



## COVID 19

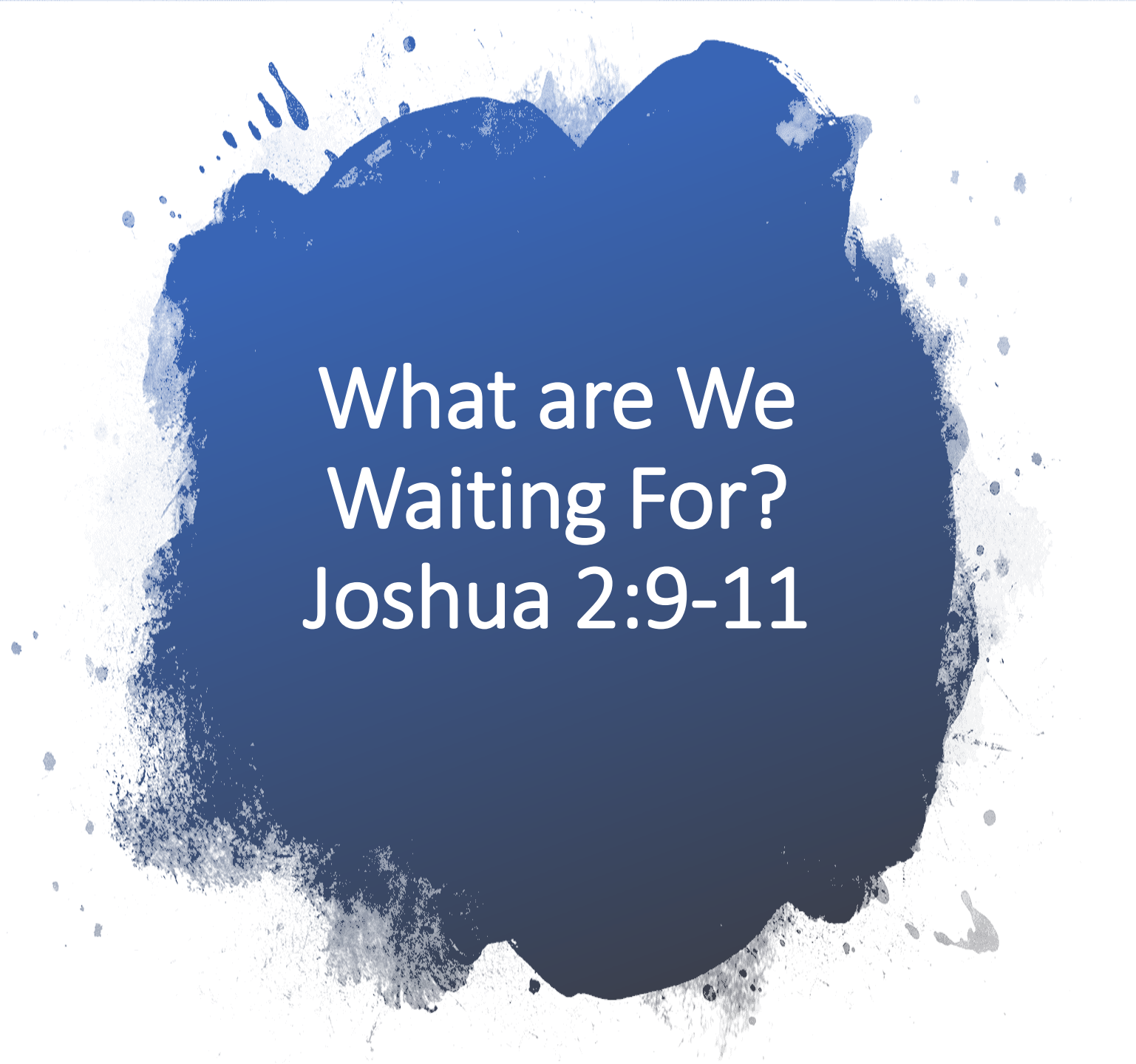
Diabetes, Heart Disease

Lupus, Sleep Apnea

Asthma, Hypertension

C.O.P.D., Cancer

The Straw That Broke The Camel's Back!



What are We  
Waiting For?  
Joshua 2:9-11

# Observations

- In this story, the Israelites were just about to enter the promised land of Canaan after 40 years of traveling
- Moses, the great lawgiver, had led them as far as God had allowed him to do so, but was now dead
- God had told Joshua *“Every place that the sole of your feet will tread will I give you.” Joshua 1:3*
- Three times in Joshua chapter one, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous (6,7,9)


# God Lets Joshua Know That Leading the People Into Canaan Would Not Be EASY!

## Leadership Is Not Easy

- Our elders know that leading a church (especially through crises is difficult) some leaders fail, Isaiah 9:16
- Good decisions in managing church growth takes spiritual strength, from the Godly relationship of its leaders
- When people lay the responsibilities for their souls on your shoulders you've got to be strong enough to carry the load
- A Leader's driving force for making decisions can't be popularity, but respect for God's will Hebrews 13:17
- Some decisions leaders make may be unpopular; but make them, they must. (worshipping in a pandemic when you have never been in one, going to school, teenagers' decisions, adult children living in their parent's homes)

# In Joshua 1:11 Joshua Told Israel to Get Ready to Cross Jordan in 3 days!

- One of the hardest things for children of God to do is to WAIT for the blessings of the Christian life
- If God wants you to WAIT on a blessing, He has a purpose in your waiting
  - Waiting for a job opening
  - Waiting for the right wife or husband
    - How do they act during your “probationary period”
    - Luke 21:19 *“In your patience, possess ye your souls,” or “by your endurance you will find life.”*
- We must remain faithful while waiting on God for deliverance!



Why Did God  
Want The People  
to Wait Three  
Days Before Their  
Conquest Began?

## #1 There Was a Soul To Be Saved

- Before conquering Jericho, Joshua had sent out spies to evaluate the great walled city for capture; Joshua chapter two
- When the men went into the city, they were forced to hide in a woman's house by the name of Rahab
- She made them promise to save her household when they came to war
- How did Rahab acquire her faith? (She wasn't an Israelite)
- Her faith is listed in "The Hall of Fame" chapter in Hebrews 11 (with Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Joseph) in verse 31
- James champions her faith, James 2:25

# Rahab Came To Her Faith By Witnessing God In the Life Of God's People

*“And she said unto them, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.” Joshua 2:9*

- She recounts to them the drying of the Red Sea and the destruction of two Amorite kings and their kingdoms destroyed, v.10
- She came to her faith by noticing the evidentiary faith in the people of God
- One of the most important factors in saving people's lives is the presence of God in the life of the Child of God
- How Christians handle their own battles with attract or detract (racism, marriage, dating, social unrest, sickness)

## #2 A Separation to Confirm

- **During those 3 days before entering Canaan, Joshua spoke to some of the Israelites to see if they really wanted to enter Canaan; Joshua 1:12-18 (see Numbers chapter 32 for background information)**
- **As you know, Israel was made up of 12 divisions, or tribes, that had followed Moses and Joshua through the wilderness into the promised land.**
- **However, In Numbers 32 they had passed through an area of land that was very fertile, and wonderful for keeping cattle and livestock, which they had in abundance (miles and miles for grazing cattle)**



# Observations

- **Two of the tribes, Reuben and Gad, and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh, announced to Joshua that they would rather stay on this, the east side of the Jordan (“this place is all anybody could ask for, we don’t need Canaan”), than to travel into Canaan and fight for land**
- **In Numbers 32:20-22, Joshua agreed with their decision (what else could he do)**
- **Every man or woman has the right to choose the level of life that he or she wants to live**

# God Gives Men and Women the Right to Choose Their Destiny!

- **Sometimes parents know that their grown children are making bad decisions**

**Dropping out of school—when knowledge and opportunity won't last always**

***“I can't continue to pay for your bad decisions!”***

**Picking the wrong person to marry (irresponsible, unethical, immoral)(some marry due to poor self-evaluation)**

# Joshua Agreed With Their Decision On One Condition

- **Before you keep this land, you must take part in the first battle of Jericho to see that your people (your brothers and sisters) get to make it in.**
- **Faithfully, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh led the walk around Jericho**
- **Can you now imagine the “moment of truth,” as Joshua addresses the 2 ½ tribes reminding them of their decision, and asking them ONE MORE TIME what they wanted to do. They confirmed that they wanted to go back.**

# Will We Also Turn Back or Flip the Script?

- **Once we are baptized into Jesus Christ, we enter where all spiritual blessings are located; Galatians 3:27, Ephesians 1:3 (all of the rights and privileges)**
- **But the question of where we spend our Christian experience, and on what level we live, is up to us**  
**(The instruction manual (Bible) says that you can't guide yourself; Jeremiah 10:23)**
- **We get an opportunity to taste of the heavenly gift of providential guidance (like the 2 ½ tribes did in the fall of Jericho)**

# Observations

- **We share some of the blessings of being in Jesus, but we still remember the temporary pleasures of sin and yearn to go back to the “sin for a season” existence, Hebrews 11:24**

**There is a Danger in That!**

***“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.....” 2 Peter 2:20***

## 2Peter 2:21-22

***“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they had known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”***

## What Happened to the Israelites Who Chose to Go Back?

**1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 5:23-26 says  
that they were the first  
tribes to be captured by the  
Assyrians and taken off as  
slaves into exile**



- In Pagan culture, to catch a monkey, they would cut a 50 cent sized hole in a pumpkin and place some goodies in the pumpkin that the monkey would like
- The monkey would stick his hand in the hole, but couldn't remove his hand when it was bulging with goodies
- When the hunter would come, the monkey would frantically try to remove his hand, but oftentimes would refuse to let go of the goodies, which would mean its life would be taken





What Is It?

## What Are You Holding On To That Satan Could Use To Take Your Life?

- Material Things
- Drugs
- Career/Money
- Alcohol
- Immoral Relationships
- Admiration of Your Peers

**Mark 8:36; Isaiah 55:6,7**

# The Plan Of Salvation

<b>Hear the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Believe the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Repent Of Sins</b>	<b>Acts 2:38</b>
<b>Confess Christ</b>	<b>Acts 8:37</b>
<b>Be Baptized</b>	<b>Acts 8:38</b>