



# JOSHUA

## NEW BEGINNINGS

NCCC **Deception, Temptation, Faithfulness, & Victory** Josh 9-10

Mark Foreman Aug 3, 2008

- Jesus taught “the kingdom of God is near. Repent.”
- Though the kingdom Jesus envisions is not military, the concept goes all the way back to Joshua.
- The backdrop of Joshua is the K. of G. coming to Canaan, This is God's Camelot: utopian experiment in righteousness.
- The judgment of Canaan :is in light of Gen 15:16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."
- In these 2 chpts. we have the conquering of Southern Area.
- Rather than read two chpts, let me tell you the story, highlighting certain verses.
- Three things we learn here:

### ❖ Beware of Deception At Key Times (9:1-15)

- Times of temptation
  - When times are good and there is slack in the rope (David: 2 Sam 11:1).
  - When there is unresolved sin (bitterness, anger, etc) (Eph 4:26, 31; Acts 8:23).
  - When we are depleted or under stress (emotionally, physically).
  - When we are in a place of temptation for too long (Pro 5:8)
  - Exciting teacher who says what your flesh has been wanting (2 Tim 4:3-4).
- Temptation is usually not an evil thing in itself.
  - It is wrong time, place, person, or amount.
  - We take control quietly saying in our hearts, “it doesn’t matter. Others do it. God won’t mind. Just once.”
  - The temptation is to disobey God’s kingdom rule—mutiny.
- Jesus’ temptation (Mat 4)
  - Temptation was to move from faith to presumption.
    - Stones into bread
    - Jump from the temple wall
    - High mountain—give you the kingdoms.
  - Each time Jesus answered with the truth of the Word.
- “Our struggle is not with people ...” (Eph 6 :12).

- Be on your guard (over 60x in NT)
  - Mostly over religious teachers.
  - Guard our own lives and hearts.
  - Be like a sentry always watching for good and bad.
  - Be a fruit taster—that is what you will taste like if you eat this fruit.

❖ Moral Dilemma (16-27)

- We often create our own moral dilemmas out of impatience.
  - I want something, I don't quite feel right about it, but nothing else has come along.
  - Two biggest errors we end up counseling are in the areas of marriage and money.
- Time is your friend: go slow, stay low and don't blow.

❖ God Weaves Our Missteps Into Victory

- All things become good
  - It doesn't mean there aren't severe and painful consequences.
  - But he will work to weave this painful thread into a beautiful tapestry.
- What would have happened if I had originally obeyed? Can't go back in time.
- Let grace begin today. All will be forgiven. All will eventually be made new.
  - Some things you will never experience the consequences of
  - others you will wear a scar but God will work that into your life for beauty and character
- Live faithfully in the now and let God fix what is fixable.
  - The kingdom of God is coming in you and through you.
  - Now that you have been saved read the label on the decisions you make.
  - If you have already made poor decisions ask and look for God grace.

❖ Thinking It Through

- Review Joshua 9-10

- The Israelites failed to seek the Lord and were deceived by the Gibeonites. How have you been deceived in your life and what were the consequences? What deception might you be facing now?
  
- The Israelites created a moral dilemma for themselves. Have you ever had a moral dilemma that affected your life in a significant way? How have you dealt with it?
  
- Rom. 8:28 is an amazing promise: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. In what way has God done this for you? What mistakes has God put his redeeming touch to to make beautiful? What things still need His touch?