

Immerse - Kingdoms

Week #2 - Standing on the Promises

October 20, 2026

THIS WEEK WE WILL WRESTLE WITH PROGRESSION ALL OF US FACE IN OUR WALK OF FAITH: Last week we concluded like the Israelites, we can rest because God is faithful.

We heard the foundation of our faith is that **God is faithful**.

HOWEVER, DAY-TO-DAY WE WRESTLE WITH THE QUESTION OF WILL: WE STAND ON WHAT HE HAS PROMISED—EVEN WHEN WE CANNOT YET SEE ITS FULFILLMENT?.

Scripture defines faith as:

NOW FAITH IS CONFIDENCE IN WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND ASSURANCE ABOUT WHAT WE DO NOT SEE. 2 THIS IS WHAT THE ANCIENTS WERE COMMENDED FOR. HEBREWS 11:1

BIBLICAL FAITH ISN'T CONFIDENCE THAT WHAT I HOPE FOR WILL HAPPEN. IT IS CONFIDENCE IN GOD AND WHAT HE HAS SAID, EVEN WHEN I CANNOT YET SEE HOW HE WILL FULFILL IT.

What makes our confidence possible? **The character of the One who made the promise.**

God says because of HIS presence...His children should be strong and courageous. And in Him, He provides a place of rest as He leads us.

As we journey through Joshua, we should pause to understand the people. They were either born in captivity in Egypt or born in the wilderness. Some remember the miracle of the deliverance out of Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea. But the bulk of their life was in the wilderness.

WHILE THEY MURMURED AT TIMES...THEY DO KNOW WITH CONFIDENCE THAT GOD SUSTAINED THEM!

NOW - God says...it is time for you to advanced to what I promised to Moses. But to do this... you will need to **trust in Me** and to **rest in Me**.

In our first week of readings, we read about one battle after another...one victory after another as God defeated the enemy. We saw the consequence of placing trust in anything other than God. Whether in spoils from war or alliance with someone to strengthen you.

Now we come to Chapters 11-24 of the Book of Joshua. The majority of the readings can come off quite boring. It is about the allocation of land to the various tribes of Israel.

This allocation process will require faith.

Something occurred in Chapter 13 that I want us to dissect this morning:

WHEN JOSHUA WAS AN OLD MAN, THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "YOU ARE GROWING OLD, AND MUCH LAND REMAINS TO BE CONQUERED. 2 THIS IS THE TERRITORY THAT REMAINS: ALL THE REGIONS OF THE PHILISTINES AND THE GESHURITES, 3 AND THE LARGER TERRITORY OF THE

CANAANITES, EXTENDING FROM THE STREAM OF SHIHOR ON THE BORDER OF EGYPT, NORTHWARD TO THE BOUNDARY OF EKRON. IT INCLUDES THE TERRITORY OF THE FIVE PHILISTINE RULERS OF GAZA, ASHDOD, ASHKELON, GATH, AND EKRON. THE LAND OF THE AVVITES ⁴ IN THE SOUTH ALSO REMAINS TO BE CONQUERED. IN THE NORTH, THE FOLLOWING AREA HAS NOT YET BEEN CONQUERED: ALL THE LAND OF THE CANAANITES, INCLUDING MEARAH (WHICH BELONGS TO THE SIDONIANS), STRETCHING NORTHWARD TO APHEK ON THE BORDER OF THE AMORITES; ⁵ THE LAND OF THE GEBALITES AND ALL OF THE LEBANON MOUNTAIN AREA TO THE EAST, FROM BAAL-GAD BELOW MOUNT HERMON TO LEBO-HAMATH; ⁶ AND ALL THE HILL COUNTRY FROM LEBANON TO MISREPHOTH-MAIM, INCLUDING ALL THE LAND OF THE SIDONIANS.

"I MYSELF WILL DRIVE THESE PEOPLE OUT OF THE LAND AHEAD OF THE ISRAELITES. SO BE SURE TO GIVE THIS LAND TO ISRAEL AS A SPECIAL POSSESSION, JUST AS I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. ⁷ INCLUDE ALL THIS TERRITORY AS ISRAEL'S POSSESSION WHEN YOU DIVIDE THIS LAND AMONG THE NINE TRIBES AND THE HALF-TRIBE OF MANASSEH."

Wow! What a great illustration of the details of God's plan! Did you know?

As Joshua's story draws to a close, we discover what it truly means to **STAND ON THE PROMISES** of God.

And it begins with a promise you cannot yet see.

#1 A Promise You Cannot Yet See — Joshua 13

When you cannot see it — do you make room for what God has said?

Because faith often calls us to trust what we cannot yet see, our human perspective may not align with God's perspective.

ISRAEL SEES UNCONQUERED TERRITORY. GOD CALLS IT ISRAEL'S POSSESSION.

How can God call something theirs that they haven't possessed yet?

Because the certainty wasn't in Israel's ability. The certainty was in God's word.

A PERSONAL QUESTION TO PONDER...

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE MY LIFE TODAY AROUND SOMETHING GOD HAS SAID ABOUT TOMORROW?

As you ponder how do we, in faith, make room for what God has promised?

- **Relationships:** "God calls me to forgiveness and peace as far as it depends on me, will I stop rehearsing the offense and make room in my heart for forgiveness—even if I cannot control what the other person does."
- **Calling:** "If I sense God preparing me for something, perhaps I begin learning and serving now rather than waiting for the title or opportunity."
- **Family:** "Perhaps that child you've been praying for shows no evidence of returning to God. Making room doesn't mean manipulating them. It means keeping the relational door open and continuing to pray."

- **Generosity:** “If I really believe God is my provider, perhaps I can loosen my grip on what He has entrusted to me.”
- **New season of life:** Joshua is our Exhibit A. God says...Joshua, you are old - yet there still is work to be done. Growing older didn't mean Joshua had outlived God's purposes. His assignment was changing. Sometimes standing on God's promises means preparing something you may never personally possess.

#2 A Faithfulness You Can Look Back On — Joshua 23

While I am waiting — I must remember what God has done.

Joshua was coming to the end of his life. He had an important message for the leaders.

YOU HAVE SEEN EVERYTHING THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU DURING MY LIFETIME. THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS FOUGHT FOR YOU AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES. 4 I HAVE ALLOTTED TO YOU AS YOUR HOMELAND ALL THE LAND OF THE NATIONS YET UNCONQUERED, AS WELL AS THE LAND OF THOSE WE HAVE ALREADY CONQUERED—FROM THE JORDAN RIVER TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN THE WEST. 5 THIS LAND WILL BE YOURS, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL HIMSELF DRIVE OUT ALL THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE NOW. YOU WILL TAKE POSSESSION OF THEIR LAND, JUST AS THE LORD YOUR GOD PROMISED YOU. JOSHUA 23:3-5

Joshua reminds them of the evidence before them.
Battles won. Failures survived. Mercy received. Promises fulfilled. Promises yet to be fulfilled.

Joshua shifts to the faith needed for the future.

BE VERY STRONG; BE CAREFUL TO OBEY ALL THAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF MOSES, WITHOUT TURNING ASIDE TO THE RIGHT OR TO THE LEFT. JOSHUA 23:6

Joshua is not giving a formula to make God faithful. He's teaching how to remain close to the God who is faithful.

Notice Joshua doesn't tell them, ‘You've got to become strong enough for what's coming.’ He directs them back into relationship with God.

To be very strong is rooted in the truth of God's presence. In that awareness, being very strong is the fruit. But also, it is not just awareness of His presence, He desires us to be obedient to His word.

The next set of instructions is all about loyalty. It is impossible to have God and culture as priorities. In verse 8, Joshua says to cling to the Lord your God as you have been doing and then in verse 11 he says be very careful to love the Lord your God.

The strength to remain faithful in the waiting isn't found in trying harder to wait. It comes from clinging more closely to the One we're waiting on.

Jesus said it many ways...abide in me...seek first...

Our love is in the One Whom has faithfully fulfilled every promise He has made to us.

"SOON I WILL DIE, GOING THE WAY OF EVERYTHING ON EARTH. DEEP IN YOUR HEARTS YOU KNOW THAT EVERY PROMISE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS COME TRUE. NOT A SINGLE ONE HAS FAILED! JOSHUA 23:14

#3 A Choice You Still Must Make — Joshua 24

When I must respond — will I entrust myself to the God who has been faithful.

Most of us have heard the abbreviated version of Joshua 24:15, over and over again....

"... CHOOSE TODAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE. ... AS FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."

But notice this is verse 15 of this chapter. What was said prior to this? It was God speaking on that He has done....

"...THIS IS WHAT THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYS: LONG AGO YOUR ANCESTORS,.."
JOSHUA 24: 2

- I brought Abraham...
- I gave...
- I sent...
- I brought you out...
- I destroyed...
- I delivered...
- I gave you land...

Joshua then says:

SO FEAR THE LORD AND SERVE HIM WHOLEHEARTEDLY. JOSHUA 24:14

God's faithfulness precedes Israel's faithfulness.

Their choice doesn't make God faithful. Their choice is a response to the God who has already shown Himself faithful.

Look at **who He is**.

Look at **what He has done**.

NOW—WHO WILL YOU TRUST WITH YOUR LIFE?

Joshua makes his declaration....“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

WRAP-UP

So what does it mean to stand on the promises?

When I cannot see it, **I trust what God has said.**

While I am waiting, **I remember what God has done.**

And when I am called to respond, **I entrust myself again to the God who has been faithful.**

"AFTER EVERYTHING SCRIPTURE HAS SHOWN ME ABOUT WHO GOD IS, WILL I STAND ON HIS PROMISES?"

Hear His promises....

- I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.
- NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM MY LOVE.
- IF YOU LACK WISDOM, ASK.
- MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU.
- HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION.
- CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN."

STANDING ON THE PROMISES ISN'T ASKING GOD TO BLESS THE FUTURE I'VE IMAGINED. IT'S TRUSTING THE FUTURE GOD HAS SPOKEN.

We can trust what He has spoken because we know the character of the One who spoke it."