

Joshua 12

Theme: A record showing that God keeps his promises

Joshua 12.1-6

V1 – Why was it important to keep a record of the defeat of the enemies of the people of God? - To encourage them in the coming years (and centuries)

-V 1-6 cover the conquering of the land east of the Jordan River – all of the place names are for that area

-Why did the Israelites want that land (and not just the land east of the Jordan River)?

-because some of the tribes were very large and did not think they would have enough room east of the Jordan

-Which tribes were given land east of the Jordan River? Ruben, Gad, ½ of the tribe of Manasseh

V2 – Who was the first major king that they defeated? Sihon

-Reason he was defeated? He did not let the Israelites pass through his territory when they were on the way to the Jordan River – see Numbers 21.21-26

-What great moral lessons can we learn from the defeat of Sihon, king of the Amorites?

-Those who oppose God's people will be destroyed

-Example of that principle in the New Testament? Roman Empire (theme of the book of the *Revelation*)

V4 – What was the name of the second great king who was defeated east of the Jordan River? Og, king of Bashan

-The defeat of Og was so important that it is mentioned many times later in the Old Testament

See 1 Kings 4.19, Neh. 9.22 Read Psalm 135.8-12, Psalm 136.17-21

What was the significance of the defeat of Og, king of Bashan? Same as with the defeat of Sihon – it is a dangerous thing to oppose the people of God

V6 – Moses was the leader who defeated these two kings (before the crossing of the Jordan River and before Joshua took over)

-If you travel into areas where the Civil War took place, there are all kinds of memorials, statues, special cemeteries, historical markers (Gettysburg, Shiloh, Vicksburg)

-Just southeast of Nashville, you can visit the scene for the Battle of Stones River – very touching

-Old saying: *Those who do not study the past are destined to repeat it*

-If you go to Europe (especially France), you constantly see memorials to World War I (the "Great War") – World War I was a disaster for Europe and set the stage for World War II

Joshua 12.7-24

V7 – This is a list of the 31 kings that the Israelites defeated (we are not going to read the list – it would be an exercise in how not to pronounce names)

Interesting: **Why are the names of the kings specifically mentioned (and not just the**

territories)? Because God's people were more interested in defeating evil people than in just conquering more land

These verses show that God keeps his promises (*Gen. 15.13-21, Deut. 32.7-9*)

These names give absolute evidence that God was keeping his promises – their names were evidence for the faith that the Israelites had

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