

God's Chosen People Enter the Promised Land

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Chapter 15.

❖ Moses was a true leader of his people and the greatest of the prophets. He spoke with God face-to-face and was a true friend to God and the people. But Moses was not able to enter into the Promised Land.

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❖ The military leader Joshua replaced Moses as the leader of the Israelites. Moses indicated that Joshua would be the new leader when he laid hands on Joshua.

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❖ In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop lays hands on a person as a sign of conferring the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through Confirmation, we receive the grace needed to assume responsibility in the Church.

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❖ When Joshua got the people ready to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land, they did what he said. The Israelites knew that Joshua had been chosen by God to lead them. God had promised Joshua that as long as the people followed his law, they would be successful in conquering Canaan.

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❖ When the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant began to cross the Jordan, the river stopped flowing. The people were able to walk on a dry path, just as they had when they crossed the Red Sea.

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❖ Jericho was the first city in Canaan that the Israelites attacked. Joshua told the people to circle the wall of this city seven times and then to shout and blow their horns. God brought down the wall of Jericho, allowing the Israelites to storm the city. Their victory was a sign that God was with them.

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❖ Before his death, Joshua reminded the people that God had fulfilled his promise to them by giving them Canaan. He asked the people to decide which gods they would serve. The people responded that they would serve the Lord. The covenant was renewed.

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❖ Heaven is our promised land, where we are united with God. Every action, every choice, and every decision that we make helps determine whether we will reach our promised land.

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❖ In purgatory we undergo purification.

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❖ When we die, we will be judged according to our works and faith. If we sin and do not repent, we damage our relationship with God until we are completely separated from him. This state is what we call hell.

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❖ Leaders of the Church receive their authority in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. People who receive Holy Orders include the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons. They are blessed in the same way that Moses blessed Joshua.

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