

“We are your servants,” they said to Joshua.

Your servants have come . . . because of the fame of the Lord your God.

For we have heard reports of him: all he did in Egypt

and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan—

Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan

who reigned in Ashtaroth.

And our elders and all those living in our country said to us,

‘Take provisions for your journey;

go and meet them and say to them,

“We are your servants; make a treaty with us.”’

JOSHUA 9:8–11

Question 1: Bible Study

Read and reflect in Deuteronomy.

1–1. A few weeks before the “longest day ever” that Joshua described in Joshua 10:12–14 (and the author described in the opening chapters of *SNU*), Moses prepared the people to enter the Promised Land in an assembly (Deuteronomy 31:1–8).

1–1a. How old is Moses at that time? And what did Moses announce about his leadership of the people crossing the Jordan River? (v. 2)

1–1b. Who did Moses say would cross over ahead of their people? (v. 3)

1–1c. What two commands did Moses give to all Israel in v. 6? Copy them here.

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1–1d. In v. 6 of this passage, Moses says God goes with you. There is a slightly different wording in v. 8 in the NIV translation. (If you are not using NIV, you can go to biblegateway.com to see these few verses.) Verse 8 says God goes

1–1e. God repeated the two commands to Joshua in Joshua 1:9. God also gave a promise to the Hebrews in Moses' words and in Joshua's. This promise is found in these two places in the O. T. and also stated in Hebrews 13:5 in the N.T. Copy this promise from the book of Hebrews.

1–2. Before he went up on Mount Nebo, Moses gave the people what is often described as a song in chapter 32.

1–2a. Read vv. 3–4. List the eight character qualities Moses attributes to God— words that describe God.

1–2b. Why do you think the last of the eight descriptions is a repeat? How does this attribute of God contribute to the others listed?

1–3. In Deuteronomy 34 on the east side of the Jordan River on Mount Nebo, God showed Moses the land the Hebrews would soon enter.

1–3a. (vv. 5–6) Who buried Moses?

1–3b. (v. 8) How long did the Israelites mourn for Moses in Moab?

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1–4. Evidently, thirty days later God spoke to Moses’ successor as leader of the Hebrews and gave Joshua these now familiar commands in Joshua chapter 1.

1–4a. Complete these three commands the Lord gave Joshua: vv. 6 through 9: “Be strong and

_____.” v. 7: “Be strong and

_____.” v. 9: “Do not be

_____; do not be _____, for the Lord your God will

be _____.” v. 18: “Only be _____ and

_____.”

1–4b. In vv. 10–11, Joshua gave the orders to get the people ready to cross the now fully flooded Jordan River, in how many days?

1–4c. At the same time what did Joshua do in 2:1 to take an extra precaution to know his enemy better?

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Question 2, Bible Places

You are in for a treat. In chapter 3 of *SNU* is a vignette (a short scene) of Keshub, younger brother of Eskie, as he returns along the Wadi Qelt from Gibeon to the Hebrew camp at Gilgal.

2-1. Watch the following YouTube video provided by Satellite Bible Atlas, author William Schlegel. The route is described as Jesus' ascent from Jericho to Jerusalem, which it is. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVmagXx-n34>. Listen and watch for the distance and elevations cited.

2-1a. What is the straight-line distance from Jericho to Jerusalem? (at 1:56 min.)

2-1b-1. What is the elevation of Jericho, below sea level?

2-1b-2. What is the stated difference between the elevation of Jericho and that of Jerusalem?

2-1b-3. Therefore, in relation to sea level can you determine mathematically what the elevation of Jerusalem is? (1:50 min.)

2-1c. At approximately 3:42 minutes, notice the Wadi Qelt (also referred to as Wadi Qilt) and stop the video. Describe the terrain in your own words.

2-1d. According to the video, how long does it take for a healthy person to hike the trail between Jericho and Jerusalem? (approximately 10:00 min. mark on video)

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2-1e. Quote the young man shown on the video at minute marker 10:33. What was his observation about Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem?

2-2. Watch the video a second time and think about Keshub going down much of the same route from Gibeon toward Jericho by himself. Imagine yourself alone on this treacherous trail. What will you personally take away from seeing this journey with your own eyes?

2-3. Share what you have learned at dinner time with your family.

Question 3, Research

3-1. Literary devices.

3-1a. Use your dictionary or your internet search engine to answer the question: "What is an analogy?" Write the definition here.

3-1b. Using this internet link <https://literarydevices.net/analogy/> copy two examples of analogies you find there.

3-2. "Water meeting heat. Water wins. Strange thought," (*SNU*, p. 30). Jibus, the archer of Jerusalem, had a random thought about water and fire and water winning as he and his men

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geared up for the attack on Gibeon to begin at the first gleam of dawn. From the previous novel, Jibus knew the potter of Gibeon to be a man of integrity and the Amorite king of Jerusalem to be quite the opposite. When he heard the fire being put out by water, he compared water to heat. Complete Jibus' implied analogy here. (Hint: The question is which element appears at first thought to be stronger, water or heat?) Place the two armies, the Gibeonites and the Amorites, in

the analogy. Water is to heat as _____ are to

_____.

3-3. What other comparisons, physical or abstract, might have a similar relationship as heat and water? Ask this question at dinner time sometime this week and together come up with other suggestions: A seed and a clod; humility and pride.

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Question 4, Expressing Yourself

How would you describe the relationship between Dagan and his father Ragar in chapter 2? Eskie missed the reason for the fight between Dagan and his father that happened just before he returned from hunting. What old hurts from the past do you think might have happened in their relationship that brought them to this physical fight?