

## **JOSHUA 8:30-35 STUDY NOTES (4/24/22)**

**Joshua's Big Theme:** The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

**Today's Context:** After multiple successful battles and an increase in momentum, the Israelites come to a halt to worship God and renew their covenantal commitments.

### **Additional Study Notes:**

- A burnt offering is an offering completely burned up for God, in order to make atonement for the sins of a person (see Leviticus 1 & 6). A fellowship offering is an offering which is partially burned up to God, while the rest is consumed in a fellowship meal (see Leviticus 3 & 7).
- In today's passage, the people are in the land of Shechem. To the north of Shechem is Mount Gerizim and to the south is Mount Ebal. When the people stand on these two mountains in Shechem, it represents the whole territory of the land of Canaan. Shechem is also where Abram built his first altar (Gen 12:6) and where Jacob purchases land during his journeys (Gen 33:19). It is a land involving the past, present, and future story of Israel.
- God doesn't build a bunch of unconnected covenants, but instead, He is constantly building up and growing one ongoing covenant with His people. In fact, Moses says in Deuteronomy 29:14-15, that God's covenant is not just for the current generation, but also for "those who are not here today" (i.e. the future generations). God's covenant finds ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who blesses God's people and brings blessing to the nations!

**For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):**

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request



# Discussion Questions

## CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Good Friday and Easter? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

## TODAY'S TEXT

### **KNOWING God**

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: As you near the end of the Pentateuch (first 5 books), what are you enjoying or learning?
- (6) What do you think is the significance of "foreigners" being repeated twice (along with the mention of two other marginalized groups: women and children)?
- (7) The passage focuses heavily on how Joshua does *everything* Moses said, and is clearly operating as the "new Moses" for God's people. How do you see this in the passage and what might be the significance of this?

### **GROWING Together**

- (8) *\* If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (9) Pastor Matt said that God is reminding the Israelites of their story and identity in Him as they move through foreign territory. How do we often lose sight of *our* story and identity in Christ? What false stories or identities do you feel like you've fallen into recently? How can our personal testimonies be powerful for us and for others?
- (10) How does worship (individual *and* corporate) help to remind and impress our identity into us? How would you like to be better at worshipping God on a regular basis? What rhythms have worked well for you?
- (11) Why is our identity in Christ something more freeing, stable, and incorruptible than any other identity we might take on?
- (12) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

### ***SHOWING God to Others***

(13) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

### **PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK**

(14) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 9. What's interesting?  
What questions do you have?

### **QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)**

- (15) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (16) In this passage the Israelites are taking time to worship, glorify God and remember their relationship with Him. Do you take time to remember why you follow God? How do you do this? If you don't do this do you want to and how can you make it more important in your life?
- (17) What is an identity? How do you define yourself and what would other people say is important to you in your life? The Israelites, in this chapter, define themselves as children of God, is that how you see yourself? What does that mean to you? How can you share this with other people in your life today?