

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Terry Carter, Editor

Parallels between Joshua and Acts

Chapter 4 of Hebrews shows us that Canaan is a type of the Christian rest and blessings in Christ.

This causes us to consider our lives as Christians in light of the Book of Joshua.

1. The struggles we face in our Christian lives are parallel to the struggles Israel faced in Canaan.
2. They had an enemy to fight, and we have an enemy to fight.
3. They had land to conquer, and we have the world to conquer - spiritually for the Lord.
4. They enjoyed blessings in Canaan, we enjoy blessings in Christ.
5. They experienced triumph in Canaan, we experience triumph in Christ.
6. They had rest in Canaan, we have rest in Christ.

This also causes us to consider parallels between the Church in the Book of Acts and the nation of Israel in the Book of Joshua.

1. In Both Cases:
 - * The great lawgiver has died although the body cannot be found, **Deuteronomy 34:5-6, Luke 23:46, 24:51.**

- * The assistant(s) of the lawgiver have been given authority to continue leading the people of God, **Numbers, 27:18-23, Luke 22:29-30.**
 - * God had promised to be with the leader(s) as He was with the lawgiver, **Joshua 1:5, 9, Matthew 28:20**
 - * The leader(s) were empowered by the Spirit to carry on their work, **Numbers 27:18, John 20:22, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4.**
 - * They were to go forth to conquer the land, **Joshua 1:2-4, Matthew 28:18-20.**
2. For Joshua and Israel, it was the land of Canaan.
 3. For the apostles and the Church, it is all nations.
 4. Israel conquered with the sword; the Church conquers with the Gospel.
 5. Israel fought physical battles; the Church fights spiritual ones.
 6. In Both Cases:
 - * The Lord's directive is an outline of the book, **Joshua 1:2-7, Acts 1:8.**
 - * Things began with worship, **Joshua 5:2-10, Acts 1:14.**
 - * There was initial success, **Joshua 6:21, Acts 2:41.**

- * People heard about their victories, **Joshua 6:37, Acts 2:47, 5:13.**
- * There was greed among them causing theft from God, **Joshua 7:11, Acts 5:1-4.**
- * This sin resulted in the death of the guilty, **Joshua 7:25-26, Acts 5:5-10.**
- * They go out and carry out the Lord's commands, **Joshua 6-12, Acts 2-28.**

Very likely there are more parallels that could be added here.

Israel conquered the land of Canaan; the Church is still making disciples of all nations. Therefore, the end of Acts is different than the end of Joshua.

However, a great apostasy has happened in the Church which parallels what happened to Israel in the time of the Judges.