

APRIL 2026 | DAY 5

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 32
Deuteronomy 33
Deuteronomy 34
Psalms 64

Today, you reach the end of Deuteronomy and turn the final page of the Torah. Congratulations! Watch the video to review Moses' stirring speech that brings this first movement of the biblical story to a close.

For Moses, this is the end of the road. He sends Israel into the promised land with an epic song, weaving history, blessing, and warning into one final call to choose life. The last words to leave his mouth urge the Israelites to stay faithful to Yahweh.

Before he dies, Moses hikes to the top of a mountain. Israel's tents flutter on the plains below, filled with the children of Abraham, now a great nation with a great name. Beyond them, across the river, the promised land unfurls lush and green to the horizon. Moses looks out into this hopeful future and then breathes his last.

For Israel, the journey has just begun. Deuteronomy ends on a cliffhanger. What's next for this wandering nation? How will they respond to Joshua, their new leader? Will they choose life in the promised land?

APRIL 2026 | DAY 6

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1
Joshua 2
Joshua 3
Joshua 4
Psalms 65

In Genesis 15, God appeared to Abraham in a fiery vision and made him a promise: Abraham's family would one day inherit the land of Canaan. Abraham's descendants spent generations waiting for the fulfillment of that promise. They hoped for a homeland through long stretches of infertility, fear, slavery, failure, and wilderness wandering. As the book of Joshua begins, their wait comes to an end.

The author casts Joshua as a new Moses in a new exodus moment. Israel stands at the Jordan River, swollen and treacherous with torrential harvest floods. God parts the river so Joshua can lead the Israelites through chaotic waters, on dry ground, into new life on the other side—the land of Canaan, as promised.

But God promised more than land. God also told Abraham he would bless the world through his family. In the story of Rahab, a Canaanite woman who embraces the God of Israel, we see that promise fulfilled.

Watch the video to preview how God keeps his promises to Abraham and Israel in the book of Joshua.

APRIL 2026 | DAY 7

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Joshua 5
Joshua 6
Joshua 7
Joshua 8
Psalms 66

While Israel gears up for their first battle in the promised land, Joshua goes on a scouting mission and encounters a strange man with a sword blocking his path. As you'll see in today's video, this mysterious angel of Yahweh appears repeatedly at key moments in the biblical story. Guarded and uncertain, Joshua asks the stranger where his allegiance lies: Are you for us or for our enemies? Neither, he answers. This unexpected response forces Joshua to reorient his priorities. Rather than focusing on whether God will help Israel win their battles, Joshua and the people should focus on obeying God as he accomplishes his purposes in Canaan. Israel obeys God's surprising instructions, and Jericho's walls crumble with a trumpet blast and a shout. But when Israel disobeys, Ai humiliates Israel's forces. The two battles stand in contrast, just like Achan and Rahab. Achan, an Israelite man from the tribe of Judah, steals a pile of off-limits plunder instead of offering it to Yahweh. Rahab, a Canaanite woman and prostitute, risks her life to save the Israelite spies. Achan's actions bring curse on his family and defeat for Israel. Rahab's actions bring salvation for her family and victory for Israel. The author of Joshua contrasts Rahab and Jericho against Achan and Ai to illustrate a crucial point. This is not merely a war account. This is a story about different kinds of people who turn to Yahweh and follow his ways, whether Israelite or Canaanite, and receive his blessings. Those who turn away from him, whether Israelite or Canaanite, also turn away from his blessing. This means turning away from life itself.

APRIL 2026 | DAY 8

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Joshua 9
Joshua 10
Joshua 11
Joshua 12
Psalms 67

With defeated Jericho and Ai behind them, Israel's soldiers turn their sights to the rest of the promised land. Immediately, they make a mistake. The people of Gibeon trick Israel into making an alliance with them. Instead of consulting Yahweh, Israel's leaders do what's right in their own eyes. The Gibeonites' frayed clothes and stale bread fool them into swearing an oath of peace, exactly what Yahweh commanded Israel not to do with Canaanites.

After this temporary lapse in judgment, the Israelites learn a lesson and walk in step with Yahweh. Their obedience to Yahweh's commands allows them to enjoy his intervention on their behalf.

Just as God rained hailstones upon Pharaoh and Egypt (Exod. 9:18-35), God now brings hailstones upon Israel's oppressor in their battle against the Amorites. By Yahweh's power, the sun "stands" in the sky, just like the waters of the Jordan "stood" to let the Israelites pass through as they entered Canaan (Josh. 3:16).

Here we see God as infinitely powerful over all creation. Israel's victory over the Amorites illustrates the deeper idea that Yahweh will intervene in powerful ways when Israel is willing to trust him for deliverance. The power, life, and victory belong to Yahweh.

APRIL 2026 | DAY 9

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Joshua 13
Joshua 14
Joshua 15
Joshua 16
Joshua 17
Joshua 18
Joshua 19
Joshua 20
Joshua 21
Psalms 68

With most of Canaan conquered, it's time for Israel to settle into the rest of the land. This section's long, long list of strange names and places feels boring, even confusing. It's like trying to understand a map made of words but no diagrams or lines.

But to the Israelites, the details in this section of Joshua offer a concrete reminder of Yahweh's faithfulness to real people in the real world. God promised to provide land, not just to Israel in general, but to specific individuals like Caleb and the daughters of Zelophehad. In today's reading, God delivers.

The boundary lines described in this section are not geographic factoids. They represent a necessary change for the wandering community. In their world, owning land means ongoing life, so taking all or part of a neighbor's land could be devastating for generations to come. These boundaries work to recall God's great blessing (the gift of land) and to nourish everyone's lives.

God kept his promises about the land. Will the Israelites keep theirs? Peppered throughout this section are subtle hints that Israel is not following God's instruction to drive out all the Canaanites, casting an uneasy shadow over Israel's future. For now, the end of war brings rest to Israel and to the land they call home.

APRIL 2026 | DAY 10

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Joshua 22
Joshua 23
Joshua 24
Psalms 69

The Canaan conquest battles are over. Yahweh has fulfilled his promises to give Abraham a great name, to multiply his children into a great nation, and to settle them in the land of Canaan. Now, the people of Israel get to live out their priestly calling—becoming a blessing to every “family” or “nation” on the Earth (Gen. 12:2-3).

As his life comes to an end, Joshua confronts a new generation of Israelites. He gives them the same choice Moses set before their parents, a decision that leads to life or one that leads to death. Serving Yahweh alone will bring abundant blessing. By keeping their covenant agreement, Israel will continue to enjoy Yahweh’s lavish gifts. He will provide solid stone walls surrounding their cities, grape clusters on their vines, and olive groves thick with fruit.

However, if they choose to serve other gods, Yahweh will turn them over to those gods, which are, by definition, dead. Joshua reminds Israel that Yahweh’s mighty power brought them into this land. If they reject his protection, they will stand defenseless in front of enemy invaders who want to crush them and, once again, exile them into captivity.

The people thunder their response: We will serve Yahweh! Joshua sets up a large rock as a witness to their oath, matching the eastern tribes’ altar on the far side of the Jordan. These stone sentinels will stand guard through the generations, watching to see if the Israelites will keep their word.

APRIL 2026 | DAY 10 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Joshua 22
Joshua 23
Joshua 24
Psalms 69

Like Moses, Joshua renews the covenant with the people and then dies. Unlike Moses, however, Joshua leaves no successor to lead the people in his place. The tribes are on their own. How will they handle the responsibility?

APRIL 2026 | DAY 11

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Judges 1
Judges 2
Judges 3
Psalms 70

Joshua and Judges start the same way: “After the death of” Israel’s previous leader. The similarity ends there. Joshua feels like an upward climb, concluding with Israel’s triumph in the promised land. Judges will feel like a constant spiral downward and end with Israel deteriorating into utter failure and chaos.

The Israelites do not completely do away with the Canaanite way of life as God instructed. The results are exactly as Moses and Joshua warned. Over time, the Israelites absorb Canaanite practices until they become just as idolatrous, violent, and morally corrupt as the Canaanites.

This descent into darkness follows a pattern that repeats from Othniel to Samson. The Israelites “do evil” in the sight of Yahweh, usually worshipping other gods. So Yahweh hands them over to be conquered and “oppressed” by their enemies. When the Israelites “cry out” for help, God provides a savior to rescue them. This victory brings peace for a time.

Then the Israelites again “do evil,” and the cycle starts all over.

Watch the video to preview Israel’s downward spiral in the book of Judges.