

## **Message Guide**

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration. As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of these Message Guides will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' messages, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

## Message Guide & Questions

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 1 – Your Past Matters Joshua 1:1 - 7

1. Please read and consider Joshua 1:1 - 9
2. What does 'inheritance' mean, and what does it refer to in this particular context?

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3. Now read and consider Genesis 15:7. What do we learn from this?

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4. Is this inheritance just about a prime piece of real estate? What was the purpose of it?

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5. God's purpose in the Old Testament since Abraham was  
Keeping the R \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ in the R \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_  
for the R \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_.

6. So, what was this **Right Purpose** that had to be kept to the fore?

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7. Now read the following scriptures. What do we conclude from them?  
Ephesians 1:13 – 14; Colossians 1:12; Ephesians 1:18

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8. There are 3 lessons Joshua learned from this 40 years of wandering in the desert.

**# 1 In Meeting B** \_\_\_\_\_

Read and consider Exodus 17:8 – 11, then verses 13 & 14

9. Now read and consider Ephesians 6:10

10. **# 2 In Meeting G** \_\_ \_

Now read and consider Exodus 33:7 - 11

Why did Joshua not want to leave the tent of meeting?

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11. There was a third point that Charles did not get to because of time which was  
# 3 **In Meeting Fears.**  
It covered the 2 chapters of Numbers 13 - 14

### **Final Thoughts**

An inheritance is given – on the initiative of the giver.  
Fighting in the strength of God cannot be learned as a theory  
– only by experience

Joshua learned that the Presence of God comes  
from Communion with God;  
and that comes from wrestling with God.  
You cannot switch God on and off by a brief prayer.

Unless His Presence goes with you; you cannot move on!

What opportunities is God giving you to learn about Himself?  
Don't wait for the big things to come along,  
because big things grow out of little things,  
and it is in the little things that we learn and grow!

**Message Guide & Questions**

**Joshua – Living Your Inheritance  
Part 2 – Faith Is More Important Than Character  
Joshua 2:1 - 24**

- 1. First of all, please read and consider Joshua 2:1 - 15
- 2. Other than Rahab, who else is this story about?

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- 3. What information were those original 12 spies looking for?

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- 4. Where did the spies go to gather this information?

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- 5. What did the spies take back with them to substantiate their findings?

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- 6. What did the spies report?

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- 7. So what did the spies recommend?

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- 8. What did the 2 spies sent to Jericho find? Read Joshua 2:1

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- 9. Read all these occasions that Rahab is mentioned in scripture.  
Joshua 2:1; Joshua 16:17; Joshua 6:25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25; Matthew 1:5  
What do you see from this?

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10. Taking a closer look at Rahab, read and consider the following scriptures:  
Joshua 2:9 – 11, then Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25

### **Final Thoughts**

Of all the excellent lessons found in this epic story,  
surely this is one of the most profound  
that can be applied to our own lives today:

**God will give us the land - if we will go in and trust Him.**

The word *'if'* is a conjunction that introduces a condition.

We have to 'go' and 'trust'  
and then God will fulfill His promise to 'give'.

And consider this:

**What is more important; Character or Faith?**

We have to remember that there is no justification  
on the grounds of 'character'.

**It is only 'by faith' that we are saved.**

"Character" is all about 'behaving yourself';  
'faith' is the disposition of trust in God  
that looks to God to be God of Heaven above  
and on the earth below.

**A person's faith is more important than their character.**

**Why? Because if we 'live by faith',  
then Christ is formed in us,  
and our character will result from our faith.**

**Faith does not result from character!**

**If we live by faith in God  
Christ will be being formed in us.  
And we will be fruitful!**

## Message Guide & Questions

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 3 – Moving Into Promised Lands Joshua 2:1 – 24:1 – 17 & 4:19 - 24

1. This study will deal with the dramatic story of Israel entering the promised land of Canaan. Please read and consider. Joshua 3:1 – 13 & Joshua 4:19 - 24  
What has happened so far?

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2. What is the root problem of the people of Israel?

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3. As the people of Israel needed to be prepared for crossing the Jordan River, and entering into their Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey, so we need to prepare ourselves. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 4:9 - 11

4. **A. Physical Preparation** – Read and consider Joshua 3:1 - 4

5. **B. Psychological Preparation.** – Read and consider Joshua 3:4

6. **C. Spiritual Preparation** – Read and consider Joshua 3:5

7. What did spiritual preparation entails?  
Read and consider Exodus 19:10 – 12  
Read and consider also Psalm 24:3 – 6

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## Final Thoughts

**The people of God had no confidence,  
consequently they had no expectations.**

We can have all our doctrinal 'I's' dotted and 'T's' crossed,  
but we can still be barren.

We need to operate in **His Strength**,  
with **His Provision**, and for **His Agenda**.

When you surrender your life to Jesus Christ you have to:

1. Release the plans.
2. Release the desire to predict.
3. Release the need to predict where you will be in 10 years or so.
4. LET IT GO!

This is contrary to our nature, but essential to living by faith!

In truth, we know as much of God as our **experience of God**.  
Our **theology** is much larger than our **experience** [and so it should be],  
but it is our **experience of God** that is the zone in which we have **conviction**,  
**spiritual energy**, and **trust**.

Sadly we have too many people sitting around  
**dotting their 'I's' and crossing their 'T's'**,  
yet with precious little **real experience** of God.

## Message Guide & Questions

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 4 – Preparing For Victory Joshua 5 – 6

1. This study deals with 3 issues that needed to be dealt with as Israel **Prepared for Victory**.

For your preparation you should read and consider Joshua chapters 5 and 6.

2. Please read and consider Joshua 5:2 – 9

#### 1. Restoration of Circumcision

3. Why was circumcision the mark of the covenant between God and Abram?

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4. What happened to circumcision during the 40 years in the wilderness?

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5. As with any 'sign' it is more that the outward physical expression of it, but rather the corresponding inner issues. Please read and consider the following scriptures:

Deuteronomy 10:16                      Deuteronomy 30:6

6. Now read and consider Joshua 5:2 – 9

#### 2. Celebration of Passover

7. Now read and consider Joshua 5:11 – 12

#### 3. Ending of Manna

### Final Thoughts

During the 40 years that Israel wandered in the desert,  
the practice of circumcision had fallen by the wayside,  
and it much later became one of the great controversies of the early church.

Read and consider Acts 15, especially verse 29.

#### **Once Christ had come circumcision became irrelevant.**

There is nothing physical that we do that gets us right with God;  
but the things we do give expression to the rightness.

Although the manna contained all the essential ingredients  
of everything God had for them –  
it did not satisfy them.

In Canaan they would find all the ingredients of God's full provision for His people.  
And as long as they stayed close to Him and obeyed His word –  
it would more than satisfy them

## Message Guide & Questions

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 5 – Sin In One Brings Defeat To All Joshua 7:1 - 26

1. In this last study from this Joshua series we need to read and consider Joshua 7:1 – 26.

Israel has seen two dramatic interventions by God. What are they?

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2. What was the next major situation faced by the people of Israel?  
Read Joshua 7:3

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3. What happened when Israel went up against the few men of Ai?

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4. What was the cause of this unexpected defeat?  
Read and consider Joshua 7:11 – 12

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5. **1. The Evil** - that Achan had done.  
God had said this: Joshua 6:18 - 19

6. Achan coveted what he saw.  
Read and consider James 1:14 - 14

7. **2. The Effect** – on the whole nation.  
Read and consider Joshua 7:10 - 12

8. What was one of the important lessons that God was teaching His people?  
Read and consider Joshua 7:13

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9. **3. The End** – What came from it.  
Read and consider Joshua 7:25 – 26

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10. Punishment and Discipline are two very different things.  
Consider those differences.

**Final Thoughts**

**We should always be aware of the pattern of coveting.**

It begins with **desire**.

It then develops **a life of its own**.

It works away **in your mind and heart**.

It begins to **drag you down**.

It becomes **stronger than you**.

It becomes **'hidden sin'**

**- which is toxic and actively destructive.**

**Sin in one person can bring defeat to a whole nation.**

Military tactics can be good,  
even the spiritual life of the people can be good;  
but in a situation of victory when God is at work,  
one person can kill it.

But a corresponding truth is that  
**victory by one man** can also bring a victory to a whole nation –  
such was the case with David & Goliath.

### **Leader's Message Guide & Answers**

These Leader's Guides are prepared to help the Study Group Leader keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance

#### Part 1 – Your Past Matters

#### Joshua 1:1 - 7

1. The Book of Joshua is a key book of Historical narrative.  
Focus on Joshua 1:6. Because of this verse, this message is entitled 'Living Your Inheritance'.
2. 'Inheritance' normally means, receiving property, titles, debts, rights and obligations on the death of an individual – usually, but not always - a relative.  
In this context it is about inheriting land that God had promised to Abraham.
3. The inheritance was 'claimed', so-to-speak, by Abraham's grandson Jacob some 430 years later.
4. No – the land was a **means to an end**.  
God had called the people of Israel **to Himself primarily**.  
He placed them **in the land** so that they would be a **blessing to the world**.
5. God's purpose in the Old Testament since Abraham was  
Keeping the **Right People**, in the **Right Place**, for the **Right Purpose**  
So Joshua had to get the **Wrong People Out** in order to get the **Right People In**,  
and then he was faced with the constant challenge to keep the **Right Purpose** to the fore.
6. They had to have and **maintain a wholesome, living relationship to God** so that the nations of the world would be blessed through the Messiah which would be brought to the world through them.
7. We too have an inheritance to enter in to.  
So much in the Old Testament is a picture of the Christian Experience.
8. # 1 In Meeting **Battles**.  
It was God who gave victory over the Amalakites.  
There was so much more to this battle than the army fighting in the valley.  
Moses holding his staff in the air up on the hill was **acknowledging their full dependence on God**.
9. When fighting spiritual battles, never think in terms of your own ability.  
You should always and only fight in the strength of God.  
Remember this important fact: When fighting against the enemies of God, 'victory' is not something that is won; 'victory' is **received**.
10. #2 In Meeting **God**. Joshua wanted to know how to meet with God himself. He longed for that intimacy with God where God was not just his God, but his Friend.
11. Although this was not preached by Charles, it covered the fact that they could be courageous because He would lead and empower them.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 2 – Faith Is More Important Than Character Joshua 2:1 - 24

1. Our study today is about a crumpled, dirty, marked and disfigured person, a prostitute named, Rahab, who is forever remembered as 'Rahab The Prostitute'. However, despite what could be called her 'bad character', Rehab is also known for her great faith.
2. This story is also about 2 spies sent out by Joshua specifically to check out the city of Jericho. This should not be confused with the 12 spies sent out by Moses about 38 years earlier, one of whom was Joshua himself.
3. The information the spies were looking to find was:
  - What were the people like in the land that they were going to invade?
  - How many of them were there?
  - Were they strong or weak?
  - Were their towns unwalled or fortified?
  - Was the local soil fertile or poor?
4. To gather the information they went:
  - To the hill country.
  - To the valleys in the far north.
  - To the south.
  - To the Dead Sea.
  - They checked out the cities and the countryside.
5. Large clusters of grapes and pomegranates.
6. The spies reported that what God had said was exactly right; the land did indeed flow with milk and honey. BUT .....  
The land was inhabited by physically large and powerful people who lived in large, fortified cities. No nomadic tribe of Israel would be a match in any kind of war-like confrontation.
7. Ten of the twelve spies made a practical, pragmatic and sensible recommendation – we can't defeat these people.  
But two of those original spies – Caleb & Joshua himself – recommended that despite their physical inferiority, Israel should do what God had told them to do.  
**God will give us the land if we will go in and trust Him.**  
So this is the backdrop that led to Joshua sending the two spies to check out the walled and heavily fortified city of Jericho.
8. A prostitute.
9. Throughout scripture we are almost relentlessly reminded that Rahab was a prostitute; and yet in Matthew, Rahab appears in illustrious company in the genealogy of Christ.
10. This whole story of Rahab is that from the moment she heard of God's activity **she believed and trusted Him**. Consequently, Rahab is ultimately recorded in scripture as being '**considered righteous**'.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 3 – Moving Into Promised Lands Joshua 2:1 – 24:1 – 17 & 4:19 - 24

1. What has happened so far?
  - i. God has made many promises to His people
  - ii. But they still lived in spiritual poverty, not enjoying the provision of His promises.
  - iii. They left Egypt for a journey that only should have taken a matter of weeks, but it took 40 years. Why was that? Read Hebrews 3:19
  - iv. Now Moses has died, and the people of God are full of unbelief.
  
2. The people of Israel believed in God in heaven above, but they had no expectation of Him being active as a God here on the earth below.
  
3. We need to operate in His Strength, with His Provision, and for His Agenda. God's work is never accidental or instantaneous.  
And this needs **preparation**.
  
4. It was necessary to respect and follow the specific instructions given regarding the Ark of the Covenant.  
  
If we do not approach God on the basis of shed blood, we do not meet Him as a **friend**, but as a **judge**.
  
5. The issue that reappears repeatedly in scripture is not **where** we are going, but **who** we are going with.  
For the people of Israel, as it can be for us, the journey is **unknown, untried**, can sometimes be **dangerous**, and can involve **conflicts, great trials of faith, trials of courage, trails of patience**, and **trials of strength**.  
  
It would be ridiculous for us to try to do it on our own.  
  
We need to keep our eyes on the Lord – no matter what happens.  
  
With 6 of the disciples that Jesus called, He specifically used the words '**Follow Me**'  
If, when following someone, you take your eyes off that person, you will very quickly get lost. And then you will not know where you are!
  
6. The people were NOT told to sharpen their swords and check their shields. This was **spiritual** preparation, not military preparation.  
If they [we] want God to do amazing things among us, then we cannot neglect the **spiritual preparation**.
  
7. It takes 'time' to prepare spiritually; and we have to take the time to look into our own hearts and bring out the sin, deceit, and pretense that may be there. We need to be cleansed before a battle.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 4 – Preparing For Victory Joshua 5 - 6

1. The four things we will look at are not asides to the historical narrative, but teach us vitally important principles and truths for the people of God at all times.
2. Please read Genesis 17:3 – 5 and the verses 11 – 12.  
Circumcision was established as a ritual for Israel when God called Abram and set him apart to be the father to the nation of Israel.
3. We don't know why circumcision was the mark of the covenant between God and Abram, because it is never explained.  
However, it is obvious that God's promise to Israel was very much involving procreation, so circumcision was marking the male sex organ as being sacred.
4. During the 40 years in the wilderness Israel had not circumcised their sons.  
To a great extent they were out of fellowship with God and had lost their purpose.  
Now that they were about to enter their Promised Land of Canaan, it was important that they got back on purpose by restoring the practice of circumcision.
5. It had been their hearts that had become off-purpose and distant to God.  
And so it was their hearts that needed to be brought back into right fellowship with God.
6. During those 40 years in the wilderness it was not only circumcision that had been neglected, but also the Celebration of Passover. It was important to re-instate the Passover to remind them of their deliverance from Egypt.
7. It had been necessary for God to miraculously provide sustenance for them each day through the provision of Manna. Even though they complained about it, it was daily evidence that God keeps His promises.

However, now that they are about to cross the river Jordan and enter the Promised Land they would be entering a land that God had promised was filled with milk and honey.

- Now they cross the Jordan River and enter Canaan.
- Now they rectify their neglect of circumcision for 40 years.
- Now they celebrate Passover, neglected for 40 years.

## Leader's Message Guide & Answers

### Joshua – Living Your Inheritance Part 5 – Sin In One Brings Defeat To All Joshua 7:1 - 26

1. Israel saw two dramatic interventions by God.  
**Crossing the River Jordan**  
**Capturing the City of Jericho**
2. A seemingly simple and routine confrontation against a small place called 'Ai'.
3. Israel suffered a humiliating defeat that resulted in the death of 36 of the people of Israel, and terrified the rest.
4. The cause of this unexpected defeat came down to the fact that one man had been disobedient to what God had commanded – yes, just one man.  
We will take a quick look at what happened, and how - **The Sin of One** [a man called Achan] **brought Defeat to All.**
5. Everyone had observed what God had said, except Achan, who said this:  
Joshua 7:20 - 21
6. Despite all that had been commanded Achan allowed himself to be seduced by greed.
7. You cannot stand against your enemies until sin has been removed from your own life.
8. Although to us it may seem unfair, the fact is, in this situation the sin of one man, Achan, permeated the entire nation and resulted in the battle against Ai being lost.
9. What came of this was two-fold:
  1. The **Judgment** of God on Achan leading to **Punishment.**
  2. The **Discipline** of God on the nation of Israel.
10. **Punishment**  
– *is an end in itself.* Achan died as a consequence of his actions.  
**Discipline**  
– *is remedial. It produces something better.* Israel learned from the experience.