

## GLORY DAYS!

*"No Falling Words." (Josh 21: 43-45)*

### Intro:

A. Sweeping across Germany at the end of WW II allied forces searched farms and houses looking for snipers.

1. At one abandoned house, almost a heap of rubble, searchers with flashlights found their way to a basement.
2. There, on a crumbling wall, a victim of the Holocaust had scratched a Star of David.
3. And beneath it, in rough lettering, the message:

<p><b><u>"I believe in the Sun – even when it does not shine; I believe in love—even when it is not shown; I believe in God – even when He does not speak."</u></b></p>
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4. This unknown victim had a choice to make, instead of choosing despair and fear -- he chose faith.

- a. Today's lesson is to encourage us to have faith, not in a God who does not speak, but a God who has spoken to us ever so clearly!
- b. Provides us with a faith that **gives rise to hope** no matter what the circumstance you find yourself.
- c. It is the kind of faith that **lifts you up and carries you through the darkest and bleakest of times.**
- d. It is during those times that it isn't always easy to **see the light, feel the love, or hear the voice of God.** But that does not mean that He isn't there and that His **promises are not true.**

B. Promise land people, when forced to stand at the crossroads of belief and unbelief, hope and despair, they choose not Fear but Faith.

1. They make a *conscious decision* to step toward God, to lean into hope, to heed the call of heaven.
2. They *remind and recite and review* and *press into the promises of God* and hold them dear.

C. Our last installment of our *Glory Days Series*. Longest series ever done... but it has been very helpful to me, learned new insights... and I hope it will be helpful to each of you. Studied not just the history and geo. But look deeply into the theology of the book.

1. Let's close this series with our GLORY LANDS DECLARATION:
2. *Fill your lungs with air and your hearts with hope as we say this together.*

#### D. THESIS:

1. Theological Heart of the book of Joshua. Why am I being told this?
2. The Sustaining power of God's promises.
3. Are you standing on the promises of God?

### I. THE THEOLOGICAL HEART OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

A. The central message of the book can be summarized with this headline: "God keeps His promises. Trust Him."

1. This book tells us what to do with our own giants and with Satan's strongholds...
  - a. It models for us how to trust and have faith in God....
  - b. Which leads to *victory and blessing*, versus the wilderness generation that allowed *fear and enslave them and defeat them.*
2. What did the children of that generation learn, or do, that we can learn from?
3. Beloved, people of Canaan choose to *heed the promises of God*. When they stand at the intersection of fear and faith... they choose faith!

B. Josh 21:43-45 reads more like a **commentary** than a narration of the events....

1. The HS stops the narrative to make sure we don't miss a very important point...
2. This is what you can learn from this *inspired book...* this is how it *fits into the narrative of the entire Bible story and why it is so important!* This is what you should learn from Joshua and about Joshua and his time:

**Josh 21:43-45** So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. 44 And the Lord gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hand. 45 Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass. NASU

1. Beloved, these three verses are the **theological heart of the book of Joshua**.
2. They rise up like trumpets at the end of the narrative!
  - a. "Don't miss this. Attention everyone. God is faithful, He keeps His word!"

b. The HS pounds the point home in triplicate. (3 times in 3 verses he declares: **“God did what He said He would do!!”**)

1. The Lord gave... all... He had sworn to give – (vs 43).

2. The Lord gave... rest... according to all that He had sworn to their fathers(vs 44).

3. Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken... all came to pass. (vs 45).

3. One scholar, Dale Ralph Davis, was so taken by that last statement that he entitled his commentary Joshua: **NO FALLING WORDS.**

a. We live in a world of failing words. Broken promises, broken vows. Pledges made only to be retracted. Leads to broken homes and broken hearts!

b. Assurances given, then ignored.

c. Often spoken with great fanfare: “I’ll always love you.” “Till death do us part.”

(Tragic that the average marriage in America only lasts 8 years!).

a. Words tend to tumble. They are like autumn leaves in November’s wind.

b. You’ve heard your share. Who has not been lied to or suffered a breach of contract, or trust. You felt betrayed.

d. You will never hear that from God! In a world of falling words, His remain.

e. In a life of broken promises, He keeps His!

Ps 12:6 “The Lord’s promises are sure. He speaks no careless word, all He says is purest truth, like silver seven times refined.”

4. God is a covenant keeping God! God said it, promised it, you can count on it! Never fails!

a. Moses had told the people before:

b. Deut 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

Jer 1:12 AMP

Then said the Lord to me, You have seen well, for I am alert and active, *watching over My word to perform it.*

God even watches over His own Word to perform it, so IF God gave you a promise in His Word then just believe it because He is WATCHING over His own Word to make sure it comes to pass!

5. Want proof?

a. The HS says... look at History!!

b. Joshua 21:43 “The Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers.”

c. God gave Abraham a promise way back in **Gen 12: 7** – 2,000 BC! *“Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said: To your descendants I will give this land.”*

1. 600 years earlier.

2. Who believed it would happen? When Abraham died the only land he owned was Sarah’s burial plot... the cave of Machpela at Hebron.

3. His descendants were sharecroppers and later slaves in Egypt. Moses led them near, but never into Canaan.

4. How many improvised sons of Abraham looked to stars and prayed, God will you keep your promise?

5. The answer from the pages of Joshua is YES!

6. God also promised to bless Abraham and that through His seed all the nations of the earth.

Gen 12:2-3 “I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

a. This was *partially fulfilled* in Joshua.

b. This promise was *completely fulfilled* in Jesus!

1). In Him all the nations are blessed.

2) In Jesus every person has *hope and the possibility of redemption*.

3) Paul wrote: “All the promises of God find their affirmation (their Yes) in Jesus” (2 Cor 1:20) ESV.

Our God is promise keeping God. Others may make a promise and forget it. But if God makes a promise, He keeps it He who promised is faithful (Heb 10:23) NIV

## II. The Sustaining power of God’s promises.

A. How does this affect me today as a faithful child of God?

1. Does God’s integrity make a difference? How does His faithfulness come into play?

2. When your pacing back and forth in the ER wondering why your wife's world is spinning out of control,
3. when you are burying your mother (like Gary Brannan did last week),
4. when you are handed divorce papers ... which happens to 1,000 every day in the US...
5. When the Doctor gives you a diagnosis of cancer like Diane Bannister went through several years ago...

**YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE FAITH OR FEAR. GOD'S PURPOSE OR RANDOM HISTORY, A GOD WHO KNOWS AND CARES OR A GOD WHO ISN'T THERE? WE ALL CHOOSE.**

6. Promise land people choose to trust God's promises. Build their lives on the promises of God! *Receive and inhale* those promises.
7. "When God disturbs their paths... they look for His purposes."
8. Solomon: "In the time of prosperity, rejoice, in the time of adversity, consider."

Illust. Edmond Mote: "This Solid Rock."

His oath, His covenant, His blood.

Support me in the whelming flood."

**B. No more *precious words ever been read then those written by the HS which contain God's promises***

1. *Nothing deserves your attention more than God's covenants.*
2. *Nothing will prepare you for lives challenges or sustain you in difficulty like the promises of God.*

**C. Do you know them?? They are of no comfort or value to you if you don't know them!!**

**To be bereaved:** "Weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning" (Ps 30:5).

**To the besieged:** "The righteous person may have troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all." (Ps 34:19) NIV

**To the broken hearted:** "The righteous cry and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

**To the worrier:** "Ah, Lord God! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for you." (Jer 32:17).

**To the lonely:** "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isa 43:2) NIV.

To the Sinner: *"My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor 12:9).*

*"Repent and be baptized and you.... (Acts 2:38).*

**D. These promises are for your good!**

1. *Intended to nourish your soul !*

2. *Deut 8:3 "Man cannot live by bread alone but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"*

3. *2 Peter 1:4 "And because of His glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption and its lusts."*

### ***III. Are you standing on the promises of God?***

***A. None of us have a problem free life, but all of can stand firm on the promises of God.***

1. *Heb 10:23 AMP "So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.*

2. **How do we practically go about doing that?**

a. **When fears surface, respond with this "But God said.....**

b. **When doubts and anxiety affront us... "But God said...**

c. **When guilt overwhelms you.. But God said...**

3. **Key: Counter bad news with God's good news! Make a part of your heart and language and thinking..**

a. **Declare these words: "You have rescued me, Oh God who keeps His promises" (Ps 31:5).**

b. **Turn again and again to God's spoken covenants.**

c. **Illust. Search the scriptures like *a miner mining for gold.***

1). **A prospector in God's infinite gold mine of eternal truths.**

2). **Once you find a nugget of God's truths, grasp it, polish it, hold onto it (Prov 23:23)**

3) **Trust it and take it into your heart.**

4). **Reach into your memory bank and plunk it out as needed.**

**B. Let these promises *settle over you like the warmth of a summer day!***

1. When everything around you says to *panic*, you choose the *path of peace*.
2. In this world of falling words and broken promises, do yourself a favor: take hold of the promises of God!

Eze 12:25 AMP

25 For I am the Lord; I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall be performed (come to pass); it shall be no more delayed or prolonged, for in your days, O rebellious house, I will speak the word and will perform it, says the Lord God.

**Conclusion:** What about you? Are you sitting on the premises, or standing on the promises?

A. Prayer... "Laying hold of the promises of God by faith..."

B. My prayer for all of us... is that in a world where there are so many *fallen words* broken promises... We will trust in God and that His promises will come to pass

C. Promised land living... is about understanding that God has ...

1. Promised.....Jesus's return... trust it.
2. Promised...be rewarded... trust that. (Suffering of this present world, not worthy to be compared...)
3. Sovereign oversight of our lives.... He can make things work together for good.
4. Someday evil will be dealt with...Live in faith trusting all that....
5. Promised... forgiveness ....trust that

**Inv.**

A. If you are here and you believe... are you ready to **stand on the promises of God?**

1. Like the Holocaust victim... like the apostle Paul, Peter...
2. Choose faith over fear, hope over despair!

B. If you have not *believed and trusted* in God for forgiveness... give me your hand and the Lord your heart...

C. Rm 10: 9-10....

**Ps 103:20 AMP**

**Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word.**

**When we use God's Name we are actually using His Authority that He gave us. He magnifies His Word even above His own Name... that is because when He has spoken it has become a decree from the King of Kings that CAN NOT be changed... ever! That is why in**

**Psa 138:2 AMP**

**I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!**

**The whole point is read His Word, meditate on His Word, have it (or written) in your heart, and then SPEAK His Word over your situation and AGREE what He said. When you do you conceive the Word of God and put it into motion! Sometimes it takes days, months, years, or even decades for a seed (His Word) to grow to maturity. Look at some large trees, just because you haven't seen the answer immediately doesn't mean He is not doing anything... it just means you haven't seen anything yet! All the time the seed is growing underground where you can not see.**

**Be encouraged and of GOOD cheer... God IS watching over His Word to accomplish it. So speak it, believe it, and let God be God!**