

Children’s Sermon: Truth Frees Us

Why do we have to hold hands in the parking lot?

When we learn the truth, we are given the freedom:

John 8:31–32, 36

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and *the truth will set you free.*” ... ³⁶ So if the **Son sets you free**, you will be free indeed.

Free from what? [Slavery to sin] Free to what? [See God truly]

Further Background, Review & Summary

Notes:

I. Purpose of Joshua

“The book of Joshua was written about Israel’s victorious conquest, tribal inheritances and covenant loyalty in Joshua’s day to address similar challenges facing later generations.”ⁱ

II. When was the Final Form of Joshua Finished

A. Who wrote Joshua?

“in the *Talmud*. In a series of questions and answers in the part of the *Talmud* known as *Tractate Baba Bathra 15*, we read:

‘[You say that] Joshua wrote his book. But is it not written, “And Joshua son of Nun the servant of the Lord died”? — It was completed by Eleazar. But it is also written in it, “And Eleazar the son of Aaron died” — Phinehas finished it.’ⁱ

B. Latest to Earliest Range of Possibility

“Joshua was originally written for Israelites who lived either in the period of the **judges**, during the **monarchy**, or as late as the **Babylonian exile.**”ⁱⁱ (Bold Mine)

Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings)

Joshua 24:31

³¹ Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

Joshua 11:21

²¹ And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all *the hill country of Judah*, and from all *the hill*

*country of **Israel***. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities.

III. Original Meaning

1. Divine Authority (1; 5:13–6:2; Jericho & Ai)
2. God's Covenant (5:2–12; **8:30–35**; 7:1, 11 “broke faith”)
3. Standard of Moses's Law (1; **8:30–35**)
4. God's Supernatural Power (Jordan; Jericho & Ai)
5. All Israel (Achan's sin 7:1, 11; Ai 7-8; **8:30–35**)

Review Outline

I. Entering the Land (1:1–5:1)

- A. Be Strong & Courageous (1:1–18)
 1. God's Charge to Joshua (1:1–9)
 2. Joshua's Commands the People (1:10–11)
 3. Joshua's Charge to the Transjordan Tribes (1:12–15)
 4. All Israel's Response (1:16–18)
- B. The Spies & Rahab (2:1–24)
- C. Crossing the Jordan (3:1–5:1)

II. Taking the Land (5:2–12:24)

- A. Covenant Renewal (5:2–8:35)
 1. Signs of the Covenant (5:2–12)
 - a. Circumcision (2–9)
 - b. Passover (10–12)
 2. The Battle Belongs to the LORD (5:13-8:29)
 - a. Commander of the LORD's Army (5:13–6:2)
 - b. Yahweh Destroys Jericho (6:3–27)
 - c. Covenant Disobedience (7:1–26)
 - d. Yahweh Destroys Ai with Israel (8:1–29)
3. **Covenant Affirmations (8:30–35)**

Covenant Loyalty is Primary (Joshua 8:30–35)

Yahweh and his commands should be Israel's first & dominant concern.



³⁰ At that time **Joshua built an altar to the LORD**, the God of Israel, on **Mount Ebal** (Deut. 27:2–6), ³¹ just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses (Ex. 20:24-25), “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they *offered on it burnt offerings* to the LORD and sacrificed *peace offerings*. ³² And there, in the presence



of the people of Israel, he *wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses*, which he had written. ³³ And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, *half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal*, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first (Deut. 11:29; 27:11–13), *to bless the people of Israel*. ³⁴ And afterward he read all the words of the law, *the blessing and the curse*, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. ³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before *all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners* who lived among them.

Original Meaning (Judges, Divided Kingdom, Exile)

Christian Application? ⁱⁱⁱ

1. **Inauguration** (Jesus' Live, Death & Resurrection; **Burnt Offerings**)
2. **Continuation** (Jesus' Ascension & Gift of the Spirit; **Peace Offerings**)
3. **Consummation** (Jesus Return & Final Victory)

Matthew 28:17–20

¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

- I. Christian Application in **Joshua 1-12**
 1. Divine Authority
 2. God's Covenant with His People
 3. Standard of **Jesus' Law**
 4. God's Supernatural Power
 5. God's Word is Given to All Israel (Ephesians 4:11–16)
- III. Implications for Rehoboth Baptist Church
 1. Consider Our Divinely Appointed Mission
 2. **The Priority of Covenant Loyalty with Jesus**
 3. We Need to Know What Jesus Taught
 4. We Have Been Granted Supernatural Power
 5. We are in this Together

IV. The Priority of Covenant Loyalty with Jesus

Jesus and his commands should be our first & dominant concern.



- A. Weekly Worship as Covenant Renewal (The Lord's Service)
 - 1. God Call Us All to Worship
 - 2. Including Our Little Ones
- B. Covenant Community around Jesus & His Word
 - 1. Do you understand your office as a member?
 - 2. Do you know how to succeed in your office?

“...the **three basic traits of frontline prayer** are these:

- 1. A request for **grace to confess sins** and to humble ourselves.
- 2. **A compassion and zeal** for the flourishing of the church and the reaching of the lost.
- 3. **A yearning to know God**, to see his face, to glimpse his glory.”^{iv}

ⁱ ***The Book of Joshua, Lesson One: An Introduction to Joshua.*** © 2017 by Third Millennium Ministries, thirdmill.org.

ⁱⁱ ***The Book of Joshua, Lesson Two: Victorious Conquest.*** © 2017 by Third Millennium Ministries, thirdmill.org.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. These three key words for “Christian Application” came the Third millennium notes.

^{iv} Keller, Timothy. Center Church (p. 73). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.