



WEEK 4 : LAND (Joshua – 1 Samuel 7)

Question: Why do you think God promised land to his people? And why do you think He asked them to drive out people that were already living there with their own customs and religious practices? Why not find another piece of land?

The section of the Bible that we're are looking at in this session is about God's people entering the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so many years before. In Genesis 1, when God made people, he gave us a specific role, which was to fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:28). Then sin came into the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience and their desire to make their own decisions about right and wrong. After that, the earth continued to be filled, but it wasn't subdued to live under God's rule.

In the book of Numbers, we read that two and a half of the tribes of Israel find good land before the people cross the Jordan into the promised land, and Moses agrees that they can stay there, but on one condition (Numbers 32:20-22). What is it?

²⁰ So Moses said to them, "If you will do this, if you will _____
_____, ²¹ and all of you armed men cross over
the Jordan before the LORD until _____
from before Him, ²² and _____ before
the LORD

Without subduing the earth to live under God's rule, there would always be sin, war and unrest.

Read Joshua 1:10-16

How soon are we told that the people would be able to cross into the land? (v11)

What does Joshua remind the people that God would give them? (v13, v15)

Now read Joshua 23:4-9.

What has God done? (v1)

Is the job completely finished? (v3-4)

What are the people to do? (v6-8)

What will happen if they don't do this? (v12-13, 15-16)

In the book of Judges we see God's people in God's place, but they keep turning away from God's rule, and therefore losing his protection and blessing. In his grace, God keeps sending deliverers, but the trajectory of the people is into the restless chaos of serving false gods.

Read Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus seems to recognise that we have lost the fight against the enemies that stop us from living God's way and enjoying his rule and blessing.

What should we do?

What will Jesus give?

How is Jesus different from the gods we often serve (sex, money, success, comfort...)?

Hebrews 4:8-11 says this:

"...if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience."

Jesus gives us the right of entry into a rest that is complete and everlasting, and does not depend on works we have done or must do now or in the future. God's people in Judges show us that turning to worship other gods is what robs us of that rest.

Why not spend some time now in worship of the God who brings us true rest...?