

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 6

Overview:

1. Introduction: Who decided what books belonged in the Bible?
2. Longman Chapter 6 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Joshua About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Joshua and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Joshua?
 - d. Connections: How Does Joshua Connect to the Gospel?

Introduction:

Who decided what books belonged in the Bible?

1. **Canon**- a closed list of Scriptural books that God gave His Church, set apart by their uniquely authoritative and uniquely inspired qualities. These Scriptural books were received by the early church as a collective body and distinguished by their apostolic authorship or by apostolic association.
2. Where did the term 'canon' come from?
 - a. Athanasius of Alexandria (A.D. 352, *De Decretis* 5.18)-
3. What criteria did these books have to meet in order to be considered canonical?
 - a. The Old Testament Canon
 - i. The writing of the Old Testament (OT)- 1400-430 B.C.
 - ii. Walter Kaiser- “[There was a] progressive recognition of certain books as being canonical right from their inception by readers and listeners who were contemporaries with the writers and who are thereby in the _____ position to determine the claims of the writers.”¹
 - iii. Answering modern claims- The council of Jamnia
 - iv. Josephus- OT cannon settled by the early to mid 5th century B.C.

¹ Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 31. Referenced in Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 58.

- b. The New Testament Canon
 - i. Apostolic- _____ by an apostle or directly affiliated with one.
 - ii. Catholic- “widely, if not universally, recognized by the _____.”²
 - iii. Orthodox- “not in contradiction to _____ recognized apostolic book or doctrine.”³

- 4. When do we see the first canonical list that matches the Christian Bible? Why do we not have an earlier list?
 - a. The first canonical list of the NT that matches our Bibles appeared in Athanasius’s letter in A.D. _____.
 - b. Facts about the process of the NT canon:
 - i. Authoritative and Circulating- A.D. 90 -100
 - ii. The apostolic fathers- It is evident in the writings of the apostolic fathers, and the amount of references they made to the NT texts, that an implicit canon _____ existed.
 - iii. Geographic distance/Persecution-
 - c. T.C. Hammond on the process of the NT Canon:
 - i. A.D. 45-100 The books of the NT were written
 - ii. A.D. 100-200 The NT books were collected and used in the churches
 - iii. A.D. 200-300 The church carefully examined the NT books and compared them with other writings
 - iv. A.D. 300-400 The church was in complete agreement

² Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 59.

³ Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 60.

5. What is the Apocrypha and is it a part of the canon?
 - a. Apocrypha- These are non-Scriptural Jewish writings that were penned during the five hundred year period known as the intertestamental period.
 - b. Evidence that the Apocrypha is not canonical:
 - i. Not accepted by the Jews as canonical-
 - ii. Theological and Factual Errors-
 - iii. The Roman Catholic's historic stance of the Apocrypha changed in 1546-
 - iv. NT authors never cite the Apocrypha-
6. Can more books be added to the canon? Why or why not?

A Comparison of Differing Canons ⁴		
Protestant Christianity	Roman Catholicism	Greek Orthodoxy
Old Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pentateuch (Gen.-Deut.) - Prophets Former (Josh.-Kings) Latter Major (Isa., Jer., Ezek.) Minor (The Twelve) - Writings 	Old Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pentateuch (Gen.-Deut.) - Prophets Former (Josh.-Kings) Latter Major (Isa., Jer., Ezek.) Minor (The Twelve) - Writings 	Old Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pentateuch (Gen.-Deut.) - Prophets Former (Josh.-Kings) Latter Major (Isa., Jer., Ezek.) Minor (The Twelve) - Writings
	Apocrypha (added in 1546-council of Trent) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tobit - Judith - Additions to Esther - Wisdom of Solomon - Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) - Baruch (+ letter to Jeremiah) - Prayer of Azariah - Susanna - Bel and the Dragon - 1 Maccabees - 2 Maccabees 	Apocrypha (added in 1672-Synod of Jerusalem) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tobit - Judith - Additions to Esther - Wisdom of Solomon - Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) - Baruch (+ letter to Jeremiah) - Prayer of Azariah - Susanna - Bel and the Dragon - 1 Maccabees - 2 Maccabees - 1 Esdras (or 3 Ezra) - Prayer of Manasseh - 3 Maccabees - 4 Maccabees (appendix) - Psalm 151
New Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gospels - Acts - Paul (and Hebrews) - General Epistles - James-Jude - Revelation 	New Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gospels - Acts - Paul (and Hebrews) - General Epistles - James-Jude - Revelation 	New Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gospels - Acts - Paul (and Hebrews) - General Epistles - James-Jude - Revelation

⁴ Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 64. This table has been adapted for the purposes of this lecture.

Longman Chapter 7 Discussion:

1. Content: What Is Joshua About?

This book can be divided in two major sections: Israel's entry into the land (Ch. 1-12) and how Israel divided the conquered land and served God in it (Ch.13-24).

a. Outline of Joshua:

i. Israel's entry into the land (Ch. 1-12)

1. Israel prepares for war with the Canaanites

a. God's conditional assurance to Joshua (Ch. 1) God gives Joshua a conditional promise that *if* he observed the Law that was given to Moses, that God will be with him as He was with Moses and give him victory over the Canaanites.

b. Spies are sent/Rahab's family added (Ch. 2-3)- Joshua sends two spies into the land with the help of a local prostitute named Rahab and was grafted into Israel along with her family.

c. Israel's Spiritual preparation (Ch. 4-5)- The people of Israel perform specific rituals that will prepare them before war.

2. Israel's Obedience and Disobedience

a. Israel's Victory and Immediate Defeat (Ch. 6-8)- At first the people follow God's instructions and God gives them victory over Jericho. But because some Israelites disobeyed God's instruction after the victory in Jericho, God allowed Israel to be defeated by the people of Ai.

b. Joshua's Disastrous Agreement (Ch. 9-12) - "The accounts of Jericho, Ai, and Gibeon are given in such detail in order to be a lesson to Israel later on. These three episodes illustrate the consequences of obedience (victory; Jericho), the consequences of disobedience (defeat, Ai), and the complication that results from not seeking God's will in a matter (Gibeon)."⁵

ii. How Israel divided the conquered land and served God in it (Ch.13-24)

1. Promised Land is not yet controlled by Israel (Josh. 13:1-7) -

2. Division of the Land (Josh. 13:8-22) - God guides the distribution of the land to the tribes of Israel and God's promise of land to Abraham is being fulfilled (Gen.12:1-3).

3. Joshua's final words and Israel's covenant renewal (Josh. 22-24) - Joshua shares his farewell with the people of Israel and its leaders, reminding them of God's faithfulness and His covenant with them.

⁵ Tremper Longman III. *Introducing The Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2012), 42.

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Joshua and When?
 - a. “The book of Joshua is _____; thus the authorship and exact date are unknown.”⁶
 - b. The challenging phrase “to this day”⁷-

3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Joshua?
 - a. Theological History Narrative-

4. Connections: How Does Joshua Connect to the Gospel?
 - a. Rahab and the invitation to be a part of His people- Rahab’s story anticipates the gospel because it allows others who are once in rebellion to God, to come before Him in worshipful obedience and _____ a part of His covenant people.

 - b. God as Warrior and Jesus’s Victory- God is seen in this book as a warrior who fights on behalf of His people. Despite Israel's disobedience, the Old Testament narrative ends with a promise that God will return as a warrior to free Israel from their enemies. Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises.

R.E.A.P. Joshua 1:1-9

“After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success^[a] wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”⁸

⁶ Tremper Longman III. *Introducing The Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2012), 43.

⁷ Joshua 4:9; 5:9; 6:25; 7:26; 8:28-29; 9:27; 10:27; 13:13; 15:63; 16:10.

⁸ Joshua 1:1-9.

