

## WEEK 11 — ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

**Date:** about January 1406 to 1400 BC

**The Story:** God is the focus of Moses' final words to Israel before he dies as he presents God's covenant with the people once again—the covenant that promises God's blessings if Israel is faithful to him and punishment if Israel is not. This was standard language for nations' covenants with their kings at this time. After final blessings, Moses dies. As we begin the book of Joshua, Joshua leads Israel into the promised land at last, but it is clearly God who is in command. Israel experiences both victory and defeat as they encounter the Canaanites—victory when they obey God, defeat when they don't. By God's power, Israel conquers much (but not all) of the promised land. Watch for signs of faithfulness in Israel during this time, and also for hints of trouble to come. Even with all its victories from God, Israel is not always consistent in its faithfulness. This week's readings end with several chapters of lists of the regions conquered and unconquered along with details about how Israel's new land was divided among its tribes.

\* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### MARCH 13 DEUTERONOMY 28-29

**Today's reading** seems awkward to us today, with its short list of blessings for obedience to God followed by its extensive and harsh list of punishments for disobedience. In Israel's time, though, this was standard fare for covenants between kings and their peoples: the king's obligations if the nation followed him, and how he would discipline them if they did not keep their covenant. Through the covenant Moses presents to Israel here, God is becoming Israel's king. He is their rightful king because he saved Israel from its enemies.

**Date:** about January 1406 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Deuteronomy 28

**Kids' Reading\*:** Deuteronomy 28:1-14 • Deuteronomy 30

### MARCH 14 DEUTERONOMY 30-32

**Today's reading** begins with a word of warning and hope as Moses foretells that Israel will turn away from God—but when they turn back to him, God will reestablish his covenant with them. Moses' prediction here foreshadows the whole story of Israel's history in the Old Testament from here on. Moses will die soon. So he affirms Joshua as his successor, predicts Israel's failure to keep God's covenant, and recites a prophetic song to Israel. This song both foretells Israel's sins against God and the punishments he will bring upon them and also speaks hope to Israel, because after he disciplines them God will restore his people again. Watch for a similar pattern (sin-punishment-restoration) in the messages of Israel's prophets later.

**Date:** about January 1406 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Deuteronomy 30:11 to 31:8 • Deuteronomy 31:30 to 32:52

**Kids' Reading\*:** Deuteronomy 31:1-13 • Deuteronomy 32:48-52 • Deuteronomy 34

### MARCH 15 DEUTERONOMY 33-34 • JOSHUA 1-3

**Today's reading** brings us to the end of Moses' life. In Deuteronomy, he speaks final blessings over Israel's tribes. Then he dies. As we begin the book of Joshua, Joshua takes leadership of Israel and prepares (with help from a certain Canaanite woman) to bring Israel into the promised land at last. At the end of Joshua 3, Israel takes its first steps across the Jordan River and into Canaan.

**Date:** about January to March/April 1406 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Deuteronomy 34 • Joshua 1-3

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 1-2

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ**

**MARCH 16 JOSHUA 4-6**

**Today's reading** finds Israel crossing the Jordan River into the promised land; note the resemblance to Israel's crossing of the Red Sea forty years earlier. After some days of consecration and a celebration of the Passover, Israel is ready to go to battle. God gives instructions to Joshua, and Israel engages in its first conflict: the famous battle at Jericho.

**Date:** March-April of about 1406 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 4-6

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 3-4

**MARCH 17 JOSHUA 7-9**

**Today's reading** follows Israel's victory at Jericho with a devastating defeat at Ai. After so great a conquest, how could Israel fall to such a small town? But Israel's strength does not come from itself, but from God. Israel learns its lesson, renews its covenant with God at Mount Ebal (recall Deuteronomy 27)—then falters again by failing to consult God before establishing a treaty with the Gibeonites.

**Date:** about 1406 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 7:1 to 8:29

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 5:13 to 6:27

**MARCH 18 JOSHUA 10-12**

**Today's reading** covers a series of victories over about a six-year period. Israel rescues the Gibeonites from a group of Amorite kings. Then Israel goes on two military campaigns, first to conquer the southern half of Canaan, then to conquer the northern half. Joshua 12 provides a list of kings defeated by the Israelites.

**Date:** about 1406-1400 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 10-11

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 8:30 to 9:27

**MARCH 19 JOSHUA 13-15**

**Today's reading** informs us that even though Israel had, in one sense, conquered the whole promised land (11:23), they did not yet have complete control everywhere (13:1). Israel still has more work to do (notice how this situation fits God's plan expressed in Deuteronomy 7:22). Even so, Israel divides up the land among its tribes, beginning with the tribes east of the Jordan and with the tribe of Judah.

**Date:** about 1400 BC • Caleb is 85 years old at this time.

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 13:1-7 • Joshua 14-15

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 10:1-15 • Joshua 14:6-15

**Parents' Guide**

PG preview for young children

Deut 28:15-68 (T), 48 (N)

Deut 29:19-28 (T)

Deut 30:6 (C), 17-18 (T)

Deut 31:16 (S), 17 (T), 27-29 (T)

Deut 32:23-27 (T, V), 32-33 (T), 41-43 (T, V)

Jos 2:1 (S), 19 (T)

Jos 5:2-8 (C)

Jos 6:17 (S), 20-21 (V), 22 (S), 24 (V), 25 (S), 26 (T)

Jos 7:4-5 (V)

Jos 8:14-28 (V)

Jos 10:5-11 (V), 28-42 (V)

Jos 11:6-21 (V)

Jos 13:22 (V)

C = Circumcision  
N = Nudity  
S = Sexuality  
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes  
V = Violence

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Deut 28:26 (T)

Jos 7:15 (V), 25 (V)

Jos 8:29 (V)

Jos 10:24-27 (V)

Jos 11:6-9 (V), 20 (T, V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

Deut 28:30 (S, V), 53-57 (T, V)