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# Chronological Study

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***Moses' Final Instructions and the Changing of the Guard:***

Exodus 21:17; 22:21-24; 23:4,5,9

Leviticus 19:3,9-10,14-18,32-34; 20:9; 21:31-33; 24:22; 25:35-38; 26:3-46

Numbers 6:1-21; 15:37-41; 27:12-14; 30:1-16

Deuteronomy 5:16, 21; 12:32; 20:1-20; 21:10-14, 18-21; 22:1-7, 12; 23:9-14,  
24-25; 24:5, 19-22; 25:4; 26:16-34:12

Joshua 1:1-8:35

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## ***Religious & Ceremonial Laws (continued)***

- Persons Excluded from the Congregation
- Nazirite Vow
- Vows of Dedication

## ***Laws of Government***

- Concerning Kings and Rulers
- Courts and Justice
- Special Crimes
- Personal Injury
- Personal Property
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Injuries, Damages & Restitution for Loss
- Credit & Collections
- Inheritance
- Marriage, Divorce & Sexual Relations
- Health & Dietary Laws

## ***Laws of Government (continued)***

### ***General Welfare***

#### ***Requirements for Benevolence***

*Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22*

God lays out that benevolence is always a personal choice, but one that God says you should help those in need, therefore you are accountable for how you handle your personal property. It is yours to do with as you choose but God does hold you responsible for how you view the personal property God has placed in your care because it is His

God is testing you with whatever He has given you to see/show what is in your heart. A stingy, tight-fisted attitude towards others exhibits a selfish, greedy heart, which Paul says in Colossians 3:5 is idolatry. Rather, Paul tells us in Philippians 2:3-4, not to be selfish and conceited, ascribing credit to ourselves for that which we have, but, rather, *with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:3-4; Colossians 3:5; James 3:13-14***

***Deuteronomy 13:3: you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.***

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***Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.***

***Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.***

***James 3:13-14: Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.***

One aspect of caring for the poor was the laws regarding gleaning and harvesting. The people were not to harvest the corners of their fields, go through the field a second time, or return to the field if something was dropped or left behind. God had already established in the Sabbath year; the fields were to be left and the crops were available to all to eat as needed and not to be harvested. Knowing the wickedness and inherent laziness of man, God set limits on how the poor were to benefit from the fields; they were only allowed to gather by hand. You see these laws played out in the book of Ruth, where Ruth went into the fields, after the harvesters, to gather grain. Boaz instructed his men to make sure they dropped some of their harvests so that Ruth might be able to pick up what they dropped.

### ***Duties of Respect and Support***

#### ***Parents, the Needy, Neighbors and Animals***

***Exodus 21:7, 22:21-24, 23:4, 5, 9***

***Leviticus 19:3, 14, 16-18, 32-34, 20:9, 24:22***

***Deuteronomy 5:16, 21, 21:18-21; 22:1-4***

God is adamant that men are to render honor to those whom He has appointed as rulers, those in authority. Knowing the family is the foundation of society, God has appointed the parents as the ones with authority to rule the family; they are His emissaries concerning the children. Thus, God called for the children to obey their parents. God gave the parents the responsibility of training their children in the ways of the LORD. The parents are to train their children to be obedient and enforce that obedience. Knowing that failure to do so would lead to the collapse of the family and eventually society, God gave the harshest and strictest punishment for failure to honor one's parents, death. ***Romans 13:7***

***Romans 13:7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.***

Paul says, in Ephesians 6, that obeying one's parents in the LORD is right and will be a blessing to the child. He also warns the fathers not to exasperate, frustrate, or provoke their children; do not cause your sons and daughters to stumble. ***Ephesians 6:1-4***

***Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

How much does God honor those who honor their mother and father? In Jeremiah 35, we are told of the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab, who refused to drink wine because their forefather, many generations earlier, had commanded his sons not to drink wine. They obeyed his commandment; even to the time of the fall of Judah, they refused to drink wine, for which God promised to bless that family line, forever. ***Jeremiah 35:14-19***

***Jeremiah 35:14-19: "The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are observed. So they do not drink wine to this day, for they have obeyed their father's command. But I have spoken to you again and again; yet you have not listened to Me. 15 "Also I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, sending them again and again, saying: "Turn now every man from his evil way and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to worship them. Then you will dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your forefathers; but you have not inclined your ear or listened to Me. 16 "Indeed, the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have observed the command of their father which he commanded them, but this people has not listened to Me." 17 "Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel, "Behold, I am bringing on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the disaster that I have pronounced against them; because I spoke to them but they did not listen, and I have called them but they did not answer." 18 Then Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father, kept all his commands and done according to all that he commanded you; 19 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me always.""***

Jesus condemned the leaders of Israel in His time, who had created rules or interpretations of the command effectively nullifying God's command. They contended that if someone had committed everything to God (i.e., anything and everything I have I am going to use for God), they could not use those assets to care for or provide for their parents. Thus, Jesus said, they invalidated God's command by their tradition. ***Mark 7:9-13***

***Mark 7:9-13 He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 "For Moses said, "Honor your father and your mother"; and, "he who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death"; 11 but you say, "If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."***

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God also gave commands for the care of the elderly, widows, orphans, strangers, the deaf and the blind; those who were not able to care for themselves in many situations. God based His commands on, *"I am the Lord."* Always reminding the people of where they had come from (*"for you were foreigners in Egypt"*) and how they had been in need; looking for someone, anyone, to offer them help in their time of need. God condemned the mistreatment of the handicapped, the blind, and the deaf; they were not to curse the deaf, who could not hear nor were they to put a stumbling block before the blind, who could not see. God, as with the laws regarding human sexuality, must give these laws because, without these laws, this is what man would do, out of spite or amusement. Man is responsible for his sin but the greater condemnation is upon those who lead others into sin. ***Matthew 18:4-7; Revelation 2:14***

***Matthew 18:4-7 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 "Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!"***

***Revelation 2:14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality."***

In Leviticus 19, God commanded the people to *"love your neighbor as yourself."* Jesus identified this as the greatest commandment to loving the LORD God with all your heart; if you love God in such a way, you will love your neighbor accordingly. ***Leviticus 19:17-18; Mark 12:28-31***

***Leviticus 19:17-18 "You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. 18 "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD."***

***Mark 12:28-31: One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, "HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' 31 "The second is this, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."***

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God called on the people to “*not hate your fellow countrymen.*” If they had an issue or a problem with someone, God told them to “*reprove your neighbor.*” Go to the individual and address the issue with them; do not let anger fester or any root of bitterness grow in your heart toward your neighbor. Paul reinforced this, saying not to let the sun go down on your anger. ***Ephesians 4:25-27; Hebrews 12:15***

***Ephesians 4:25-27: Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND YET DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.***

***Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;***

The LORD also gave commandments regarding the treatment of animals. Although animals are considered property, God commanded that the people were to treat their animals with care; they were not to “*muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.*” Paul twice refers to this commandment to show that those who labor in the things of the LORD are worthy of the support and care from those who are blessed by their efforts. Reinforcing the concept of rendering proper honor to those to whom God has ascribed honor, despite his many failings. ***1 Corinthians 9:9-11; 1 Timothy 5:17-18***

***1 Corinthians 9:9-11 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. 11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?***

***1 Timothy 5:17-18 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."***

Staying with the idea of loving one’s neighbor as oneself, God gave the tenth commandment, man is not to covet that which belongs to another, person, property, position, or *anything that belongs to your neighbor*. Once a man lets covetousness grow in his heart, he will quickly progress through the other nine commandments; any natural man who has lust in his heart for anything or anyone will pursue his lust, with abandonment, until he secures that which he lusts for unless constrained by law and circumstances. ***Matthew 15:19; Romans 7:18, 8:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-3***

***Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.***

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*formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

***Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.***

***Romans 8:6-8 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.***

***Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all***

## ***Rule of Warfare***

### ***Preparation, the Siege, Camp Regulations***

***Deuteronomy 20:1-20, 23:9-14***

As the people prepared to enter the land, God gave commandments for the structure and operation of the army. First, the priests were given the responsibility to instruct, encourage, and remind the soldiers that the battle was not theirs but the LORD's; highlighting the significance of spiritual leadership and the role of faith in warfare.

They were not to be frightened or discouraged, as their ultimate trust was to be in the Lord. The same *Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt* and cared for them for forty years of their wanderings in the wilderness, "*will be with you.*" Their reliance for victory was to be on God's strength rather than human might or military prowess.

The priests were to lead the nation into battle carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, representing God's presence among His people, a symbol of the LORD marching on before them into battle to encourage and inspire. No matter the enemy or difficulty we are confronted with, for victory we are always to have the LORD lead us into the fray.

The message is that victory is always and only achieved through the guidance, leadership, and intervention of God, in whatever endeavor we undertake or situation in which we find ourselves. Having the Lord lead them into battle, the Israelites were acknowledging their dependence on His power and sovereignty. ***Psalm 20:7; Proverbs 21:31; Isaiah 31:1; Ephesians 6:11-13***

***Psalm 20:7: Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.***

***Proverbs 21:31: The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the LORD.***

***Isaiah 31:1: Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!***

***Ephesians 6:11-13 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

God instructed the nation to utterly destroy the cities and all the inhabitants of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, as they would lead the people astray and had rejected God. However, God instructed the nation that when they entered into battle with other cities and nations, they were to first offer the city terms of peace. If the city accepted, they would be spared but become forced labor for the nation; if the city refused, they were to “*put to the sword all the men in the city.*” God gave the people “*the women, the children, the livestock and everything else in the city*” as plunder. This might seem harsh, but God is offering the people the opportunity to live; the choice was theirs.

As with the treatment of animals, God also gave commandments to the army regarding the use of trees in the siege of a city. They were not to cut down or use any fruit-bearing tree. They were only to cut down non-fruit-bearing trees. Additionally, God reminded the army to remain pure while encamped, to *keep away from everything impure*. Anyone who became impure was to move outside the camp until clean. God also established sanitary regulations; they were to cover their excrement, as “*the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp.*”

***Deuteronomy 23:14***

***Deuteronomy 23:14 Since the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you.***



## ***Responsibilities Under the Law***

### ***Obedience: Blessings and Curses***

*Leviticus 22:31-33; 26:3-46*

*Numbers 15:37-41*

*Deuteronomy 12:32; 22:12; 28:1- 31:20*

As Moses' tenure as leader of the nation draws to a close, as the people are about to embark on the conquest of the land, God reminds the people of the importance of being obedient to his law. The message he gives at the end of Deuteronomy is a repeat of the warnings given at the giving of the Law, with additional emphasis and instructions. First, God is holy in every aspect and His people are to reflect His holiness, to be his people; they are not to profane His name by their lifestyle.

Therefore, to ensure holiness, they were to faithfully obey His commandments and to raise their children according to the instructions of the Lord. Every seven years, "*in the year of canceling debts, during the Feast of Tabernacles,*" the whole nation was to appear before the LORD and the whole Law was to be read to them: men, women, children, and foreigners. God takes His word, the Bible, very seriously. Four times in the Scriptures, God warns against changing that which He has delivered to man. *Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32; Psalm 138:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19*

***Deuteronomy 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.***

***Deuteronomy 12:32 Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.***

***Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.***

***Proverbs 30:6 Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.***

***Revelation 22:18-19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.***

In Leviticus 26:3-46 and Deuteronomy 28:1-31:20, Moses, at the instructions of the Lord, reviews the many blessings and curses associated with the people's obedience to the Law. If the people listen to the Lord and obey His commandments, they can count on the blessings; if they refuse to obey, if they go their own way, they can just as certainly expect God to withdraw all blessings and instead send curses upon them. *Deuteronomy 30:19-20*

***Deuteronomy 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.***

In Deuteronomy 29, God's faithfulness in fulfilling His portion of the covenant with the people, despite their rebellion, is reviewed. Although their parents had confirmed the covenant with God previously at Siani, God called on the nation to renew the covenant with the Lord. God notes that the covenant with the nation is perpetual. The people confirmed the covenant with God for themselves and their children. The covenant established Israel as a nation under the leadership of God; He was their ruler. With each generation, each child had to decide to be obedient under God's Law. Should they reject God's covenant, they, like everyone today, have no other options. ***Deuteronomy 29:29; John 12:48-50; Hebrews 10:26-28***

***Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.***

***John 12:48-50 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."***

***Hebrews 10:26-28 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.***

The blessings of God for the people center on every aspect of life: family, health, government, military, financial. If they disobey, in Leviticus 26, God lays out how His judgments will unfold against their rebellion. With each judgment, the curses will become more severe, God is appealing to the people to turn from their evil ways and return to Him in obedience, to repent. God will bring unfruitfulness, plagues, oppression, ruin, disease, captivity, and dispersion among the nations.

God foretells of the nation's rebellion leading to their Babylonian captivity and dispersion among the nations. He tells of how the people, who in their sin would offer their children as sacrifices to idols, would in the siege eat the flesh of their own children. The

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In Deuteronomy 30, God tells the people that when they have been taken captive, when they have been dispersed among the nations, if they will acknowledge their sin and rebellion against the Lord, and call upon Him in confession, He will hear and forgive their sins and restore His blessings. Every sinner can find salvation if they but acknowledge their sin and call on the name of the Lord, but the one who rejects God's commandments and considers himself safe will find certain destruction (Deuteronomy 29:19-20). *Deuteronomy 9:14, 29:19-20, 30:11-14; Psalms 69:28; Romans 10:6-13; Revelation 3:5*

*Deuteronomy 9:14 "Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they."*

*Deuteronomy 29:19-20 "It shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, "I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered land with the dry." 20 "The LORD shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.*

*Deuteronomy 30:11-14 "For this commandment which I command you today, it is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 13 "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 14 "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*

*Psalms 69:28 May they be blotted out of the book of life and may they not be recorded with the righteous.*

*Romans 10:6-13 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

*Revelation 3:5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

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Knowing the time has come for the nation to enter the land and that he will not be permitted to enter with them, Moses offers encouragement to the people, for them to obey God in all they do, and warns them of their future unfaithfulness. Moses also offers instructions and encouragement to Joshua and commissions him to take over the leadership of the nation.

Before Moses' death, in Deuteronomy 32, God has Moses write a song for the people to remember His warnings of their sins and the consequences, the Babylonian captivity. Moses, in chapter 33, much like Jacob at his death, blessed the tribes of Israel.

Deuteronomy closes with chapter 34, which is the record of the death of Moses. Unlike Marion and Aaron who had very brief records of their death, Moses' death, recorded by Joshua, is longer. Moses is told by God that his time for him to die. God took Moses to Mount Nebo so that he might see the promised land, but was not permitted to enter because he did not hallow God's name before the people at Meribah-Kadesh. Upon his death, God buried the body of Moses and Joshua assumed command of the nation.

## ***The Changing of the Guard***

### ***Joshua Assumes Command***

#### ***Joshua 1***

Once Moses was dead, God spoke to Joshua and told him to cross the Jordan with the nation and take them to the land God had promised to the fathers. God laid out for Joshua the land He was giving the nation. All the nation had to do was believe God, obey God, step out in faith, and take the land. God has given Israel everything from Lebanon to the North, the Euphrates to the East, Arabia to the South, and the Mediterranean Sea to the West. The failure of the nation to possess all the God had given and promised was because of the failure of the people to obey and move. ***James 4:2-3***

***James 4:2-3 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.***

God told Joshua that his success would be dependent upon him faithfully adhering to the word of the Lord. He was to continually review, and meditate on the commands of God; in doing so, he would thus have success and God would never leave him. ***Joshua 1:7-9***

***Joshua 1:7-9 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.***

## ***The Conquest and Deliverance***

### ***Joshua 2***

Before crossing the river and beginning their conquest, Joshua sends spies into the land. Unlike when Joshua, himself, went as a spy forty years earlier, he did not send twelve spies, he only sent two spies. When the spies arrived in Jericho they encountered Rahab, a prostitute, who hid them from the king's men, risking her own life.

She told the spies how fearful all the peoples in the area were of Israel, as they all had heard of their crossing of the Red Sea, forty years earlier, and their defeating of the kings of the Amorites (confirming the veracity of the Biblical account of Israel's exodus from Egypt).

In verse 11 Rahab made a profound profession, “*When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*” This is faith; upon hearing of the work of God, she acknowledged Him as the *God in heaven above and on earth beneath*. Rahab's faith was demonstrated in her actions – she feared God, not man. The evidence that convinced Rahab only to harden the hearts of the others in Jericho and the surrounding nations/cities. ***James 2:24-26***

***James 2:24-26 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.***

As Rahab sent the men away, she insisted the men make a pledge to save her and her family when Israel conquered Jericho. The men agreed, telling her to put a scarlet cord in her window and anyone in her house would be spared. God blessed Rahab for her faith in sparing her life, and those of her family, but also in putting her in the line of Christ. ***Matthew 1:5-6; Hebrews 11:31***

***Matthew 1:5-6 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. 6 Jesse was the father of David the king.***

***Hebrews 11:31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.***

Unlike the previous spies who returned to discourage the people, the two spies returned and gave a good report. They let Joshua and the people know of the fear of the people of the land and told them their victory was certain.

## ***Crossing the Jordan***

### ***Joshua 3 & 4***

Chapter 3 of Joshua gives the account of the crossing of the Jordan River. Like the crossing of the Red Sea, the crossing of the Jordan was miraculous. The priests were told to enter the river, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. The Bible says the river was at flood stage at the time of the crossing; the priests had to be obedient and by faith step into the flooded Jordan. When they did, the river backed up and the people crossed on dry ground.

The people, at the command of Joshua, followed behind the priests, keeping their distance from the Ark, and crossed the Jordan. God told Joshua to have a representative from each tribe pick up a large stone from the river to set up a memorial.

Joshua had a memorial set up in the middle of the river, where the priests stood, and in Gilgal, the location of the headquarters of operation for the nation in their conquest of the land. The memorial stood as a testimony to the nation crossing the river on dry land and as a testimony to all the earth to the power and faithfulness of God. ***Joshua 4:24***

***Joshua 4:24: that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever.***

## ***Israel is Circumcised***

### ***Joshua 5***

Evidently, the kings of the Amorites, who resided on the western side of the Jordan, and the Canaanites, who lived on the Mediterranean also had spies as the news of Israel's crossing quickly reached both kingdoms. The crossing of the Jordan served as validation for anyone who might have doubted the reports of Israel's miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, instilling great fear in the peoples of the land (*"their hearts melted; no spirit in them any longer*).

Before proceeding with the conquest of the land, God instructed Joshua to have all the men be circumcised, as none of the males born during the wilderness journey had been circumcised. Circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant and a pre-request for participation in the Passover celebration, which the nation was about to celebrate. On the day after the Passover, the people ate of the produce of the land and the Lord stopped providing manna. ***Exodus 12:3, 6; Numbers 9:5; Joshua 4:19, 5:10-11***

***Exodus 12:3, 6 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, "On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household. ... 6 "You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.***

## Chronological Study

***Numbers 9:5 They observed the Passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the sons of Israel did.***

***Joshua 4:19 Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho.***

***Joshua 5:10-11 While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.***

At the end of chapter 5, when Joshua encountered a Man standing opposite him with His drawn sword, Joshua challenged Him, asking for whom He was fighting. The Man responded by instructing Joshua to take off his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground. He revealed Himself as the captain of the LORD's host. Thus, the figure Joshua was conversing with was the pre-incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ.