**Joshua Session 2**

**Part 2 – Taking the land (ch5-12)**

Structure of Joshua chapters 5 to 12

Note: 5:1; 9:1-2; 10:1; 11:1

chapter 12 – summary : kings defeated/lands taken

* the drumbeat of the Lord’s faithfulness

Structure of Joshua 5 to 8

Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal (covenant people; redemption ‘complete’)

Victory at Jericho (divine action)

Defeat at Ai (covenant violation makes the whole nation of Israel ‘*herem’* – 7:12)

Victory at Ai (divine gift – 8:1)

*herem* = ‘under the ban’ or ‘devoted for destruction’

People, places, animals or materials classified as ‘devoted things’ were off limits for Israel and were to be ‘devoted’ to Yahweh by destruction or in some cases by placing them in the Lord’s treasury.

Covenant reading at Mount Ebal

*The events of these chapter teach in history and experience the lesson of 1:7-9*

Narrative techniques in Jericho account (5:13-6:27)

* Repetition of trumpets, priests and ark
* ‘Interruptions’ in the flow of the narrative (e.g. 5:15; 6:1; 6:17-19; 6:22-23)

**Chapter 9 – The Gibeonite Deception**

5:1 – Canaanite reaction to the crossing = fear/paralysis

9:1-2 – reaction to Jericho/Ai = came together to wage war

A coalition prepared to fight

v3 – the Gibeonites react and act differently

v4-5 = ‘ruse’ = ‘wisdom/understanding’

v6-13

* a lie (v6)
* a confession of the faith (v9-10)
* they seek a treaty/covenant – a covenant of life and peace (v15)
* willingness to accept vassal status – ‘servants’ (v8, 9, 11)

🡪 confession of fear of God and submission (v24-25)

In contrast, Israel acts foolishly – v14

comparison with Rahab (ch 2)

comparison with the Achan account (ch 7)

the oath and the covenant must be honoured

the Gibeonites come under a strange kind of curse – v22-23 (see also v26)

Lessons: the wisdom of the Gibeonites in contrast to the folly of the Israelites

**Chapter 10 – Conquest in the South**

* The rescue of the Gibeonites (v1-15)
* The fate of the five kings (v16-27)
* The destruction of the southern cities (v28-39)

The rescue of the Gibeonites (v1-15)

Conversion makes the Gibeonites an object of attack – v1-4

v6 a desperate plea for help

Joshua acts – v 7

and the Lord is with him – v8

v9-11 – human action and divine power

* + v 10 and 11 would be better translated
    - *the Lord threw them into confusion before Israel*
    - *and struck them a great blow*
    - *and chased them along the way*
    - *and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah*
  + v11b – *the Lord hurled large hailstones on them and they died*

v12a – the summary: a remarkable day

v12b-13 – something even more remarkable

But what did Joshua actually ask for and what actually happened?

The fate of the five kings (v16-27)

The destruction of the southern cities (v28-39)

**Chapter 11 – The Northern Campaign**

1. This took a long time (v18)

2. We must reckon with the Lord’s judicial hardening

3. Note the defeat of those that Israel had feared the most