

God is in Control

The Bible is clear that God is always providing for and preparing the way for us. However, it can be easy in times of trouble to question that truth, and in times of prosperity, to think too highly of our own strength or skill. These temptations can be a slippery slope for our faith, however, the stories in Joshua that retell the final victories in Israel's conquest of the Promised Land can help remind us of God's providence and care. Just like the Israelites needed to trust God to provide the victories that would finally give them the Promised Land, we too need to learn to trust that God is in full control of our lives and will thoroughly provide for all our needs. Join us as we explore Joshua 10-11 and together we'll witness God's faithfulness and be reminded that it is not our own strength or skill, but God's provision and leadership that will bring eternal rest for all his people.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you think it means to be “in control”?
- How would you define rest?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*God is in Control*](#)

READ [Joshua 10-11](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Joshua and the Israelites could have easily been intimidated by the cities and armies they encountered in the land of Caanan. But as hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss in segment 1, God was with them. He went ahead of them, provided for them, and saw them through each situation, and with God, they achieved many victories. What is something in your life that intimidates you? Can you imagine achieving victory over this struggle because God is with you?
- Think about a major situation or decision in your life, either one you already lived through or one you're currently experiencing. Now, reflect on the following quote from Scott from segment 1, “Maybe because of God's relationship to time, he is able to assure us in the present of a future thing, and it is so sure in the future, that God refers to it as already done: I have already done it. It hasn't happened yet, but I've already done it. I wonder if there are not many circumstances...in our lives, where we are uncertain or we are praying for healing or we are praying for God to open the right door for us in our career or for what is next for our family; if only we could see what God could see, we would know that God is already going to speak in the past tense: I have already got this...I got this. I have already done this. You will catch up to it soon enough.” What does this quote stir in you as you think about your big decision or situation?

- In segment 2, Darrell reflects on the meaning of the Hebrew name for God, *Jehovah Jireh*, and notes that the meaning of *jireh* is more than simple provision, and means that God will “oversee the process...that he will see it from start to finish...and he is definitely in control of every aspect of it.” How does this reflection on God’s provision impact your understanding of what it means to believe that God provides?
- Why does it matter that God promises us salvation, deliverance, and rest? What does this kind of rest mean?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Joshua 1:9](#), [Genesis 22:1-19](#), [Romans 8:28](#), [Philippians 1:6](#), [Romans 6:23](#), [Isaiah 53](#)

CONCLUSION

As Scott and Darrell close segment 3, they discuss how having a long memory of what God has done in our lives and in the lives of others, and remembering his faithfulness, leads to the rest God promises. Exercise your long memory and think about a story of how God delivered or provided for you, for someone in a previous generation, or for another believer in your community. Journal or doodle or create something that will help you recall this story. Allow this list, picture, or creation to help you strengthen your long memory and experience God’s rest today.

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Printed on September 17, 2025