

THE JOSHUA STUDY

CHAPTER 8:30-35

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-331 MAY 2, 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong and of good courage"

SUBJECT FILED UNDER:

Revival, Rededication, Worship

INTRODUCTION: The Reviewing of Our Previous Message

Joshua 7

The Five Steps That Lead To Spiritual Defeat

Joshua 8:1-19

Revival, in the Sight of God

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

Joshua 8:30-35

Hebrews 13:5

...For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
(the fact is; we are a divine project, under construction by the carpenter himself)

Psalms 138:7-8

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; you will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. The LORD will complete that which concerns me; for your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Philippians 1:6

we can always be confident of this truth, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day Christ Jesus returns.

**If You Know The Lord, You also Know that
You Can Look Back to a Time/Place or Event Where God Began to Do
a Work in Your Life...**

- Maybe it was at a summer camp or a church service.
- Perhaps it was a message at Easter or Christmas that changed your view.
- Many Times God Reaches Us Thru a Crisis or Disaster

**Right Now America's
spiritual backbone is being tested as a Nation,
While our Christian faith begins to be refined
through Persecution**

The Text ~ Joshua 8:30-35

30 Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, 31 as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. 33 Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

1.) Assumes That You *Know The Way Home* vv. 30-31a

2.) Assumes That You *Know How To Come Home* vv. 31b-32

3.) Assumes That You *Know That You Can Come Home* vv. 33

4.) Assumes That You *Know That You Have a Home* vv. 34-35

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

1.) Assumes That You **Know The Way Home** vv. 30-31

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"an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool."

Assuming That You Know The Way Home

a.) Knowing The Way Means - **You Must Thru Worship** v.30

Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel

O' Johsua was an Experienced Altar Builder

publicly

Joshua 4:2-3

2 "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, 3 "and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'"

privately

Joshua 4:9

Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

Joshua Had Seen Moses's "Altar" With God

Exodus 24:12-18

12 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them." 13

So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them." 15 Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. 16 Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

(Point Being - Mount Sinai Instantly Became an Altar)
because it became a place of worship

Joshua Looked On for 40 Days & Nights

O' Joshua was an Experienced Altar Builder

Because He Had **Seen The Word of the Lord** at Work in the Past
(Have You?)

Because He Had **Heard The Word of The Lord** in the Past
(Have You?)

Because He Had **Known The Word of the Lord** in the Past
(Have You?)

So Joshua (Chose) Mount Ebal,

according to the word and
because it was there then and it's there now...

Altars are always Available - If You Choose To Alter

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Having an Altar

is a Great Place to experience an Alter

alter our attitudes / alter our words / alter our lifestyles
alter our view / alter our desires / alter our passions

what was an altar for?

It was for dedication & rededication

2 Chronicles 7:12-15

12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice..... 13 "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, (correction) 14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land 15 "Then My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

To The Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:4-5

"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.

Assuming That You Know The Way Home

b.) Knowing The Way Means Going Back to His Word

Verse 31

As Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses:

This would be the First 5 Books of the Bible
Specifically in Deuteronomy 27-28
(What was Written - Exodus 20)

Psalm 107:20

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction's.

Ephesians 5:26-27

that Jesus might sanctify and cleanse the church with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

John 15:3

Now You are already clean because of **the word** which I have spoken unto you.

c.) Knowing The Way Means **Following His Prescription**

Verse 31

"an altar of **whole stones**
over which no man has wielded an iron **tool**."

Deuteronomy 27:8

"And you shall write very plainly on the stones
all the words of this law."

Deuteronomy 27:5-6

"...And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of uncut stones; you shall not use an tool on them. "You shall build with uncut stones the altar of the LORD your God..."

The Uncut Stone(s)
Of The Divine / Spiritual Work of God

“No Tools” Meant

God’s Work must be void of human assistance

Galatians 3:10-14

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Jesus is the Altar

The Prophet Daniel Saw Jesus Christ returning to Earth
in the Great Second Coming of Christ

Daniel 2:35

"The earthly governments and nations were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of their existence was found. And that **Stone** that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will present in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;

Peter Said:

Acts 4:11-12

11 "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

You & I

1 Peter 2:5

you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

John 15:16

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should

The Altar was to be **Usable**, Not Ornate

What was Placed on the Altar, Gave the Altar Its Value

((the offering was a blood sacrifice))

The Motive Behind the Sacrifice
is What God Delights In
- Not the Beauty of the Stones

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

1.) Assumes That You Know The Way Home vv. 30-31

2.) Implies That You Know How To Come Home v. 31-32

And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

a.) Knowing How To Come Means - **Giving Yourself Back** v.31

And they offered on it
burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

burnt offerings heb fully consumed in fire (in awesome reverence)

peace offerings heb to be eaten by the leaders (in joyful praise)

In Awesome Awe & Joyful Praise

The Lord Wants Us Happy In Jesus

The Prodigal Son Comes Home!

Luke 15:11-24

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. 12 "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want 15 "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' **And they began to be merry.**

Implies That You Know How To Come Home

b.) Knowing How To Come Means - **Being Fully Committed** v.32

And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

When the Pagan, Canaanite Nations Celebrated Their Victories

they would plaster stones and then engrave the Names of their Leaders
Upon the Stones...

But God Said... "Look to my Word for Leading

Can You Think of Another Place Where
The Law of God is Written?

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your body and give you a heart of flesh. 27 and "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Because The Holy Spirit Will Put a New Heart Within You

“Externals”
will never Empower You for Change

Romans 8:2-3

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Galatians 2:16

"knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

1.) Assumes That You *Know The Way Home* vv. 30-31a

2.) Assumes That You *Know How To Come Home* vv. 31b-32

3.) Assumes That You *Know That You Can Come Home* vv. 33

33 Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, **the stranger as well as he who was born among them**. Half of them were in front of **Mount Gerizim** and half of them in front of **Mount Ebal**, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

a.) Knowing that You Can Come Home - Gives Us Hope v.33

After the Victory at Ai, Joshua moved the Children of Israel some 30 miles north to the Valley Shechem which lies between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim.

Joshua Would Have Remembered

1. That Father **Abraham** Had Built an altar at Shechem (Genesis 12)
2. That **Jacob** Had Once Lived in Shechem (Genesis 33)

Shechem Had Strong Historic Significance

Mt. Ebal

means the mount of cursings
void of water , it's an extremely dry and barren mountain

Mt. Gerizim

means the mount of blessing
it's a mountain covered in green and trees

Between the two mountains, lies the Valley of Shechem which is some 1000 yards wide,
The mountains from peak to peak is just under 2 miles.
The terrain creates one of the worlds most unique natural theaters for acoustics in the world.
From peak to peak verbal communication is possible

Gives Us Hope

Isaiah 44:22

I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

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3.) Assumes That You Know *That You Can Come Home* vv. 33

4.) Assumes That You Know *That You Have a Home* vv. 34-35

34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, **the blessings and the cursings**, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

a.) Know That You Have A Home - His Love is balanced v.34

He Knows how to lead His House

Now Joshua read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

all the words of the law,

- **all** the words of the law,
- **all** the words of the blessings
- and **all** the words of the cursings

The Context / The Promises / The Disciplines

according to **all** that is written in the Book of the Law.

Isaiah 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Assumes That You Know That You Have a Home

b.) Know That You Have A Home - Come Home !!! v.35

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

Jeremiah 24:7

'Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

Malachi 3:7

Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

The Answer is... Rededication!

John 14:1-6

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes (Home) to the Father except through Me.

The Summary of Points, Application and Conclusion

Coming Back Home, Where You Belong

1.) Assumes That You *Know The Way Home* vv. 30-31a

2.) Assumes That You *Know How To Come Home* vv. 31b-32

3.) Assumes That You *Know That You Can Come Home* vv. 33

4.) Assumes That You *Know That You Have a Home* vv. 34-35

**Altars are Always Available
If You Choose To Make An Alter**

Are You Single?

(but what you're wanting is to be married)

Then Now's The Time to "Alter" Your Life

Are You Married?

(but what you're wanting is to be single)

Then Now's The Time to **"Alter"** Your Life

Are You a Teen?

(but what you're wanting is to be an adult)

Then Now's The Time to **"Alter"** Your Life

Are You a Dad?

(but what you're wanting is respect)

Then Now's The Time to **"Alter"** Your Life

Are You a Mom?

(but what you're wanting is to be loved)

Then Now's The Time to **"Alter"** Your Life

Are You Empty?

(but what you're wanting is to be filled)

Then Now's The Time to **"Alter"** Your Life

End of Study