

Joshua: God's Sovereignty prompts man's activity (10:29-12:24)

1. Introduction

- a. Last week we saw the importance of prayer in the life of Joshua and then applied it to our lives.
- b. This week we will focus on the historical account of Joshua as he continues to conquer the land that God has given him. We will see in this account God's sovereignty.
- c. Reason for historical lists in scripture
 - i. Important to the people to see their inheritance
 - ii. Important to provide an accurate historical account
- d. Joshua 10:29-43: Joshua finishes the Southern Conquest
 - i. "the Lord gave it"
 - ii. "he struck it with the edge of the sword"
 - iii. "left none remaining"
- e. Joshua 11:1-5: Joshua's enemies in the North
 - i. List of kings throughout Northern Canaan
 - ii. "All these kings joined forces their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight Israel." vs 5
- f. Joshua 11:6-9: God's Sovereignty and Instruction
 - i. "I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel"
 - ii. "the Lord said to Joshua"
 - iii. "you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire"
- g. Joshua 11:10-15: God's Instructions Obeyed
 - i. "Joshua captured"
 - ii. "They had destroyed them"
 - iii. "Just as the Lord had commanded, and so Joshua did"
 - iv. "He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses"
- h. Joshua 11:16-23: War is over and the land rests
 - i. "So Joshua took all the land"
 - ii. "So Joshua took the whole land"
 - iii. "And the land rested from war"
- i. Joshua 12:1-6: Kings defeated by Moses
 - i. This was the victory that God provided across the Jordan
 - ii. Including this shows that even though it isn't "in" the land of Canaan, Israel lives there too.
- j. Joshua 12:7-24: Kings defeated by Joshua
 - i. "thirty-one kings"
 - ii. All in all, Joshua conquered the whole land.
- k. "There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought to more earnestly contend to than the doctrine of their Master over all creation--the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands--the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...for it is God upon the Throne whom we trust." Charles Spurgeon

- I. "An ocean liner leaves New York bound for Liverpool. Its destination has been determined by proper authorities. Nothing can change it. This is at least a faint picture of sovereignty. On board the liner are scores of passengers. These are not in chains, neither are their activities determined for them by decree. They are completely free to move about as they will. They eat, sleep, play, lounge about on the deck, read, talk, altogether as they please; but all the while the great liner is carrying them steadily onward toward a predetermined port. Both freedom and sovereignty are present here, and they do not contradict. So it is, I believe, with man's freedom and the sovereignty of God. The mighty liner of God's sovereign design keeps its steady course over the sea of history." AW Tozer

2. **God's Sovereignty is Perfect**

- a. His nature is perfect
 - i. "As your heavenly Father is perfect" Matthew 5:48
- b. His ways are perfect
 - i. "As for God, his way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is flawless." Psalm 18:30
- c. The preacher said, "There's no such thing as a perfect woman. Anybody present who has ever known a perfect woman, stand up." Nobody stood up. "Those who have ever known a perfect man, stand up." One elderly gentleman stood up. "Are you honestly saying you knew an absolutely perfect man?" he asked, somewhat amazed. "Well now, I didn't know him personally," replied the little old man, "but I have heard a great deal about him. He was my wife's first husband."

3. **God's Sovereignty Prepares us**

- a. Prepared Joshua
 - i. His life observing and learning leadership from Moses
 - ii. His life learning and serving in the military
 1. Spied out the land
 2. Saw the enemy giants
- b. Prepared Israel
 - i. Took them through victory, defeat, and discipline
 - ii. Had to allow a generation to die to prepare Israel as a nation
- c. Preparing even when circumstances are confusing
- d. Preparing us with instruction
 - i. He told Joshua ahead of time that victory would come (11:6)
 - ii. He gave Joshua encouragement (8:1-2)
 - iii. He told Joshua how to overcome ("Hamstring their horses and burn their chariots" Joshua 11:6)

4. **God's Sovereignty Provides for us**

- a. Provides daily bread
 - i. Manna in the wilderness (Joshua 5:12)
 - ii. Produce in the Promised Land (Joshua 5:12)
 - iii. "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." Hudson Taylor
- b. Provides correction
 - i. Sin of Achan (Joshua 7)
 - ii. Revealed deception of Gibeonites (Joshua 9)

- c. Provides victory
 - i. “the Lord gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel” (10:30)
 - ii. “the Lord gave Lachish into the hand of Israel” (10:32)
- d. “And my God will supply every need of your according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19
- e. “I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” Psalm 81:10

5. God’s Sovereignty Protects us

- a. An entire country against them with many enemy Kings and territories
- b. Giants, Horses, Chariots
- c. “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- d. “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

6. God’s Sovereignty Prompts Activity

- a. Joshua needed to obey God
- b. Joshua needed to apply God’s teachings
- c. Joshua needed to use his abilities
- d. Joshua needed to grab hold of what God gave
 - i. “Some will allege that if God ordains something as certain it renders human effort irrelevant: ‘Let go and let God.’ But Joshua knew better. His view was to not let go but to grab hold. Divine sovereignty creates confidence, which calls forth our effort even to the point of reckless abandon. God’s sovereignty is not a doctrine that shackles us but a reality that liberates us, not a cloud that stifles us but an elixir that invigorates.” Dale Ralph Davis
 - ii. “If God did not bless, not one hair, not a solitary wisp of straw, would grow; but there would be an end of everything. At the same time God wants me to take this stance: I would have nothing whatever if I did not plow and sow. God does not want to have success come without work, and yet I am not to achieve it by my work. He does not want me to sit at home, to loaf, to commit matters to God, and to wait till a fried chicken flies into my mouth. That would be tempting God.” Martin Luther
 - iii. God’s preparation, provision, and protection all require action.
- e. “What good is it...if someone has faith but does not have works?...Faith apart from works is dead.” James 2:14, 26
- f. Rahab mentioned for her faith and works in Hebrews 11 and James 2

7. God’s Sovereignty Personalized

- a. God is perfect
- b. God is preparing you and has prepared you
- c. God is providing for you and provided for you
- d. God is protecting you and has protected you
- e. God is prompting you to action and has prompted you to action