

SUNDAY SCHOOL Q&A on Joshua chapters 1-6 (and related)

While waiting to begin

Look back at Joshua chapters 1—6.

- What has most encouraged or challenged you?
- Have you got any questions?

Romans 15:4, “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Q: Who is the commander of the army of the Lord? (Joshua 5:13-15)

Q: What do we “do” with Old Testament “holy war”? (e.g. Joshua 6:21).

The wickedness of the Canaanites:

Genesis 15:16

Leviticus 18:24-30

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 (also see Deuteronomy 9:1-7)

Christ is the judge:

John 5:25-29

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Revelation 18:21 – 19:5, 19:11-21, 20:11-15

The Christian’s holy war

Romans 8:12-13

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Ephesians 6:10-20

The Christian’s role in Christ’s judgement

Romans 16:20

Matthew 19:28

Revelation 3:21

Q: Do modern-day events in the middle east have any connection to Joshua 6?

More questions...

Should we think of contemporary events in the Middle East as in any way fulfilling promises about the promised land that were made by God to Abraham and his descendants?

Does God regard with special favour an area of land in modern day Israel and one specific ethnic-religious group?

Is it possible to conceive of the current conflict between Israel and the Gazan Palestinians as a biblical “holy war”?

Headline responses

The commands of God to Joshua and the OT people of Israel were given in a unique period when the OT church (Israel) was a nation state.

* After the coming of Christ the church is multi-ethnic... consists only of those joined to Jesus... who make up God’s chosen people *

* There is no longer any physical place on the map that you can call God’s holy place.*

Key question and scripture

Q: Who inherits the promises to Abraham? Galatians chapter 3:15-16, 25-26

Resources

Jeff Myers - [Forever means forever: God's Promises to the Jews - Theopolis Institute](#)

David Robertson - [The Israel-Palestine conflict: what's it all about? – CT – TheWeeFlea.com](#)

Q: What’s the significance of the circumcision and the Passover in Numbers 5? Is there anything directly that we can learn from this?

Why such a big deal?

Genesis 17, Exodus 3, Exodus 12:48 – “... no uncircumcised person shall eat of it...”, Joshua 5

2 Bible principles:

- (i) **God’s people must have an outward sign of belonging to him.**

Colossians 2 – circumcision / baptism

Matthew 28 – disciples are baptised people.

- (ii) **Circumcision/baptism precedes Passover/communion**

Initiatory

Admits to church

Ongoing

Sustains church fellowship