

Sabbath School

Joshua | God is Faithful!

Dec 20, 2025

LESSON 12

December 13-19

God Is Faithful!



Joshua 21:45 NKJV

Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

Have you ever had to give a speech in front of a group of people? How about in front of the nation of millions you've been leading for an estimated 25-30 years! Joshua 23-24 records his final address to the nation of Israel. We're

going to go through it carefully today, and apply all that we can to God's remnant church today. Unlike a presidential inauguration speech that starts off the new administration, this is a farewell speech at the end of Joshua's leadership. And he has a lot to say!

The lesson frames it this way,

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 worshiped: Yahweh.

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](#))?

Joshua chapter 21 verses 43-45 is a neat **overview** of God's promises, that began w Abraham, and has its *ultimate fulfillment* with the remnant church. It is a multi generational promise that runs the length of the Great Controversy,

Original promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:7-8 KJV

[7] And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. [8] And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

And then God gives Abraham a sweeping *prophetic overview* of the coming exile in Egypt, the Exodus and final claiming of the promises He made to Abraham that day,

LAND

Joshua 21:43 KJV

And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

The ultimate fulfillment is the *heavenly* Canaan,

Hebrews 11:13 KJV

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Even the *land* that Israel inherited was *not* their real home! There's a larger picture,

Hebrews 11:16 KJV

But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

The final fulfillment is seen here,

Revelation 21:3 KJV

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be

with them, and be their God.

The *ultimate destination* isn't a place, it's a Person. God himself is our final home 

PEACE

Joshua 21:44 KJV

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.

The ultimate fulfillment is peace with God, who is our *defender and reward*,

Genesis 15:1 KJV

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

The *final fulfillment* is internal peace with God, and conquering sin,

Romans 5:1-2 KJV Justification

[1] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: [2] by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 8:1 KJV Sanctification

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

And for **mankind** is the ultimate fulfillment through *Jesus Christ reconciling* lost humanity with God,

"By His life and His death, Christ has achieved **even more** than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an **eternal separation** between God and man; but in Christ we become **more closely united to God** than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the **eternal ages** He is linked with us" **Desire of Ages, p 25-26**

What the Sabbath School lesson emphasizes is the **surety** of God's promises,

He gave “*all* the land” ([Josh. 21:43](#), NKJV, emphasis added), delivered “*all* their enemies into their hand” ([Josh. 21:44](#), NKJV, emphasis supplied), and according to “*all* that He had sworn” ([Josh. 21:44](#), NKJV, emphasis supplied), “*all* came to pass” ([Josh. 21:45](#), NKJV, emphasis supplied). 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.

You should do a study into **God's promises** throughout the Bible, and there are many.

The lesson states, “All Israel’s success has to be solely attributed to God’s divine initiative and trustworthiness” Truth!

However, the children of Israel had a part to play. Faith and works are inseparable,

 They had to actually *get up* and leave Egypt! They had to move and follow God’s leading. It wasn’t enough to believe, they had to do and to obey.

 When spying out the promised land they had to have faith in God's promises, in spite of the perceived obstacles.

 Abraham before them was no different. God promised him a lot. But would it have come to pass if Abraham had not obeyed God's word? **Read Genesis 12.1-3**

One thing is for sure: if Abraham *hadn't* obeyed, God's promises would have been fulfilled through someone!

How sure are God's promises? Are they conditional for us personally? Ellen White puts it this way in a sermon at the 1888 GC session in Minneapolis,

"It is not enough to say, "I believe;" we must exercise the *living faith* that claims the promises of God as our own, knowing that they are sure and steadfast"

"Faith claims God's promises and brings forth fruit in obedience... Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of

JOSHUA 23

Vs 1 It is clear Joshua was reaching the end of his life and knew it. He is called old twice. He wanted to have a final *appeal* to all of Israel to lift up their creator and redeemer. And encourage the Hebrews to be faithful to Yahweh.

Vs 2 All of Israel was involved in this farewell address to the nation.

Vs 3 "you have seen" he is appealing to the eye witness account, and reminds me of,

1 John 1:1 KJV

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Unlike Abraham who obeyed in **pure faith**, the Israelites **saw** all of God's promises fulfilled. This is why it was so important for Joshua to start off with this fact, a reminder.

"Has done because of you" What is the significance of this statement?

Exodus 19:5-6 KJV

[5] Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: [6] and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

1 Peter 2:9-10 KJV

[9] But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: [10] which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

God loves all of the days of the week, he created them! But there's *one day* that is special, unique. Likewise God loves all peoples of the earth, but there is one group

that is special, unique. **God gave these promises to only these people because they are His.**

Revelation 14:1 KJV

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

YOU inherent these promises!

Galatians 3:26-29 KJV

[26] For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Vs 4-5 Makes it clear that **God** fights the battles and gives the victory! And when God fights, the victory is assured.

Joshua 23:10 KJV

One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

What are the similarities between how the Israelites conquered Canaan under Joshua's leadership and the way Christians today can live a victorious spiritual life? Read [Josh. 23:10](#), [Col. 2:15](#), [2 Cor. 10:3-5](#), [Eph. 6:11-18](#).

The victories of the Israelites could not be attributed to their strength and strategy. Similarly, spiritual victory over sin and temptation have been secured through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but God's people today must constantly rely on the spiritual supplies provided by the Holy Spirit in order to live a triumphant life.

Colossians 2:15 KJV

and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 KJV

[3] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not

war after the flesh: [4] (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Ephesians 6:11 KJV

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The Christian life is a warfare. But “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” In this conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness we can be successful only by divine aid. Our finite will must be brought into submission to the will of the Infinite; the human will must be blended with the divine. This will bring the Holy Spirit to our aid; and every conquest will tend to the recovery of God’s purchased possession, to the restoration of His image in the soul.

Never will the human heart know happiness until it is submitted to be molded by the Spirit of God. The Spirit conforms the renewed soul to the model, Jesus Christ. Through the influence of the Spirit, enmity against God is changed into faith and love, and pride into humility. The soul perceives the beauty of truth, and Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. As these changes are effected, angels break out in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude.—**The Review and Herald, February 10, 1903.**

Vs 6-7 Joshua gets right to the heart of the matter, and warns Israel of the *real danger* they face,

Clear Boundaries

Using the same words that were addressed to him at the beginning of the book ([Josh. 1:7-8](#)), Joshua states that the task that lay ahead of Israel is not primarily military in nature. It is spiritual. It has to do with obedience to God's revealed will in the Torah.

Why do you think Joshua took such a strong position concerning Israel's relations with the surrounding nations? ([Josh. 23:6-8, 12, 13](#)).

The danger facing Israel is not the threat of the remaining nations' animosity but the risk of their friendship. Their weapons might not represent any challenge to Israel; however, their ideology and values (or counter-values) could prove to be more harmful than any military force. Joshua draws the attention of the leaders to the crucial fact that the conflict they have been involved in is first, and ultimately, spiritual. Therefore, Israel has to maintain its unique identity.

1 Peter 2:9-10 KJV

[9] But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, ***a peculiar people***; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his

marvellous light: [10] which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Read Judges 2.1-3

Why did God allow the Idolatry of the surrounding nations to be a "thorn in their side"? Do we have that same thorn today?

1 Peter 5:8-9 KJV

[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.