

The Book of

# JOSHUA



Joshua Fights the Battle of Jericho



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## BOOK OF JOSHUA

### **Introduction:**

#### **1. Purpose and Time:**

- a. The book demonstrates God's faithfulness to His promise by leading Israel into the land of Canaan as He had previously led them out of Egypt.
- b. The book also demonstrates how Israel was blessed when she followed the will of God and how she was defeated when she rejected the will of God.
- c. The book covers a period of approximately 25 years between the death of Moses and the death of Joshua.

#### **2. New Testament application:**

- a. The wilderness wandering and the conquest of Canaan are highly typical.
- b. "Now all these things happened to them for examples," literally, "as types" (1 Cor. 10:1-12).
- c. Joshua is a type of Christ as our conquering commander.
- d. The redemption out of Egypt and the passage of the Red Sea typify our being baptized into Jesus Christ and raised to walk a new life (Romans 6:3-7).
- e. The crossing of the Jordan is seen as our death to an old way of life to a new way of life; from this earth to the promise land of Heaven (Hebrews 3:7-4:11).
  - 1) We should not harden our hearts as they did.
  - 2) We should not depart from the living God.
  - 3) There is a rest yet to come; therefore, we need to remain faithful so that we can enter that rest.
  - 4) If Joshua had given them rest, David would not have spoken of another rest in another day.
  - 5) Let us therefore be diligent to enter the eternal rest lest anyone fall because of disobedience.
  - 6) Today, we are fighting enemies just as they did.

3. **Author:** The book is anonymous; however, evidence supports the fact that it was composed in substance by Joshua and/or by an inspired writer soon after his death (Joshua 24:26).

4. **Joshua the man:**

- a. His name and the title of the book, “Joshua,” mean “God is salvation.”
  - 1) In the Greek Old Testament his name is *Yesus* (Jesus) which causes us to think of him as a type of Christ.
  - 2) Joshua led the Israelites to the promised land of Canaan and Jesus leads His disciples to the promised land of Heaven.
- b. He is the central character of the book.
- c. He belonged to the tribe of Ephraim and was the son of Nun.
- d. He most likely trained in the army while in Egypt, since Moses saw him to be competent enough to take his place.
- e. He showed great military leadership in the taking of Canaan.
- f. He demonstrated himself to be a great spiritual leader because of his great faith in God as he followed His commands which resulted in victories.
- g. This trust was earlier demonstrated when he was one of two spies who declared they could take the land as God had promised.

5. **Message and Lessons:**

- a. The book continues the sacred account of Israel’s history which had been begun by Moses.
- b. The book demonstrates God’s faithfulness to His promises.
- c. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (Joshua 6).
- d. Be sure your sin finds you out for “sin in the camp” can bring defeat to an individual or a nation.
- e. We must prepare our lives to enter the eternal promise land of Heaven.
  - 1) We need to be properly equipped (Ephesians 6).
  - 2) We need to be willing to engage in the battle and not sit on the sidelines.

**2 Timothy 3:3-4**---You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

- 3) We need to keep our faith strong until the end.

### **Outline of the Book of Joshua:**

#### **I. The Conquest of Canaan Is Described: 1:1-13:6**

A. They made preparation for taking the promised land (1:1 to 5:15).

1. The land was a gift from God.

**Genesis 15:18**--- On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

**Deuteronomy 26:9**--- He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, “a land flowing with milk and honey”

2. Joshua was commissioned to lead the people (1:1-18).
  - a. God appointed Joshua as leader of the people (1:1-9).
  - b. Joshua commanded the people to enter the land (1:10-11).
  - c. Instructions were given to the Gadites, Reubenites, and Manasseh (1:12-15).
  - d. The people accepted Joshua as their leader (1:16-18).
3. They prepared to take the land God had given them (2:1 to 5:1).
  - a. Two spies were sent to Jericho (2:1-7).
  - b. An agreement was made with Rahab (2:8-22).

**Hebrews 11:31**---By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

**James 2:25**---Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?

- c. A report was given by the two spies (2:23-24).

d. A miraculous crossing of the Jordan on dry land took place (3:1-17).

1) God always provides a way.

**Jeremiah 10:23**---O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself;  
*It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

**Proverbs 14:12**---There is a way *that seems* right to a man,  
But its end *is* the way of death.

**Ephesians 3:3-5**---how that by revelation He made known to me the  
mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup>by which, when you read, you  
may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), <sup>5</sup>which in other  
ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed  
by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

2) We must follow the path He provides.

e. Two memorials, consisting of 12 stones each, were constructed (4:1-24).

f. The effect of the crossing on the Kings of Canaan is described (5:1).

g. All males in Israel were circumcised (5:2-9).

h. The Passover was observed (5:10-11).

i. The manna ceased (5:12).

j. The Captain of the Lord's host appeared to Joshua (5:13-15).

B. The Conquest of Canaan commenced in earnest (6:1 to 13:7).

1. Victory at the battle of Jericho (6:1-27).

**Hebrews 11:30**---By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled  
for seven days.

2. Israel experienced defeat at the first battle of Ai (7:1-5).

3. Because of the sin of Achan, he and his family were punished (7:6-26: See Joshua  
6:18-19).

**Hebrews 10:31**---It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

a. When God gives us our blessings we should not want to hold on to treasures  
of this world.

**Colossians 3:1-5**---If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- b. We need to be good stewards and cheerful givers.
4. Victory at the second battle of Ai (8:1-35).
  5. Israel experienced a successful conquest of southern Canaan (9:1 to 10:43).
    - a. A king in southern Canaan joined forces to fight Israel (9:1-2).
    - b. The Gibeonites deceived Israel by talking them into making a league with them (9:3-27).
    - c. Five Kings of the Amorites threatened war with Gibeon (10:1-5).
    - d. The Gibeonites called for Israel to help them (10:6-7).
    - e. The five kings were defeated while the sun stood still (10:8-27).
    - f. Israel's task was in southern Canaan (10:28-43)
  6. The conquest of northern Canaan began in earnest (11:1-15). 11:6; be not afraid. God delivers victory:

**John 5:4**---For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had

7. A summary is given of the conquest of Canaan (11:16 to 12:24).
8. There were yet undefeated parts of Canaan (13:1-6).

## **II. The Division of the Land of Canaan Is Described: (13:7 to 24:33)**

- A. Israel took possession of the land east of Jordan (13:7-33).
  1. The total territory east of Jordan is described (13:7-14).
  2. A portion was divided to Reuben (13:15-23).

3. A portion was divided to Gad (13:24-28).
  4. A portion was divided to the half tribe of Manasseh (13:29-33).
- B. Israel took possession of the land west of the Jordan (14:1 to 19:51).
1. The Levites were given no land, except for cities to live in (14:1-5: See Joshua 18:7).
  2. A division each was given to Judah and Caleb (14:6 to 15:63).
  3. The inheritance of Joseph is detailed [Manasseh and Ephraim]; 16:1 to 17:18).
  4. Israel moved to Shiloh and set up the tabernacle (18:1).
  5. Twenty-one men, three from each tribe, wrote a survey of the land (18:2-9).
  6. The land was divided by lot among the remaining seven tribes (18:10 to 19:48).
    - a. There was the inheritance of Benjamin (18:11-28).
    - b. There was the inheritance of Simeon within Judah (19:1-9).
    - c. There was the inheritance of Zebulun (19:10-16).
    - d. There was the inheritance of Issachar (19:17-23).
    - e. There was the inheritance of Asher (19:24-31).
    - f. Inheritance of Naphtali (19:32-39).
    - g. Inheritance of Dan (19:40-48).
  7. Joshua was given his inheritance (19:49-51).
- C. The six cities of refuge are listed and described (20:1-9).
- D. The Levitical cities are listed and described (21:1-42).
- E. The tribes of Gad, Ruben, and Manasseh were sent to their inheritance (22:1-9).
- F. Two tribes, Reuben and Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh built an altar (22:10).
- G. It is explained that the altar was not for sacrifices but for a memorial that those on the east of Jordan were brethren to those on the west of Jordan (22:11-34).

H. Joshua gave a farewell speech to Israel, warning against idolatry (23:1-16).

### **III. The Lives of Joshua and Eleazar Came to an End (24:1-33).**

A. The covenant at Shechem was given (24:1-25). 24:3 tie to...

**Acts 7:2-3**---And he said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,<sup>3</sup> and said to him, ‘Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.

B. The law written in a book and a memorial stone were set up (24:26-28).

C. Joshua died and was buried (24:29-31).

D. The bones of Joseph were buried at Shechem (24:32).

E. Eleazar, the high priest, died and was buried (24:33).