 'mixed multitude' (Ex 12:38) stood there.
- Rahab stood there
- Any Canaanites who desired stood there

Revelation 5:9-10 - "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

What a scene it was. What a scene it will be. One again, in communion, as in corporate worship, we celebrate what Christ has done in us and in the world.

Conclusion:

All that is written in the Bible is there for your profit and to encourage your love for Jesus.

Luke 24:27 & 32 - And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself ... They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

In communion this morning, we see Jesus!

Community Groups:

CG Leader,

1 - You will note that we have skipped Joshua 7 and this is because we are celebrating communion this morning and Joshua 8 speaks so powerfully to what communion represents - Christ's reconciling work and our 'sitting down' with him in eternal peace.

2 - There are only 6 starter thoughts today and this is because each of them is so heavily inundated with Scripture that you will want your CG to turn to, read and share about in their discussions of Christ's all-sufficient work to save us from God's wrath, reconcile us to God in peace and get us all the way home to glory. Joshua 8 is a celebratory text. My hope is that we will all be reminded of God's gracious, magnificent work through Jesus on the cross and celebrate the free, full salvation that is ours in Christ. Some of this will be primary or redundant to your CG members. But it isn't boring. We need to be constantly reminded of what God did at Calvary. We need to be constantly living in the shadow of Calvary and living out its implications.

Blessings to each of you as you shepherd your people in the unlimited knowledge and unending grace of God.

1 - What was the purpose in erecting an altar that wasn't cut and shaped by a builder? What is the 'grace' point of that? Have someone in your CG read Eph 2:8-9 and speak to how we don't build a bridge to Jesus; our works can never satisfy God enough to obligate him to save us. Also, consider Cain vs Abel's sacrifice. Why was Abel's sacrifice accepted but Cain's was not?

Abel's sacrifice was a) prescribed by God and b) a lamb to which God gave birth. Cain's offering was the fruit of his own labor.

2 - What does the burnt offering signify in the work of Jesus at Calvary? What do these Scriptures say about God's wrath, the need for a Savior and Jesus's work on the cross? **Have someone in your CG read out loud, Romans 1:18; Rev 19:15. Read 1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 3:26; Hebrews 10:12. Speak to each of these verses and the burnt offering.**

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain!
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

3 - What does the peace offering speak to in Jesus's redemptive work? **Reconciliation. Have someone in your CG read out loud, Romans 5:1 & 10; 2 Corinthians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:19. Speak to each of these verses and the peace offering.**

4 - What two future meals does the peace offering speak to? **Passover in Luke 22:15, Communion in 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19:9.**

5 - To what do the authors of Colossians and Hebrews compare the law and the sacrificial system? **A shadow.** Whom did they foreshadow? **Jesus.** Read Hebrews 10:1-7 and, verse by verse, compare and contrast the law/sacrificial system with Jesus and what he has done.

6 - Read Joshua 8:33-35 and Revelation 5:9-10. How does this text speak to John 3:16? How does this text speak to Ephesians 2:11-18? Read those verses and verse by verse, talk about how God intended Israel and the church to be a witness to the world.

