

**Wk 9 Ses 9:** Conquest and Judges 1 **Next Week's Reading:** Book of Judges and Book of Ruth

1. Older generation has died in desert; younger generation looking westward and ready to cross over into Canaan – geographically the lowest city on earth and the oldest; have now received the Book of Deuteronomy, fully accept must only worship one god; committed to living lives that reflect only one God in their lives
2. Moses cannot go with them but gives his formula for success (Deuteronomy 6:6-9); a. Teach your children as Lord commanded; your homes should be center of learning; **bind them (your beliefs) at your wrist** as a sign; let them be as a pendant on your forehead; write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.
3. Canaan STATS: Geographically strategic 50 x120 mile strip of land w/Mediterranean Sea to East, desert to west, mountains w/rain, snow, fertile lands; have an advanced material culture (Gen 15) made up of many cities and kings; well-fortified – each would need to be defeated to conquer the land
4. Canaanites had many gods: El-male god; Ashtora = have baby names Baal (all about fertility cults, cult prostitution) and Molech or *Tophet* (child sacrifice); Jer7:31
5. Spies sent out into Jericho (just as happened 40 yrs. before) but instead of returning in fear, learned Canaanites were afraid of Israel (Numbers 13-14/Exodus 23:28-30); spies stayed in Jericho in house of harlot **Rehab**; king found out and wanted Rehab to expose them; Rehab lied/hid spies on roof; when safe instructed them how to return to tribe safely; bargained to save her family w/red cord in window so when Israelites took the city, they would *Passover* her house; NOTE: Rehab ends up marrying Israelite; has a son **Boaz** who becomes great grandfather of **David**
6. Crossing the Jordan: God commands Ark of Covenant be carried to edge of Jordan River; stand fast; water recedes; all walk across; Ark follows-when on drive land, river flows again! Where is Ba'al? People of Jericho "were disheartened and lost courage as the (Israelites) approach". (Joshua 5:1) NOTE: Close to place where Jesus was baptized (Mathew 3)
7. Joshua 3 – 4: Crossing the Jordan to Gilgal (means rebel/stone heap); instructed to bring 12 stones from river and place where came onto the land (can still visit these today); celebrated Passover; all un-circumcised ordered to do so; Joshua instructs them to *sanctify/consecrate* themselves ("get your ducks in a row"); manna ceases – they must live off the land; God instructs that all spoils belong to Him (Herem warfare); Jericho destroyed, only Rehab/family survived; silver, gold, bronze articles preserved – Joshua made oath "anyone who tries to rebuild Jericho will lose first and last born sons"; this happened in Valley of Achor (misery/affliction)-later referenced in Hosea to make point of God taking our "*valley of Achor*" and turning into door of hope-a way of describing redemption promised by God (Hosea 2:15); NOTE: Israel's national anthem is called **Hatikvah** or "The Hope".
8. Defeat at city of Ai-Achan of Judah stole/hid loot from Jericho; God's punishment was defeat; Joshua found out; Achan and entire family stoned to death
9. Ai is destroyed, and this time can keep livestock and spoils of city. Why did God change His mind? To be God's people, must be faithful (on inside); if not faithful – on outside; Example: Gibeonites deception to save their lives and deceive Joshua into alliance-rather than fight them, joined Israel/became wood hewers and water drawers-servants; God is faithful to His faithful and can be trusted
10. Battle of five Amorite Kings (Joshua 10): Kings join forces to defeat Israelites; God delivers them even to using large hailstones/sun standing still. NOTE: Israelites do not conquer all Canaan; had intervals of rest; Israel has advantage of the higher ground
11. Division of the Land among 12 tribes; Joshua gets city of Timnah-Serah in Ephraim
- 12: Joshua's final farewell/renewal of Israel's covenant with God: Don't marry Canaanites, trust/serve the Lord; if you choose to serve Him, you will be on the *inside*; if you choose not to serve Him, you will be on the *outside*; just as God fulfilled all His promises to Abraham, so shall He fulfill every threat.

The 'book of Jashar' is mentioned in the Old Testament. Can you explain what this book was?"

The "book of Jashar" (ASV) is referenced twice in the literature of the Old Testament; in Joshua 10:13 and in 2 Samuel 1:18. We will consider each of these episodes and its relationship to this ancient document.

(1) 1<sup>st</sup> Reference: After Joshua conquered the cities of Jericho and Ai, out of fear the community of Gibeon made alliance with Israel. Adonizedek, king of Jerusalem, gathered together a confederation of rulers who commenced an attack upon Gibeon who sent for Joshua, pleading for help. Israel then engaged the enemy at Beth-horon, about 12 miles NW of Jerusalem. What followed was one of the greatest battles of history. Jehovah joined forces/ Hebrews, raining great hailstones from the sky, slaying them. In order to extend the time of the "mopping up" effort, Joshua petitioned the Lord, saying, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Ajalon. The sun stood still, and moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies." Most likely Joshua asked, "Is not this written in the **book of Jashar**?" (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> reference found in David's lament for Saul and Jonathan following the deaths of these two (1 Samuel 31). The father had made himself an enemy of the shepherd lad, and the son became David's closest friend. The poignant ode is recorded in 2 Samuel 1:19-27, but the author of 2 Samuel cites the book of Jashar as the earlier source from which the poem was taken. The Book of Jashar: The expression, "**book of Jashar**," translates two Hebrew words that signify "book of the upright" or "book of the righteous one." Apparently, it was an ancient Hebrew hymnbook containing nationalistic songs. The Syriac translation of the text in Joshua calls it the "book of praises," or "book of hymns." The references in the books of Joshua and 2 Samuel suggests this collection of songs were compositions designed to celebrate great battles and notable characters in Israel's illustrative history, as the nation prepared for the coming of the Messiah. 2 Samuel suggests the book was used as a training text for Israel's military forces. The passage reads: "and he bade them teach the children of Judah the song of the bow: behold it is written in the **book of Jashar**" (1:18 ASV). The book of Jashar is no longer extant. A copy, circulating under that name since 1751, has been determined to be a forgery.

