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## **QT Questions—for Joshua**

Starting with the book of Joshua, I am going to change our format a little bit.

1. I will try to offer you a brief thought on something in the chapter.
2. I will try to make the questions a little more direct, so you can find and delight in the answers. Usually, I will have two questions for each chapter.
3. My desire is for you to still take a moment in each chapter to wrestle and meditate on His truth, and discover more of the glory and beauty of our God in His word, causing you to fall deeper in love with our God, and learn to obey-apply-live in His truth.
  - Remember, the purpose of these questions is not to merely find answers for them, but to assist you in your meditation of God’s word, with the hope, you will taste more of God’s goodness in His truth.
  - So, it is ok to not answer all the questions, or even none for that day. Sometimes, I am hoping the questions can be a stepping stone to another meditation, deeper into His truth.
  - Our hope and prayer is, that **“you”** will fall in love with our God more, as you read and meditate on God’s truth more.

\* So, may I invite and encourage you, let’s daily sit at God’s table together, and taste how good our God truly is (Ps 34:8).

(Here’s a short introduction to the book of Joshua from one of my study Bible.)

- The book of Joshua emphasizes the importance of faith, in both times of war and peace. Joshua’s faith in God allows him to act courageously as he takes over for Moses and leads Israel into the promised land. He acts in obedience, even when God’s strategy does not seem to make sense—such as marching around Jericho and blowing trumpets until the city’s walls collapse. Joshua’s faith is an act of obedience grounded in God’s promise to never fail him or abandon him.
- Although the book of Joshua tells about the Israelites’ battles, the main focus is on God’s faithfulness to His people—as He protects them in battle, gives them the land He had promised and restores peace among them. The people of Israel were responsible for choosing to follow God and wholeheartedly obey His covenant, just as we are responsible to follow and obey Him today. As we do, we too will experience God’s faithfulness more.
- God continues to fight against sin and evil. As followers of Jesus, God calls us to take up His armor and join Him in this spiritual battle (Eph 6:1-10).

### **Josh 1 (12/13/22)**

\* God said that “Moses my servant is dead.” For these last 40 years, Joshua always sat and walked behind him. When the people grumbled, Joshua probably stood behind Moses, timid and afraid that the stones the people were about to hurl at their beloved leader, might also strike him. But, regardless how shamefully the people spoke and acted, Moses was truly like a rock, so solid, so focused in his eyes to our God. That’s a true leader, like the Good Shepherd. Now, he is not here; he is dead. Can he, Joshua, who knew full well, he cannot possibly replace their humble and God fearing leader,

step in his shoes and lead God's people to God's bosom, as Moses did? It's easy to imagine, how full of doubt, anxiety, uncertainty and fear must have overwhelmed this new appointed leader, who clearly knew, he was not another Moses. Knowing only too well of his inner struggles and weaknesses, God speaks gently and compassionately, to his new servant, whom God has called to lead the new generation.

1. In 1:1-18, how many times, do we hear God's word repeat to His servant, "Be strong and courageous"; what were each of the settings that were spoken under; can you think of a situation in your life, where these words of God are applicable to you?
2. In 1:10-18, hearing God's word, how did Joshua respond; how did the people respond to Joshua's orders; how is this applicable to you and how can you respond?

### **Josh 2 (12/14/22)**

\* Remember, the last time they sent out spies, the result was disastrous. But, two spies, Caleb and Joshua, saw God's promise and encouraged His people to obey Him. In our passage, Joshua has selected only two spies secretly. I am wondering, the secrecy was not only against the Canaanites but maybe also against the Israelites, for they would remember their previous experience. Sometimes, it's hard to go against a bad experience we had. I pray that we would not let our experiences dictate our steps, but the glory of God and the benefit for His church will be our decision motivation.

1. In 2:1-14, to find a partner to help them in Jericho, I would think the men would choose someone with a little more dignity, yet, to whom did God lead, what was her profession (which, by the way, it was precisely for such immorality, that God was judging these people); what two incidents does she point out that brought such fear and when did those events happened; and what does this say about our God; and how does this apply to you?
2. In 2:15-24, what was the binding oath they made to each other; what was the report of these spies to Joshua (btw, what did they omit in their report this time); how is this applicable to you?

### **Josh 3 (12/15/22)**

\* It is interesting, the timing and the events leading up to the crossing of the Jordan. God has His people stay by the Jordan for three days to watch the river in her flood stage (3:15). Then, He tells them to consecrate themselves the day before they were to march out, and promises to make them see amazing things. And of course, as God alone can, He leads them through what shouldn't be done, that is, He commands them to cross the Jordan at the worst possible time, the flood stage. Some people will call God's way mysterious, while others will call Him irrational, out of His mind. When God's ways are beyond our understanding, I wonder how you think about your God.

1. In 3:1-13, what did God call His people to do before they were to march out (v. 5) and do you know what that would look like; when the priests heard the command to stand in the river (during the flood stage), what do you think they would think and feel, and yet, what did they do, and why; how is this applicable to you?

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2. In 3:14-17, hearing the command of God, what do all the people intend to do (v. 14) and why; what happened to the flooding water, can you picture it in your head; what did the priests do; how is this applicable to you?

### **Josh 4 (12/16/22)**

\* We see the journey for God's people through the desert begins and ends with a miraculous crossing through the waters. At first, these amazing miracles helps spark an awe for our God and His ways, and yet, as we see through the Israelites, with time, memory fades and their response usually lacks the awesomeness of God's living presence with them. So, as you read this chapter, please see the beauty of God's detail for His people, and pray that our God can also cause you to find a detail in your life that will help you to remember and carry with you His grace in a most meaningful way, for a long time.

1. In 4:1-14, why did God want to choose 12 men from His people; while this was happening, where were the priests and what was still happening in the Jordan River; to have witnessed and walked through such an incredible event, how did God want to help them remember; how are some of the ways you remember God's work in your life?
2. In 4:15-24, when God commanded the priests to come out of the water, what happened and why would that be; the Lord connected the Jordan and the Red Sea, what did He want His people and the world to know; will you examine to see if your knowledge and response to God is the way He expressed in v. 24?

### **Josh 5 (12/17/22)**

\* From a human perspective, God's timing seems odd or off or maybe plain wrong. When the enemies' hearts are melting with fear, it seems like the perfect time to conquer them, but God doesn't allow them yet. Right before the start of the war is not the time to become the most physically vulnerable time for the entire army of men, which is what circumcision would make them. In fact, Israel would know (Gen 34:25). So, if only couple of the men from Jericho should somehow come to their campsite, then, they could just as easily kill all the men of Israel, because they wouldn't be able to fight back because of their circumcision. So, no, it's the worst idea in the history of ideas to receive circumcision right before the war, and that, right outside their enemy's city, but that's what God commands His people to do. We must decide who knows how to lead our lives best, is it us or is it God, though His ways and timing could seem odd or off or maybe just wrong to our eyes?

1. In 5:1-12, when the timing seems right to attack, what does God command His people to receive and why do you think that was; when your understanding clearly differs with God's, how do you process through and reach your decision; when and why did God stopped sending them their miraculous food, Manna; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 5:13-15, clearly, the commander of the army of the Lord is for His people, so why does He say, 'neither'; where and why was the place Joshua was standing holy;

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what is the meaning of holiness and how can anyone become holy and how can you live in holiness?

### **Josh 6 (12/19/22)**

\* As we can see so clearly, the ways of God is not ours. His ways are truly higher than ours. But, from our perspective, we can also say, His ways are very unconventional, very illogical, and can also be said, it can look very foolish, extremely dangerous and making us most vulnerable. Who, in their right minds, would walk under and around the wall of the city they were about to battle? The people on the wall need only to pick up a stone and dropped them to the people marching around the city, and that would effectively end the war before it ever began. Tactically, there's no advantage, none, to walk around the city wall, especially a fortified city wall. Yet, against all conventional wisdom, against all war tactics, against all logic and good common sense, God's people do what appeared like a very foolish act, all because their God told them to march. If we were there and were commanded to march around the city, would we, should we, could we, knowing how dangerous, foolish and illogical our behavior would be? Or, if we brought the issue home, if God was to command or ask us today to do what appeared to be foolish and dangerous, would you, should you, could you?

1. In 6:1-21, what was the order around Jericho; what about the order that strikes you most and why; how can you live out God's truth you learn here?
2. In 6:22-27, out of all the people in Jericho, who alone is saved, why save such a woman of low character and profession, who gets saved because of her; what's the name of the person who will rebuild Jericho, and where do we find him; how are God's truths applied in your life?

### **Josh 7 (12/20/22)**

\* As we can clearly see in this chapter, it was one person, Achan, who sinned. But, the charge God brings is against ALL Israel; He said, "the Israelites were unfaithful." We like to think individualistic, but God sees His children, not only as individuals but as all of His children. He wants us to be our brothers/sisters keepers. He wants us to think and behave as a family, which is why, He teaches us to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who have joy in their hearts. One person's sin does impact the whole family. We matter to each other. I pray that we will lovingly keep each other, be mindful of one another, and help each other to overcome our sinfulness. To leave others on their own, can be detrimental to all of us.

1. In 7:1-15, why would it be wrong for Achan to keep some of the spoils of war, as they were destroying the enemy; because of this one person's sin, what happened to all of Israel in their next war; how did God rectify this situation and how would you feel and act if you were one of the Israelites there?
2. In 7:16-26, how many generations does God sift through to get to this one person, and if you were he, how would you feel through each step; despite the walls closing in, when does Achan finally admit and why is there no forgiveness when he is confessing his sin; how does God close this chapter; how is this applicable to you?

**Josh 8 (12/21/22)**

\* As soon as Joshua and Israel obeyed God's words to destroy Achan, God comes to comfort him and reassures him of Israel's victory. It is interesting that God doesn't simply empower His people to overpower their enemies. God, instead, used the experience of their enemies to make them feel arrogant and fall into an ambush. Like the people of Ai, we also can fall back on our own experiences and simply try to repeat them or not, depending on the experience, instead of learning from them and do better.

1. In 8:1-29, why do you think it was easy to lure the men of Ai away from their city; when the confidence is high, what's the danger; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 8:30-35, rather than resting and basking on the wonderful victory they just experienced, what were God's people doing and why; were these words offered only to the men who went to the battle and why to them also; how is this applicable to you?

**Josh 9 (12/22/22)**

\* What's the difference between a life by sight and a life by faith? When what we see is obvious, we usually resort to making our decisions with what we see, what is obvious to us, that is, by sight. Joshua and the leaders saw the obvious, for everything about the people who came to see them spelled, they came from a far away place. They saw the evidences and they were convinced. And when we are convinced, then asking God becomes unnecessary. In our own lives, there are many things that are very obvious to us, so we also do not ask God. It is true, we often live by sight and not by faith. You see, a life by faith will humbly seek God's wisdom, because we will not trust ourselves to know what's best, even when it seems obvious to us. A life by sight trusts what we see, and a life by faith trusts God more than what we see, so we will pray for His grace, even when we feel we know what we need to do.

1. In 9:1-15, who are the Gibeonites and why did they resort to a ruse; when the Israelites sampled their provisions, what did they feel was unnecessary and why was that; will you examine to see if there are areas in your life where you didn't think you needed faith because what you saw was clear and obvious?
2. In 9:16-27, why couldn't the leaders retract their wrong decision, shouldn't they be able to right their wrong; what would become of the Gibeonites because of their decision; how is this applicable to you?
  - As we see, neither were spared of the consequences for their decisions, they each had a price to pay, though not the full price of the wages of their sins. Let's remember, actions and decisions have consequences, and we have to learn to own them.

**Josh 10 (12/23/22)**

\* In this chapter, we see an only once in history event, the sun standing still. As Israel was attacking their enemies, Joshua prays for the sun and the moon to stand still, and God answered his prayer. It's interesting, right before this prayer, we were already told that God killed more enemies by hurling hail at them than by the sword of the Israelites. Yet, the work was not finished, so Joshua prayed for more time and light to accomplish

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the work God had called them to. I appreciate greatly Joshua's heart to complete the work God had given to him, and knowing what he lacked, he looked to God for His grace. Oh, how I wish, that our hearts will have this kind of zeal to accomplish the work the Lord has placed to us. He could have asked for God to wipe out all the remaining enemies he could not defeat, but owning up his responsibility, he wants to complete the work he received. That's a small reflection of the God he serves, for our God always completes the work He has begun in His people (Phil 1:6).

1. In 10:1-27, why did Israel join the fight amongst Canaanite kings; what two miracles does God do here and why; what is the overall message here (v. 25); how is this applicable to you?
2. In 10:28-43, which cities does Israel conquer and which part of the Promised Land were they situated; what do you notice about their conquering and why do you think that was; how is this applicable to you?

### **Josh 11 (12/24/22)**

\* In the conquest against the northern kings, it is interesting to see that God would have Joshua hamstringing the horses and burning the chariots they captured. They would have been such a valuable and powerful tool of war. In fact, we will see later in the book of Judges, the reason given for some of the people the Israelites were not able to drive out of Canaan was because of these powerful chariots. So it would stand to reason, if Israel had them, they too would have the resources to fight back. But, God doesn't want His people to have these horses and chariots, as helpful as they could be. Why not? Though there could be many reasons, one reason I can think of is that when we have such powerful tools, our tendency is to trust and rely on them. And what our God wants is for His people to learn to lean only in God, and not on the wonderful resources that may be available. In other words, these resources, like money, modern medicine, and many good things, will become the very resources that we will often steal our trust and even hope, and our God knowing our frailties and tendencies will often remove these wonderful things, so that we would learn to trust in our God alone. We know, in our lives, often, the good things do become idols that try to replace our God. We should check if we have such "good" thieves in our lives. And if we find them, let's sincerely repent and learn to trust in our God above all good things.

1. In 11:1-15, can you count how many armies joined forces to fight against Israel; how do you think these large and therefore powerful enemies must have made Israel feel; what is God's message to the hearts of His people; so, who attacked who first and why; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 11:16-23, why were the Gibeonites the only people who wanted to make a treaty with Israel; why do you think it's significant to mention the destruction of the Anakites (Num 13:32); what do you learn about God and how should that impact your life?

### **Josh 12 (12/26/22)**

1. In 12:1-6, which part of the land is this and who led God's people; why is this land included here and what do you think about that; if you have not already done so, will you take a look at this land in your Bible map and become familiar with Israel's land?

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2. In 12:7-24, which part of the land is this and who is leading God's people and why he; of all the conquered kings, which of them are you familiar with and what do you remember; what do we learn about our God here and how does your knowledge of Him impact your life?

### **Josh 13 (12/27/22)**

\* This chapter begins by telling us that "Joshua had grown old," and the Lord repeats the obvious, "You are now very old." We live in a time, where to state the obvious is offensive; we have to be so careful in our expressions. That is obviously very good in some cases, but in others, we are so overly sensitive, that we get offended when there should be none. Being sensitive to our times, we certainly do not want to offend anyone needlessly, except with the message of the gospel, in order to tell them the truth, lovingly. But, as people living in these times, I pray that we, Christians, would learn to not be so easily offended (unoffendable—let's pray for this in our hearts) when people state the obvious about us, i.e., you are old, fat, short, poor, not very good looking or talented, and many other things. But not only with the obvious, but even when they are truly offensive, let's pray that we can have God's grace in us, to overlook their sin, and to forgive them, as Christ has forgiven us, when we were still in our sins. We need much prayers here, don't we? May we be followers of our awesome God, and not of this culture.

1. In 13:1-7, after recording the conquering of 31 kings in our previous chapter, what does God say about the land (vv. 2-5) and why would that be; why divide the land now rather than after all of it was conquered; what do you learn here?
2. In 13:8-33, why didn't the Israelites defeat all the nations; why is Balaam mentioned here; how did inheriting priestly duties compare to inheriting land; how is this applicable in your life?

### **Josh 14 (12/28/22)**

\* God said that Caleb had a different spirit. How so? While the majority of the people who went with him to spy out the land were discouraged by the size of their enemy, Caleb's focus was on the bigness of his God, which gave him the confidence to go to battle with the giants of the earth, the Anakites. While the people would only follow God when it suited them, Caleb followed God wholeheartedly and obeyed God, when the enemies on the hills would seem unconquerable. While the people would rather sit in the background when they are older because they feel weak, Caleb did not let his physical weakness determine his steps with his God, for young or old, he would rather walk and follow his God, than accept the situation of life to dictate his life. Indeed, Caleb had a different spirit, and God would have us learn from this man, so that we also can be set apart, in holiness, and walk differently than the people around us.

1. In 14:1-5, why do you think God calls the land an inheritance given to His people, though they would have to fight to get it; why were their inheritance assigned by lot; the many blessings you receive on this earth, are they an inheritance or did you earn it by your hard work; why is God's inheritance precious to you and where do you expect to receive it in the end and why do you believe you will receive it?

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2. In 14:5-15, why is Caleb asking for his land when it is allotted to the tribes; what is he willing to do at such an old age and how does he possibly think he can do this, when he is so old and weak; how is this applicable to you?

**Josh 15 (12/29/22)**

1. In 15, most of the names of the towns listed are unfamiliar to us, so why do you think they were listed; what do you think of Caleb offering his daughter to marriage to the person who leads the attack; how was this received by his daughter Aksah?
2. In 15:63, why couldn't Judah dislodge the Jebusites when God has assured them that all the enemies could be driven out; how is this applicable to you?

**Josh 16 (12/30/22)**

1. In 16:1-9, what are some of the names of the cities you know in this territory and what do you remember about them; as you look up their territory in the map, where are they located; is there anything that stands out to you here?
2. In 16:10, what did God command His people to do and how well did they obey; why do you think they didn't; how is this applicable to you?

**Josh 17 (12/31/22)**

1. In 17:1-11, why do you think Zelophehad's daughters are included in this land allotment; how is the view of women different from the culture then with God's; and how is the view of women different now and with God's; how is your view of women and how different is that from God's?
2. In 17:12-18, why were the Canaanites co-living among the Manassites and shouldn't they happily co-exist, why or why not; what was Joshua's response to the tribes of Joseph's request (and how did that reveal God's promise - answer this if it makes sense); when your life situation and God's word do not seem to align in your understanding, will you examine your life to see how you make your decision and move forward?

**Josh 18 (1/2/23)**

1. In 18:1-10, before Jerusalem became the central hub for Israel, where did they meet to set up the Tent of Meeting, and why were they meeting there; what should their response be from this meeting?
2. In 18:11-28, in the lot for Benjamin, which tribes sandwiched them; which are couple of the cities you know from Benjamin's land and can you share the stories of these cities; is there any lesson you learned from this chapter?

**Josh 19 (1/3/23)**

1. In 19:1-9, what is unusual of the Simeonites tribe's inheritance and why do you think that was (Gen 49); which towns do you recognize; will you find a map of the distribution of the lands and see where each tribe received their land?
2. In 19:10-51, of the other tribes, which towns do you recognize; why did Joshua settle in the hill country of Ephraim; why did Joshua divide and assign land that hadn't yet been conquered?



**Josh 20 (1/4/23)**

\* With these cities of refuge, I think about God. I think about how He provides for our terrible mistakes before we even committed them. I think about how despite His provision, there's still a price to pay, though not the full price, because the offender cannot continue one's life as it was. He had to flee and live in that city, away from his family for a very long time. I think about how God allows the avenger of the blood to have his vengeance, though He is the ultimate Judge, who will judge all things perfectly in the end. I think about the limit He placed with the premeditated homicide, as they have no place in these cities. And I think about how God connects the return of the offenders to the life and death of the High Priest. And ultimately, it is in the true High Priest's life and death, that all of us who offended, who sinned, can find refuge, can be forgiven, and can return (and one day, enter to our new eternal) home.

1. In 20:1-9, what were cities of refuge and why did God want His people to establish them; how many were there and can you locate them where in the map; what kind of God do you see here and how should His knowledge impact your life?
2. In 20, when could a person who unintentionally killed return to his home and how long do you think that would take; can a person who killed intentionally, could he run to these cities of refuge to survive, why or why not; what does this say about God?

**Josh 21 (1/5/23)**

\* It is interesting to find, that this chapter only records five of the cities of refuge, when we are told there were six from the previous chapter. Why the omission of one (Bezer), I am not sure. Sometimes, God's word does not tell us why He does or doesn't do certain things. When that's the case, we can certainly study the context and come up with an educated guess. However, in such cases, we cannot speak with certainty, because God chose to not reveal to us. That is why, in such cases, the final conclusion will be, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law" (Deut 29:29). Simply said, what God reveals, we must joyfully follow and obey, and what He chooses to not to reveal, we must humbly accept to wait for that revelation until we enter into His glory.

1. In 21, why were the Kohathite clans recorded first, when he is not the firstborn of Levi; why were the Levites scattered among the tribes; what were God's people to learn about their God through this tribe?
2. In 21, in each of the city of refuge, we are given an explanation of, for one accused of murder, so, what if the accused is convicted of the charge, what happened; what is the conclusion of this chapter and how could that be true, when in reality, not every tribe has yet to conquer all of their lands; how is this applicable to you?

**Josh 22 (1/6/23)**

\* Here, I am really impressed with the 2.5 tribes who crossed the Jordan to fight with their brothers. Joshua says in verse 3, it's been a long time, which was around 7 years by now. Yet, despite the long time and despite the hardship and pain of war for all of these years, it's not them who came to Joshua to ask for their return. It's Joshua who called them and blessed them to return to their families. In order to keep their promise,

they stayed faithful to the end. I am reminded of God's heart, "that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:6). I pray that all of God's people, will always pray and exhibit this heart of faithfulness to the end, because this way, we display the heart of our God. That's awesomely amazing isn't it, that, even in our imperfection, we can display the beauty of our God through our deeds and words. Yes, may He shine in our lives—Shine, Jesus shine.

1. In 22:1-9, what kind of heart does Joshua display to the 2.5 tribes by calling them; as he sends them back home, what is the instruction he wants for them to really keep in verse 5 and can you re-phrase it in your own way; what do you learn about our God and how should that impact your life?
2. In 22:10-34, what happened at Geliloth and why were the other 9.5 tribes willing to go to war and kill one another; what were the lessons of "the sin of Peor" and of "Achan"; why did the 2.5 tribes did what they did; how is this applicable to you?

### **Josh 23 (1/7/23)**

1. In 23, how does God's word describe Joshua and what is his role in that state; who does Joshua say did the fighting and why would that be true; were there still Canaanites remaining in the land and why would that be and what were God's people to do with them?
2. In 23, what happens to God's promises and threats (v. 14-16), how so; what are God's people to be very careful about (v. 11) and how could they do this and how could you do this in your life?

### **Josh 24 (1/9/23)**

\* Let me make couple of brief observations. First, it is interesting to me, why the place they chose to assemble before the Lord would be Shechem. We remember this is the city where Dinah was raped, and in a violent retaliation, Simeon and Levi murdered all the men of the city, mis-using the very symbol of God's holiness, circumcision, to make the enemies vulnerable. I would think, the history of this event would want to make them shy away from the place, for it evoked ugly reminders. Yet, this city would become central to Israel's history, until Jerusalem rose to her prominence.

- A second thought is about Jacob and Esau's places at the beginning (v. 4). While Esau enjoyed the safety and protection of a hill country to dwell, Jacob ends up in the oppressive land of slavery in Egypt. Judging by these living conditions, it is clearly Esau who had it much better than Jacob. So, we learn, just as we must not judge these two living conditions as ultimate for these two brothers, so, let's learn to not judge our present living conditions as ultimate. Let's remember, home is not where we are presently living. Our Lord will call us home. "Oh Lord, may You call us home soon."
1. In 24:1-28, who was Abraham's father and what kind of life did he lived; if God's people were to serve God faithfully, what did God want them to do (v. 14 & 23); even if no one would, what does Joshua want to do (v. 15); how does Joshua's faith impact the people's faith; how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 24:29-33, who are the people buried in the Promised Land and why did this matter; while the people had godly leaders, what did they continue to do; how is this applicable to you?