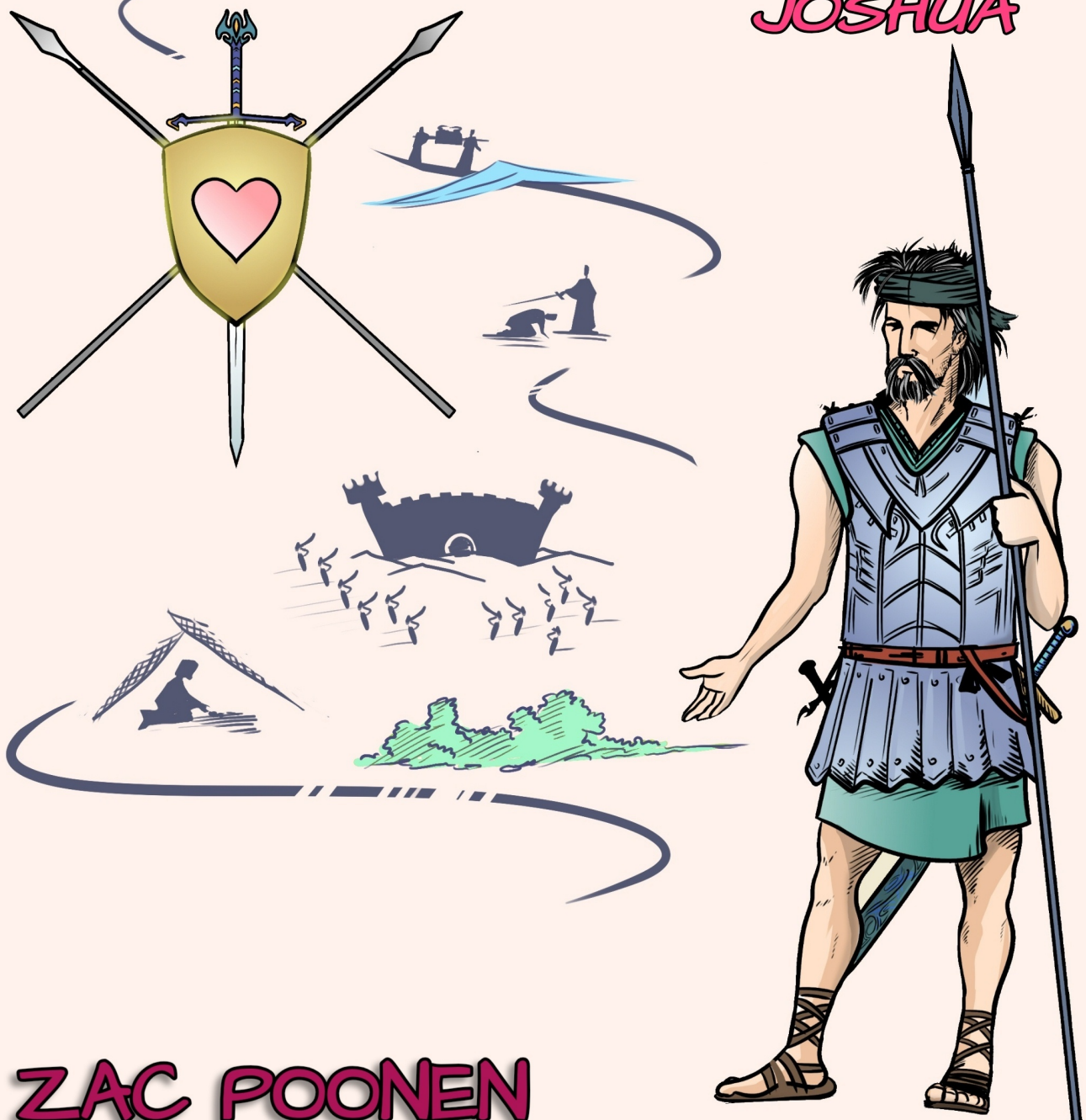


# THROUGH THE BIBLE

JOSHUA



ZAC POONEN

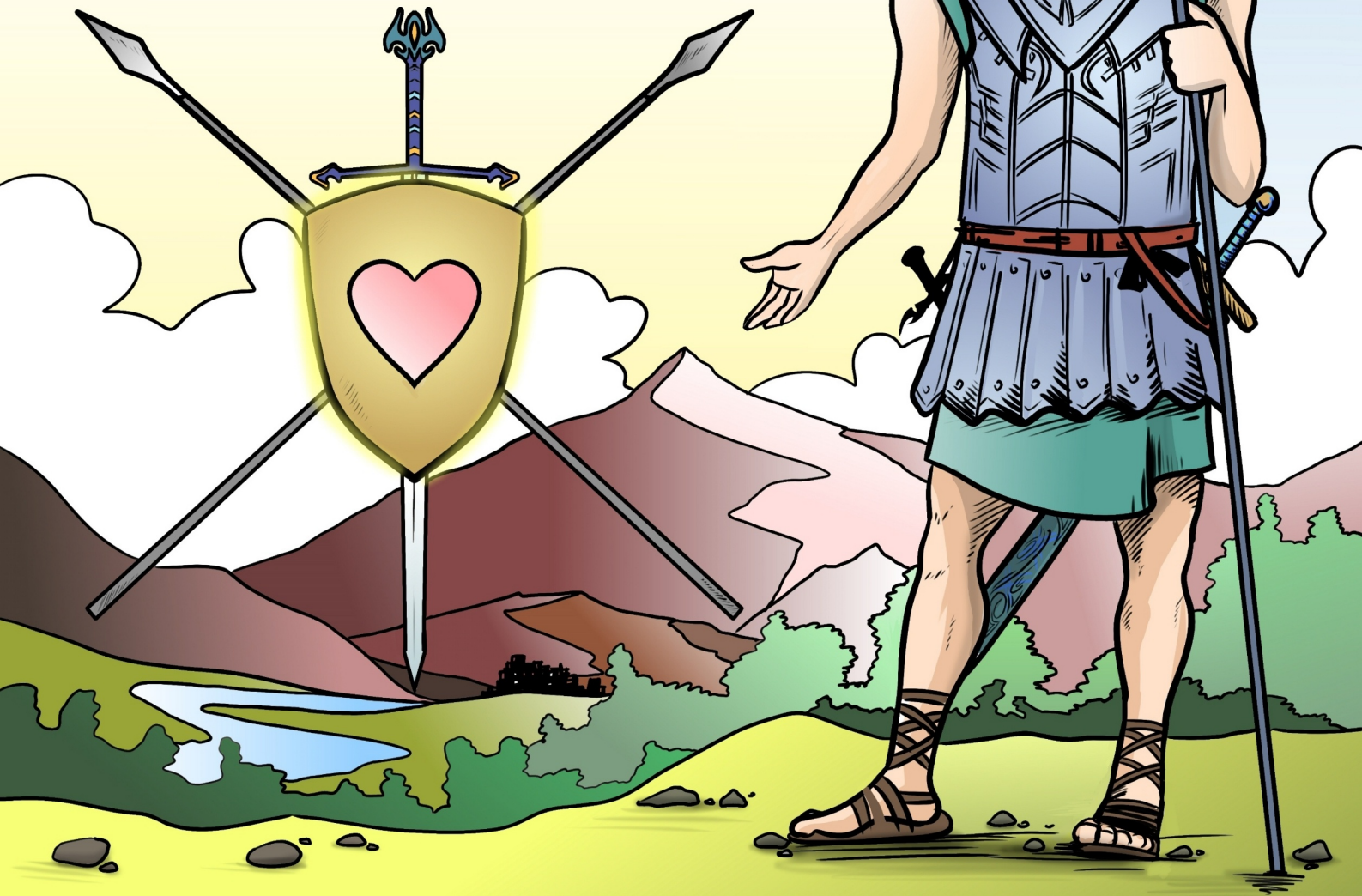
Illustrations by VINAY KURUVILLA

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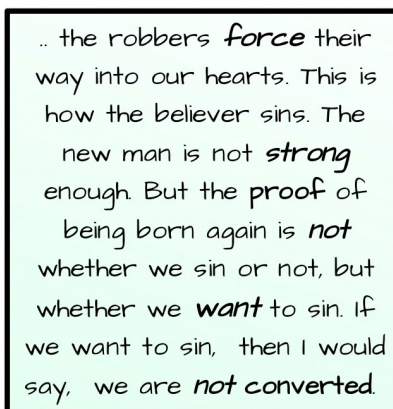
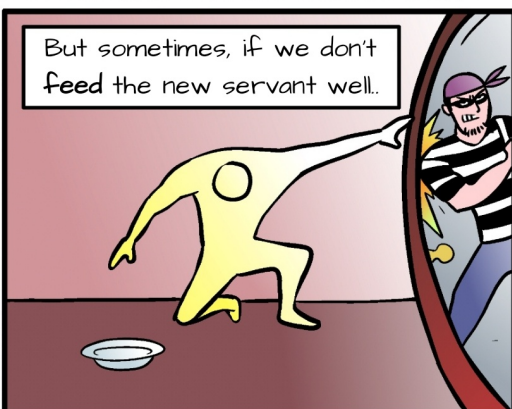
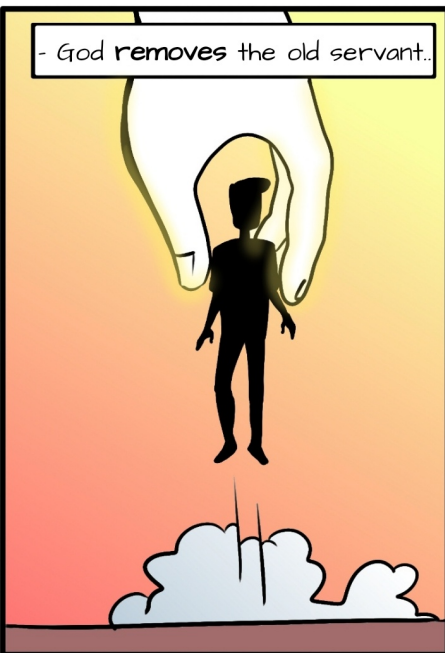
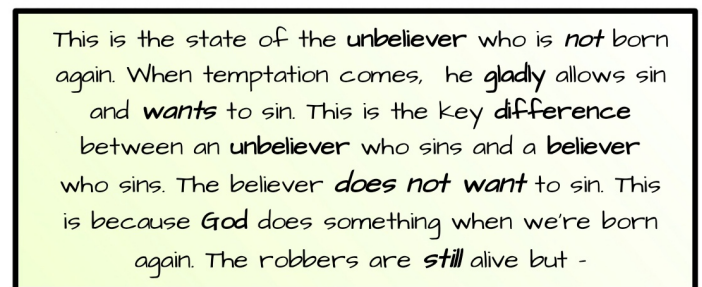
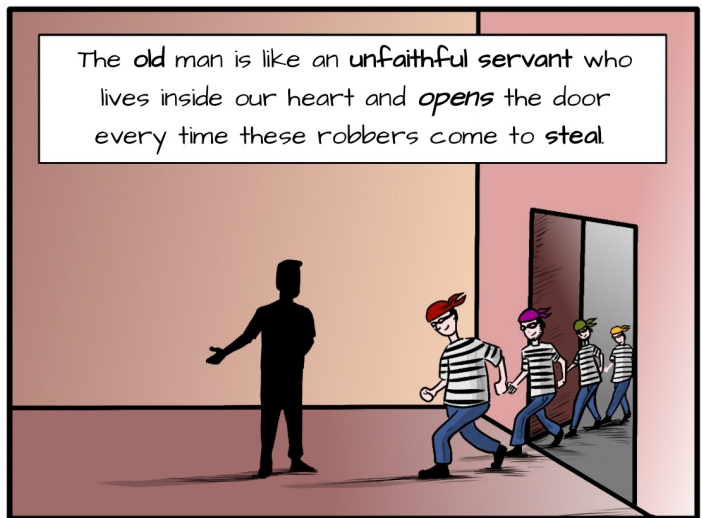
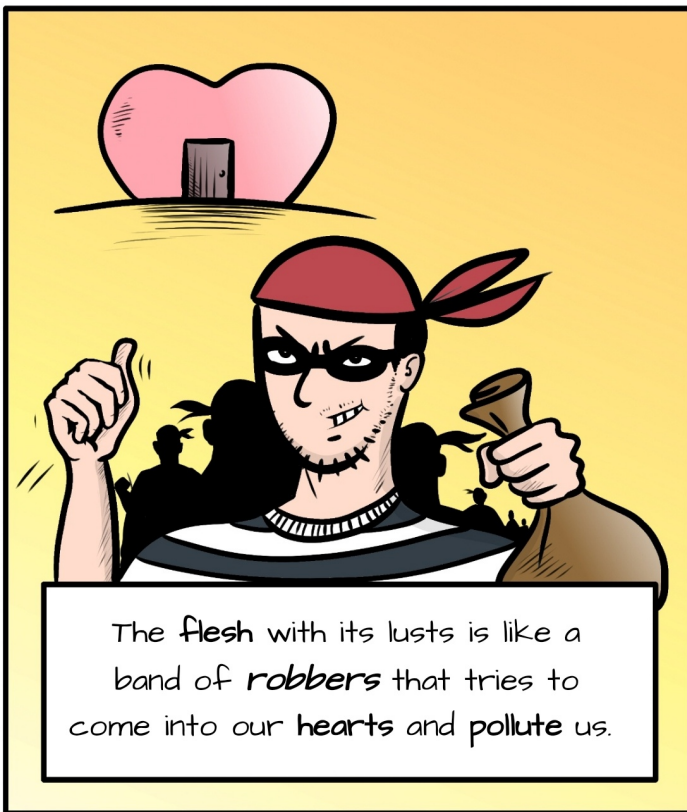
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# JOSHUA

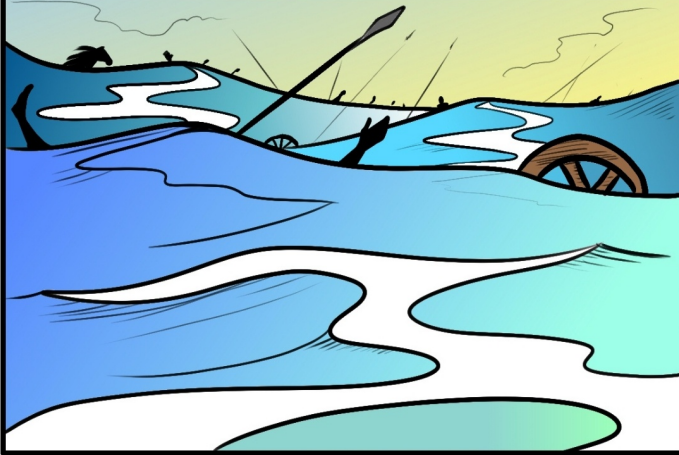
The book of **Joshua** tells us how Israel possessed the **promised land**. It was a new beginning similar to the **Acts** of the Apostles. We read of tremendous manifestations of God's **power**. Joshua was a **great leader** and he brought the Israelites into the promised land.



It pictures God as a God of **war**. This is because He is a God of **love**, like a **father**, making war against things that **harm** mankind. A loving father would make war against the **diseases** that are in his children. The land of Canaan is **not** a picture of **heaven** because there are **no** giants to be killed in heaven. Rather, it is a picture of the **Spirit-filled life of victory** over the **lusts** in our **flesh**, one by one. While crossing the **Red Sea** was a picture of **water-baptism**, crossing the **Jordan** was a picture of **another** kind of death. The Bible teaches us that our **old self** ( or the old man, the mind that wants to sin ) was crucified by God on the **cross** ( Romans 6.6 ) We cannot crucify our old man. But now there is **something else** we have to crucify - our **flesh** ( the storehouse of **desires** ). Galatians 5.24 says " Those who are Christ's have crucified their **flesh** with its **lusts** and **affections**. " The old man and the flesh are **not** the same ..

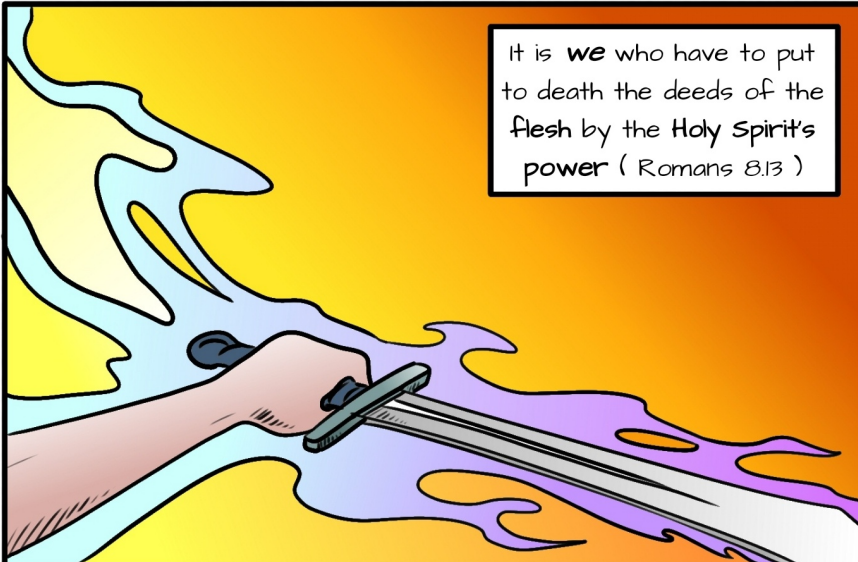


The 1st death - Red Sea, where the army of Pharaoh was buried in a **moment**. This is a picture of God crucifying our old man.



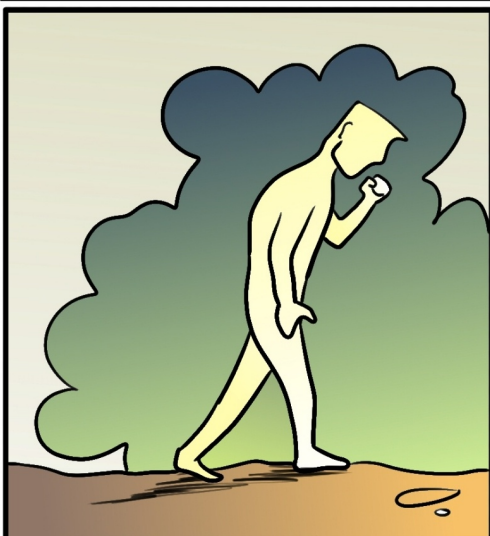
The 2nd death is pictured when the Israelites crossed the Jordan. We accept our **co-crucifixion** with Christ to our lusts. Those who are Christ's have taken this **attitude** towards their lusts. The lusts are **still** there, pictured by the giants still ruling the land of Canaan.

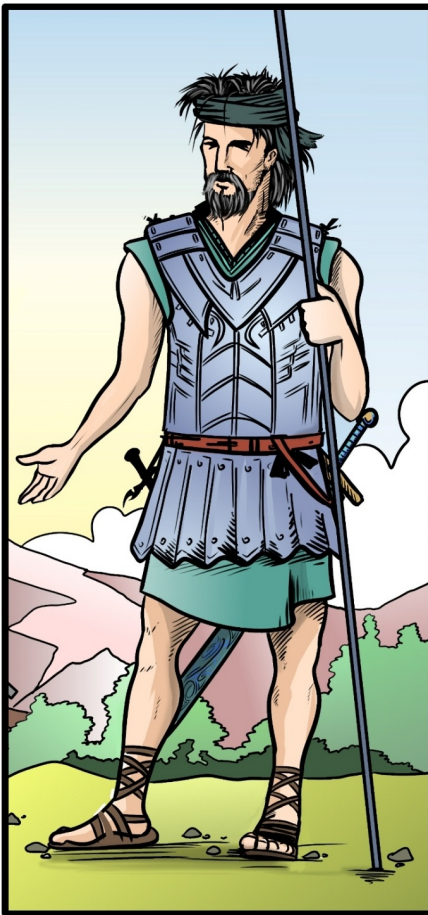
It is **we** who have to put to death the deeds of the flesh by the Holy Spirit's power ( Romans 8.13 )



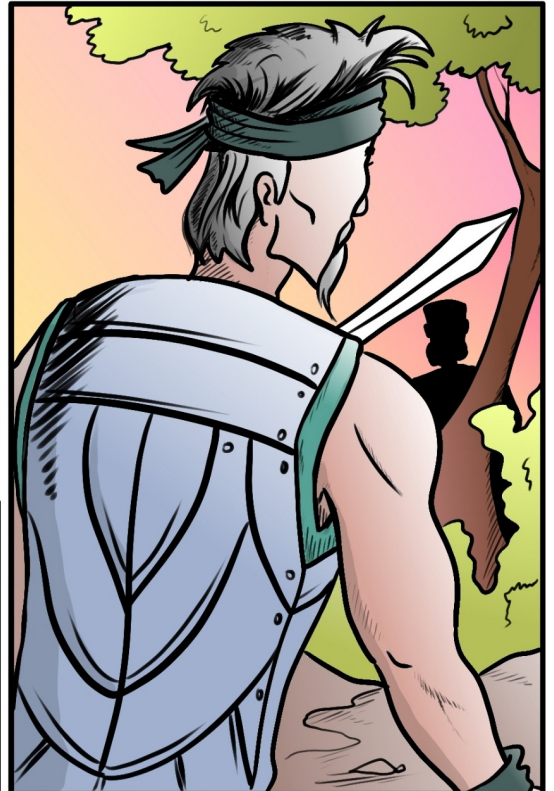
Joshua was **determined** to kill **every one** of those giants. This is very **different** from the Egyptian army being buried by God in a **moment**. The land of Canaan symbolizes our **body** that has been ruled by various giants of many **lusts**. Jesus said we have to take up the **cross daily**. This is **not** killing the old man. the old man has **already** been crucified. To take up the **cross** is to put our **self-will** ( flesh ) to **death** daily, in the power of the **Holy Spirit**, **not** in our own **strength**.

If we take a **relaxed** attitude to sin in our lives, we can put on the old man **once again** ( Ephesians 4.22 ) A person who " **continues** to live according to the flesh " will die spiritually - even if he was **alive once**. Romans 8.13 - which is written to believers - is **crystal clear** on this point.

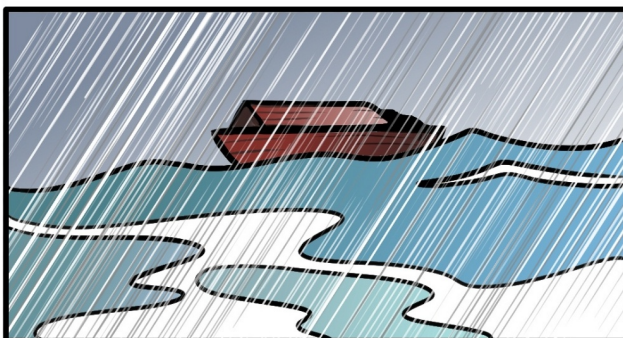




Our leader who leads us into this battle is Jesus, Who was Himself tempted in all points as we are ( Hebrews 4.15 ) Joshua went in front, fought and said " Follow me ". Jesus says the same thing to us. He is the Captain of our salvation ( Hebrews 2.10 ) He is our forerunner, who has gone ahead and that's why we are told to run the Christian race " looking unto Jesus ".



So the spiritual theme of this book is " overcoming sin ". Joshua was the leader. Joshua is the Hebrew word for Jesus, which is the English word. The Hebrew word, Jehoshua means "The Lord is Saviour". Matthew 1.21 says " You shall call His name Jesus because He is a Saviour who will save His people from their sins " Moses could *not* lead the Israelites into Canaan typifying the fact that the *law cannot* lead us to a life of *victory* over sin.



The Canaanites now were being punished just like the world in Noah's day and Sodom and Gomorrah were punished. The " land itself *spewed* them out " ( Leviticus 18: 24, 25 )



A God of love destroys some people just like a kind doctor *amputates* a man's foot when the *gangrene* is so *severe*, it *threatens* to destroy the whole body. So what we see in Joshua is *not* murder but *surgery* to cleanse the land otherwise the *corruption* would spread.

After Israel had occupied Canaan for 700 years, they committed the **same** sins as the Canaanites



And God drove the Israelites out of the land too! God is not partial. His standards are the **same**. If His people **keep violating** His standards and ignoring His prophets, He will perform the **same** surgery on them too.

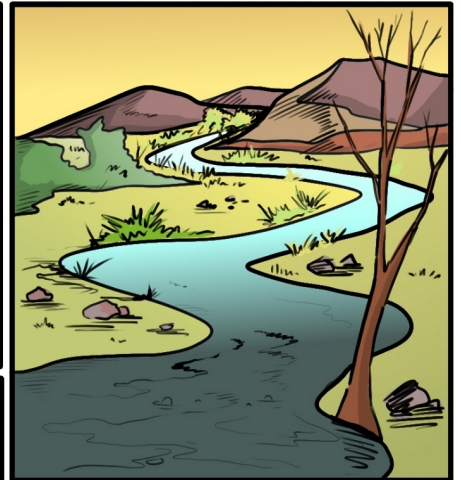


The Lord told Joshua that every place his **feet** trod would be given to him and that **no** man would be able to stand before him. This is **symbolic** of the New Testament promise in Romans 6:14 - " **No sin will be able to master you, because you are under grace** "

The land of Canaan had been ruled by many **giants** but they would all be defeated. **No** sin, however powerful, will be able to **overcome** us. That is **God's will** for us. But Joshua had to **actually put his foot down** on a piece of territory and **claim** it in the **Lord's** name. **Only then** would it be his. We must **claim** our inheritance by **faith**. If we do not lay hold of God's promises as ours, they will **never** be fulfilled in our lives. " **Always in victory** " was Paul's song !



Faith **reckons** only with the promise of God, **never** with the difficulties facing us. Becoming like Christ can be compared to climbing a high mountain. The top of the mountain is **perfect likeness** to Christ. We will reach there **only** when Christ **returns** ( 1 John 3:2 ) But we **don't** have to live at the foot of the mountain, **defeated** by sin. The Bible says " Let us **press onto perfection** " ( Hebrews 6:1 ). We should **not** be afraid of the word " perfection " , we must press onto it. Paul says towards the end of his life in Philippians 3: 12- 14 " I have **not reached the top** but I'm **pressing on!** "

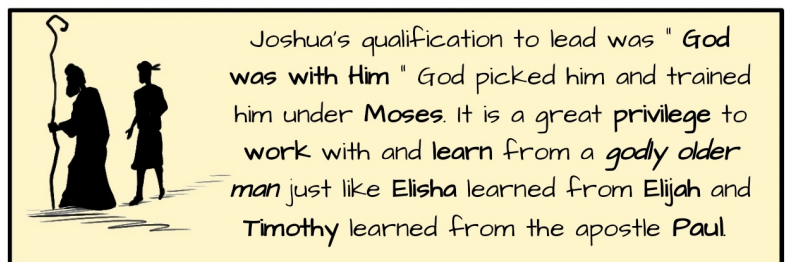
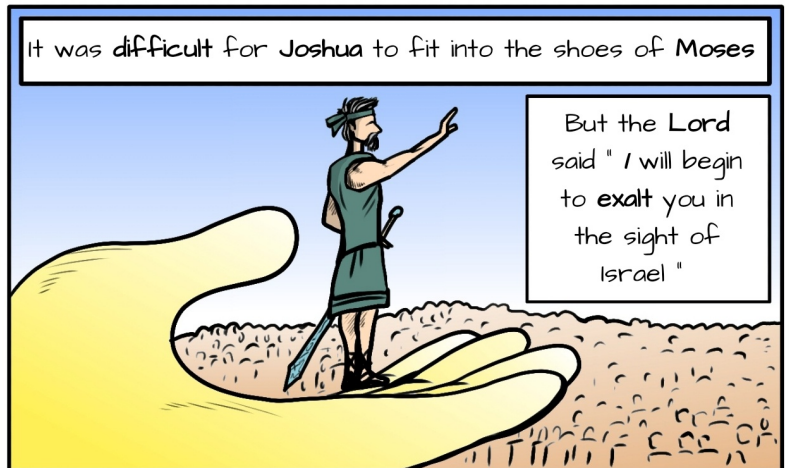


Today, many Christians feel the lusts are **too** powerful and they say like the other Israelites " This is **impossible** ". Such believers **remain** defeated. The tragedy in Christendom is that it's **preachers** are **not pure** inside. They have **not overcome** sin in their **private** lives. Thus the **river** of the Holy Spirit flows through **polluted** channels. The preaching is hollow **theory** which cannot **bless** or **help** people.

In Chapter 2 we see, we see God's concern for a prostitute in a heathen country. Jesus was concerned for the souls of prostitutes in His day. Rahab, a well known prostitute in Jericho, was sick and *tired* of her profession, like Mary Magdalene and many prostitutes today. Very few people recognize that

Many of them, *forced* into this life, are sick and tired of being exploited by men and God saw the longing in one such - Rahab. God looks all over the world for those who are *hungering* after Him - *irrespective* of nationality or profession.

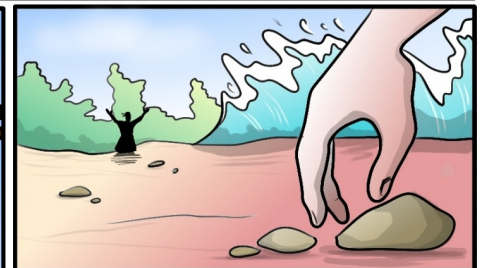
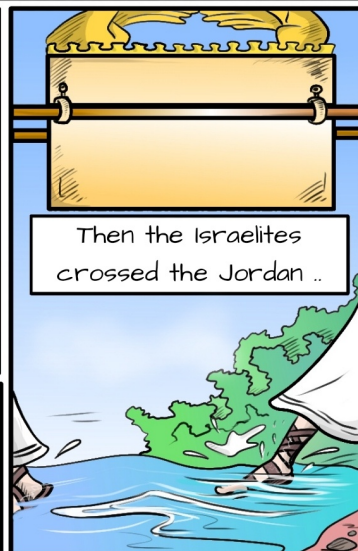
She was *not* a child of Abraham but Rahab became the ancestor of both Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. She is listed among the *heroes of faith* ( Hebrews 11:31 ). James cites her as an example of *faith accompanied by works* ( James 2:25 ) Those of us who have made a *mess* of our lives, living in *corner*, uncared for, can be *encouraged* by Rahab.



Unfortunately, many Christians today are confessing the things they are **lusting** after instead of confessing the **promises** of God. They say " I confess that I will get a large **house**, a better **job** or a good **car** " Instead, let us confess the **word of God** " I confess that I will overcome **anger**, **lusting** with my eyes, **love of money** "



Joshua was commanded to **meditate** on **God's word** day and night. God promised Joshua both **prosperity** and **success**, if he meditated on God's word.



The ark was in front, a picture of **Jesus** our **forerunner**. The priests put their feet into the water by **faith** and the waters parted. After crossing, they gave **thanks** and picked up 12 stones from the riverbed and make a **memorial**.



The Israelite men who were born in the wilderness were **circumcised** at Gilgal. There were 40 year old men who were not circumcised. This was a **small thing**, but it was a **mark of the covenant**. It symbolised a **cutting-off** of all confidence in the **flesh** ( *Philippians 3.3* ) They could **NOT** overcome the giants in their **own strength**. **Then** the Captain of the Lord's army appears



After the circumcision is over, the Captain of the Lord's army comes. This is the Lord Jesus appearing in a vision. Joshua thinks it's a man and asks "Are you on *our side or the enemy's?*" The answer the Lord gives is very instructive: "I'm not on either side. I have come to lead your army. You must come to my side" Sometimes we say "Lord, I'm going there. Please come and bless me" *Instead* we should ask "Lord, where are *You* moving now as the Captain of the Lord's army. *Where* do you want *me* to go as your soldier?" The Christian life is simple.

I don't have to plan to go here and there and ask the Lord to come along with me.

No. God is *not* our servant He is our *Captain*. When we change our way of serving the Lord to this way, we will see *amazing* results in our ministry. Wait for *His direction* - always.



Chapter 6.2 says " I have **ALREADY** given Jericho into your hand " This is what we need to know when we go to fight against Satan - that he has **already** been defeated on Calvary and that the Lord will crush him under our feet ( Romans 16.20 ). God did not say " in seven days, I'm going to give you Jericho. " No. He said " I have **already** given you the city. Just go in and **take** it " All the Israelites had to do was march around the city 13 times and blow their trumpets on the 7th day



Our calling is to establish the victory of Calvary wherever we go. We must **confess** that Satan has been defeated. I have great joy in reminding Satan about his **defeat**.

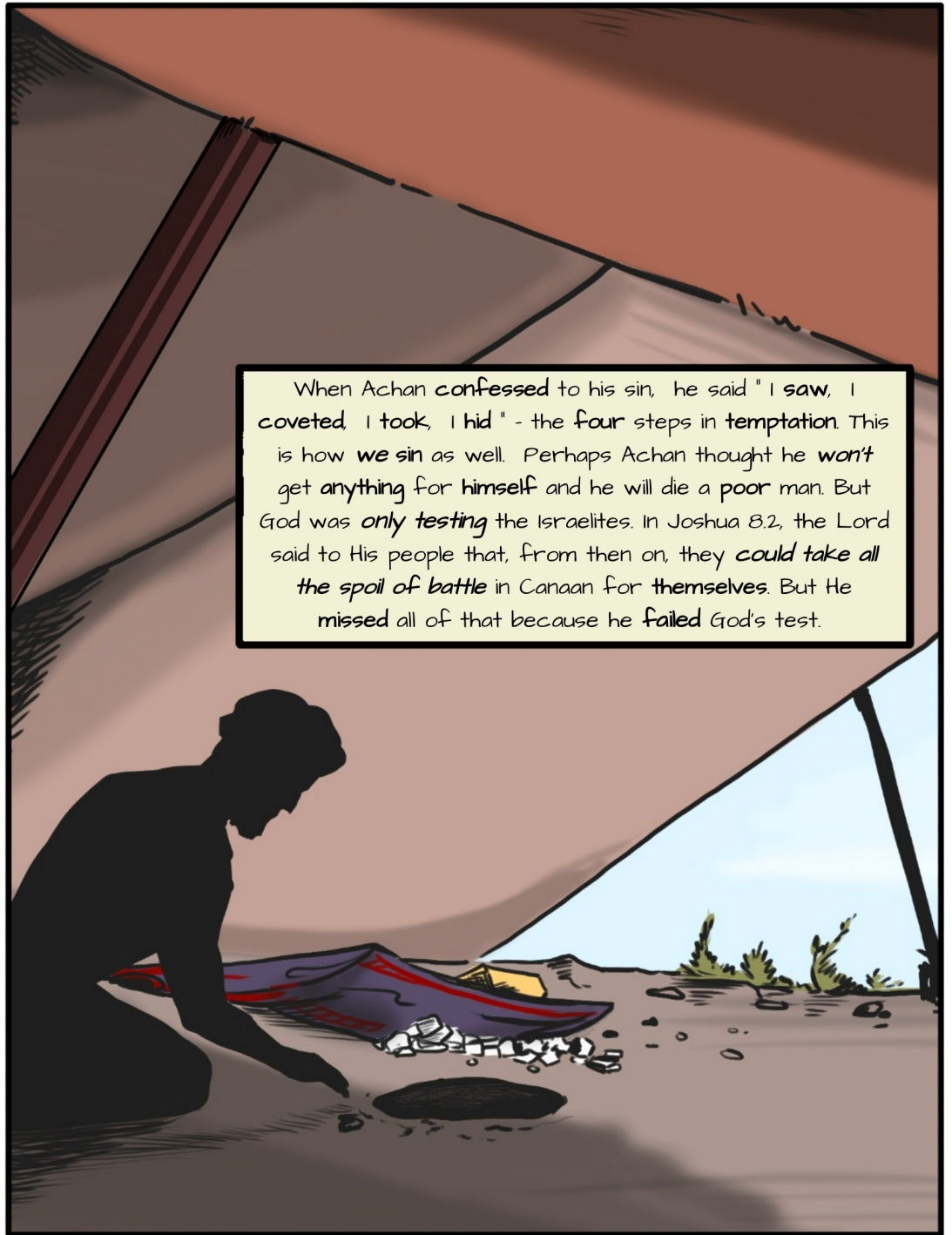


The devil **doesn't** like to be reminded that he was defeated on the **cross**. So I tell him that **frequently** myself and teach believers across the world to tell him that **regularly**. Let us submit to God, by keeping our conscience clear , then resist the devil

In Chapter 7 we read of Israel being defeated for the first time in Canaan. Joshua asked God why and God replied saying " There is sin in the camp "



One man, Achan, had stolen something that was forbidden. All the other Israelites obeyed the command not to take anything in Jericho for themselves. Achan was caught and his sin was exposed.



When Achan confessed to his sin, he said " I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid " - the four steps in temptation. This is how we sin as well. Perhaps Achan thought he won't get anything for himself and he will die a poor man. But God was only testing the Israelites. In Joshua 8.2, the Lord said to His people that, from then on, they could take all the spoil of battle in Canaan for themselves. But He missed all of that because he failed God's test.

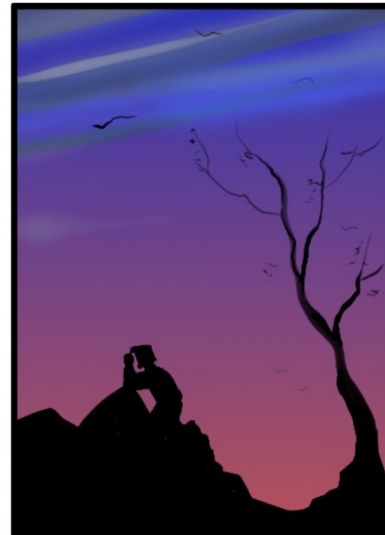


Instead, if we seek God's kingdom, He will give us all that we need always. In Chapter 8.26, we read how Ai was defeated after Achan had been killed. We set the past right before we move forward - otherwise we will keep on being defeated. Here, Joshua raised his javelin over Ai, like Moses lifted his hands on the mountaintop

Now the great **danger** that all of us face *after* we have won a **victory** is the danger of becoming **complacent**. The moment we begin to **relax** in the Christian life, we are in danger of being **deceived**. That's what happened to Joshua. Some **Gibeonites** - who were **Canaanites** who should have been killed - came and **deceived** Joshua ( 9.4 ) They used **flattery** also.



When people flatter us, **deception** is very close. The **safest** course of action is to ask the **Lord's** advice and **not** lean on our **own** wisdom. We read in the gospels about what **Jesus** did -



- *After* doing many miracles, immediately he would **slip away** into the wilderness to pray, to give all the glory to His **Father**. ( Luke 5 : 15, 16 ). We are in **greater** danger after a victory than after a **defeat**. This is because we are in danger of spiritual **pride** ..



In Chapter 10, when 5 kings attacked, God told Joshua " Don't be afraid. I have **given** them into your hands. " The word was **always** " I have **already** given " . *Victory was a foregone conclusion, even before the battle started* This is how we must go to battle against **Satan** too. The gates of hell will **never** prevail against the church of the living God. Romans 16.20 says " the God of peace will soon crush Satan under **our** feet " . Satan was defeated on Calvary. Now Satan will be crushed under **our** feet.



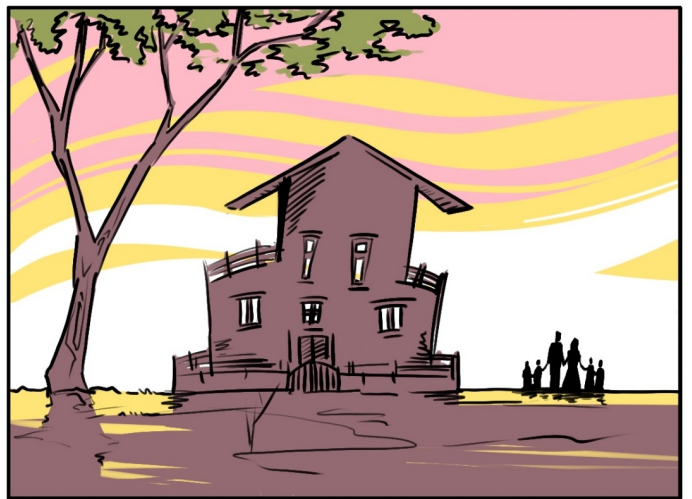
Joshua was old and there was **much** of the land that needed to be possessed ( Chapter 13:1 ) It's a sad thing that there were no other leaders in Israel to **take over** from Joshua. This is true of Christendom today as well. Godly men are dying and so **much** land is yet to be possessed. In Chapter 14: 6 - 15, we see that although Caleb is now **85** years old, his faith is still as **vibrant** as it was **40** years earlier !



He asks Joshua to give him a hill country filled with **huge** giants and he says he will **drive them all out**. So Joshua gave Hebron to Caleb. What a challenge and an encouragement it is to see godly, old men even today, who like Caleb, " have followed the Lord fully " ( verse 14 ) , and are **overcomers** who are growing **stronger** in their faith even in their old age ! In contrast, we see others who **did not** drive out the Canaanites



In Chapter 22: 10 - 34 we have a beautiful story that illustrates how misunderstandings can be removed and conflicts can be averted, if we adopt the simple method of talking to the other party face to face **before** criticising or judging them. The 2½ tribes of Israel who stayed on the eastern side of Jordan had made a **duplicate** bronze altar. When the other 9½ tribes saw this, they decided to **clarify** and found out it was **not** an act of rebellion against God.



In Chapter 23, we read of Joshua's farewell address to the Israelites. He warned the Israelites about sticking to the word of God and in being **separate** from the heathen nations around them. In Chapter 24, he **exhorts** them to "fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth" . Then he said that whatever their decision may be, **as far as he and his house** were concerned, they would serve the Lord. Christian leaders need to lead their family first