

Book of Joshua

Synopsis



Introduction

Book No	6
Name	Joshua
Written By	Joshua
Testament	Old
Category	History
Date Written	Approx. 1400 - 1375 BC
Place Written	Canaan
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To give the history of Israel's conquest of the Promised Land
History Covered	1240 - 1220 BC
Chapters	24
Verses	658
Key Verse	"Go through the camp and tell the people to get their provisions ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you' " (1:11)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Joshua ❖ Rahab ❖ Achan ❖ Phinehas ❖ Eleazar
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Acacia ❖ Jordan river ❖ Gilgal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Jericho❖ AI❖ The mountains of Ebal and Gerizim❖ Gibeon❖ Valley of aijalon❖ Hazor❖ Shiloh❖ Shechem
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Purpose of the Book

For 40 years, Israel had journeyed a circuitous route through the wilderness, but not because they were following their leader. Quite the opposite was true—with failing faith, they had refused to obey God and to conquer Canaan. So they wandered. Finally, the new generation was ready to cross the Jordan and possess the land. Having distinguished himself as a man of faith and courage (he and Caleb gave the minority scout report recorded in Numbers 13:30–14:9), Joshua was chosen to be Moses' successor. This book records Joshua's leadership of the people of God as they finish their march and conquer the Promised Land.

Joshua was a brilliant military leader and a strong spiritual influence. But the key to his success was his submission to God. When God spoke, Joshua listened and obeyed. Joshua's obedience served as a model. As a result, Israel remained faithful to God throughout Joshua's lifetime.

The book of Joshua is divided into two main parts. The first narrates the events surrounding the conquest of Canaan. After crossing the Jordan River on dry ground, the Israelites camped near the mighty city of Jericho. God commanded the people to conquer Jericho by marching around the city 13 times, blowing trumpets, and shouting. Because they followed God's unique battle strategy, they won (chapter 6).

After the destruction of Jericho, they set out against the small town of Ai. Their first attack was driven back because one of the Israelites (Achan) had sinned (chapter 7).

After the men of Israel stoned Achan and his family—purging the community of its sin—the Israelites succeeded in capturing Ai (chapter 8). In their next battle against the Amorites, God even made the sun stand still to aid them in their victory (chapter

10). Finally, after defeating other assorted Canaanites led by Jabin and his allies (chapter 11), they possessed most of the land.

Part two of the book of Joshua records the assignment and settlement of the captured territory (chapters 13–22). The book concludes with Joshua’s farewell address and his death (chapters 23–24).

Joshua was committed to obeying God, and this book is about obedience. Whether conquering enemies or settling the land, God’s people were required to do it God’s way. In his final message to the people, Joshua underscored the importance of obeying God. “So be very careful to love the LORD your God” (23:11), and “choose today whom you will serve. . . . But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD” (24:15).

The Book of Joshua teaches that the fulfillment of God’s promises of blessing to Israel depend on their cooperation. The blessings of victory, inheritance, abundant provision, peace, and rest all came to the people of God as they obeyed Him. Faithful meditation on His Word and faithful obedience to His commands are the key to blessing and abundance (1:8). Near the end of his book, also, Joshua called the people to a life of obedience and faith (22:5).

Today, this abiding trust provides a clear foundation for our growth and blessing. As surely as blessing follows obedience, judgment follows disobedience. Achan’s sin reveals the principle that no man lives to himself (ch. 7), but the sin of one affects the lives of many. God hates sin and is just as faithful to punish the disobedient as He is to bless the steadfast.

These principles of blessing and cursing are object lessons for us on our pathway to maturity. Joshua’s life and leadership demonstrated that spiritual maturity is not independence from God, but responsive dependence on God. To be victorious, we must surrender to Him; to lead others, we must follow Him.

The Book of Joshua provides other valuable lessons:

- attitudes essential for God-given victory
- principles of leadership
- the fatal result of pride
- the relevance of memorials
- God’s faithfulness to His Word examples of His miracle power.

Read Joshua and make a fresh commitment to obey God today. Decide to follow your Lord wherever he leads and whatever it costs.

Overview

- ❖ 6th book of the BIBLE, Old Testament and 1st book in category of 12 historical books
- ❖ The Book of Joshua covers some twenty-five years of Israel's history under the leadership of Joshua
- ❖ Thus, Joshua begins where Deuteronomy leaves off, and takes Israel from the Wilderness to the Promised Land.
- ❖ In the Book of Joshua, the fulfillment of the land promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12:6 was fulfilled.
- ❖ Out of over a million people, Joshua and Caleb were the only two who left Egypt and entered the Promised Land.
- ❖ Joshua was born a slave in Egypt but became a conqueror in Canaan.
- ❖ Joshua Became Israel's leader at age 85, Led Israel for 25 years, Died at age 110.
- ❖ Joshua had been one of the 12 spies Moses sent out from Kadesh Barnea. Joshua was 50 years old at the time.
- ❖ He and Caleb brought back a favorable report.
- ❖ He and Caleb were permitted to live in Canaan.
- ❖ Joshua exhibits three great qualities:
 - His obedient faith in God.
 - His great courage.
 - His dedication to God and His Word.
- ❖ The entire Book of Joshua has to do with the entering, conquering, and occupying the Land of Canaan.
- ❖ It begins with a statement of the promise of the conquest. 1:2-3
- ❖ It ends with the completion of the conquest. 23:14
- ❖ The conquest was accomplished with three military campaigns wherein Israel engaged more than 30 armies over a 7 year period.
 - 1st Military Campaign: Central Canaan. Joshua 6-8
 - 2nd Military Campaign: Southern Canaan. Joshua 9-10
 - 3rd Military Campaign: Northern Campaign. Joshua 11-12
- ❖ Joshua used the "divide and conquer" method of dividing the Southern part of Canaan from the Northern part.

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Joshua

❖ EL

❖ JEHOVAH

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Christ is revealed in the Book of Joshua in three ways: by direct revelation, by types, and by illuminating aspects of His nature.

In 5:13–15, the triune God appeared to Joshua as the “Commander of the army of the LORD.” By His appearance, Joshua was made aware that God Himself was in charge.

Joshua himself was a type of Christ. His name, which means “Yahweh Is Salvation,” is a Hebrew equivalent to the Greek “Jesus.” Joshua led the Israelites into the possession of their promised inheritance, just as Christ leads us into possession of eternal life.

The scarlet cord in Rahab’s window (2:18, 21) illustrates Christ’s redemptive work on the Cross. The blood-red cloth hanging in the window saved Rahab and her household from death. So, too, Christ shed His blood and hung on the Cross to save us from death.

One of the aspects of Christ’s nature revealed in Joshua is that of fulfilled promise. God, in His grace and faithfulness, had sustained and preserved His people by bringing them out of the wilderness and into the Land of Promise. He will do the same for us through Christ, who is The Promise.

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

consistent stream of the Holy Spirit’s work flows through the Book of Joshua. His presence initially surfaces in 1:5, where God, knowing the overwhelming task of leading the nation Israel, provided Joshua with the promise of His Ever-present Spirit.

The work of the Holy Spirit was the same then as it is now: He draws people into a saving relationship with God and accomplishes the purposes of the Father. His objective in Joshua, as in all the Old Testament, was the salvation of Israel; for it was through this nation that God chose to save the world (Is. 63:7–9).

Several characteristics of the way in which the Spirit works can be seen in Joshua.

The Holy Spirit’s work is continual. “I will not leave you nor forsake you” (1:5). The Holy Spirit is committed to accomplishing the task, no matter how long it takes. His continued presence is necessary for the success of God’s plan in the lives of men. The

Holy Spirit's work is mutual. "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go" (1:7). It has been said, "Without Him, we cannot; without us, He will not." Cooperation with the Holy Spirit is essential to victory.

He empowers us to fulfill our calling and complete the task at hand. The Holy Spirit's work is supernatural. The fall of Jericho was wrought by the miraculous destruction of its walls (6:20). Victory was attained at Gibeon when the Spirit stayed the sun (10:12, 13). No true work of God, whether deliverance from bondage or possession of blessing, is accomplished without the Spirit's help.

Mega Themes of Joshua

SUCCESS

God gave success to the Israelites when they obeyed his master plan, not when they followed their own desires. Victory came when they trusted in him rather than in their military power, money, muscle, or mental capacity.

God's work done in God's way will bring his success. The standard for success, however, is not to be set by the society around us but by God's Word. We must adjust our minds to God's way of thinking in order to see his standard for success.

FAITH

The Israelites demonstrated their faith by trusting God daily to save and guide them. By noticing how God fulfilled his promises in the past, they developed strong confidence that he would be faithful in the future.

Our strength to do God's work comes from trusting him. His promises reassure us of his love and that he will be there to guide us in the decisions and struggles we face. Faith begins with believing he can be trusted.

GUIDANCE

God gave instructions to Israel for every aspect of their lives. His law guided their daily living, and his specific marching orders gave them victory in battle.

Guidance from God for daily living can be found in his Word. By staying in touch with God, we will have the needed wisdom to meet the great challenges of life.

LEADERSHIP

Joshua was an example of an excellent leader. He was confident in God's strength, courageous in the face of opposition, and willing to seek God's advice.

To be a strong leader like Joshua, we must be ready to listen and to move quickly when God instructs us. Once we have his instructions, we must be diligent in carrying them out. Strong leaders are led by God.

CONQUEST

God commanded his people to conquer the Canaanites and take all their land. Completing this mission would have fulfilled God's promise to Abraham and brought judgment on the evil people living there. Unfortunately, Israel never finished the job.

The Israelites were faithful in accomplishing their mission at first, but their commitment faltered. To love God means more than being enthusiastic about him. We must complete all the work he gives us and apply his instructions to every corner of our lives.

Life Lessons in Joshua

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>The first step in learning to possess our inheritance in the Lord is to know His Word. The Book of Joshua shows that this involves steadfastly studying it and thinking about it so that it will become an integral part of the way we live.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Memorize, ponder, and speak Scripture regularly. Intentionally apply God's Word to your life; it will produce great success. ❖ Establish memorials in your spiritual journey. ❖ Keep a record of your experiences with God as a continual reminder of His faithfulness to you. ❖ As God's people were circumcised for a sign, be baptized. Rehearse baptism's meaning and benefits (Col. 2:11–15). ❖ Follow the Lord fully throughout your life. Even though Caleb was 85, God had great things for him to accomplish. Caleb believed and acted on God's word and received his full inheritance.

<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Joshua and Caleb’s lives beautifully illustrate how to live with wholehearted devotion to the Lord. They were surrounded by temptation, just as we are. Studying their example of enduring faithfulness will lead to possessing God’s promises for us, too</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Seek the Lord prayerfully for every decision you make. God’s Word and Spirit will give you the wisdom and direction you need to make good decisions. ❖ Believe God’s promises to you. The Lord is able to do miraculous things in order to fulfil His word. ❖ Hold fast to God, follow Him wholeheartedly, and carefully apply His Word to your life.
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>As Israel took possession of their inheritance, they were continually challenged to remain separated from the idolatry of those currently living in the land. As they held fast to the Lord, they remained holy (separated to Him), and they were victorious. As they compromised, they were defeated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Abstain from things used in or associated with cultic and occult practices. God calls us apart from those things so that we might not bring a curse upon ourselves. ❖ Hold fast to God alone; you cannot hold on to the things of the Lord with one hand and the things of the world with the other. Cling to God alone—with all your heart; know that He is holding you.
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Knowing God’s Word gives us the foundation on which we can learn to walk in faith. Joshua knew God’s Word, believed it, and acted on it in faith. At the end of a long life, he could say that all of God’s promises had come to pass.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Assurance of God’s presence enables us to be courageous in both believing and doing what God has spoken. The Lord gives us the same assurance given to Joshua: He will never leave us or forsake us. ❖ Believe that all of God’s promises are good; not one word of them will fail. Remember that all of the promises of God in Christ are affirmed and answered with God’s “Yes!” (2 Cor. 1:19, 20).

<p>Keys to knowing GOD and HIS ways</p> <p>Joshua shows much about how GOD responds to godly lives. Proverbs 16:7 says “when a man’s ways please the LORD, HE makes even his enemies to be at peace with him”. Joshua reveals many benefits of knowing the ways of GOD with men whose ways please HIM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Expect GOD’s favour when you follow HIS WORD and the SPIRIT’s direction and when your ways please HIM ❖ Know that you will encounter no obstacle GOD can not work in and through you to overcome ❖ Rest in the confidence that GOD will never fail to fulfil HIS promises to you when your ways please HIM
<p>Keys to wise living</p> <p>Good theology must always impact the way we live. Knowing GOD’s WORD but not knowing how to apply it is foolish and futile. Joshua helps us apply faithfully what we know about GOD’s WORD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rely on GOD’s strength and wisdom, not your own ❖ Allow GOD’s abiding presence to give you courage ❖ Know that JESUS promise to be ever with you will keep you from terror and discouragement ❖ Do not rely on your own strength and wisdom when dealing with sin. ❖ Be assured that without GOD you will have no success
<p>Steps to dealing with sin</p> <p>The failure to detect and deal with sin caused israel’s defeat at ai. Past successes can cause us to be less careful about sin. None of us can afford to drop our guard. For even one person’s sins can weaken the life of a whole church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that individual sin weakens the whole church. ❖ Deal with sin quickly and forthrightly ❖ Leave no sin un confessed or dealt with ❖ Be aware that un confessed sin will become a snare
<p>Guidelines to gaining victory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Submit yourself continually to JESUS LORDship in your life

<p>Joshua is a type of CHRIST who always leads HIS people in victory and triumph. Our victories result from surrendering to JESUS LORDship and allowing HIM to work through us to overcome our obstacles and adversities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Acknowledge that HE comes as the captain of HIS army to lead us to victory (exodus 17:14, 15) ❖ Be assured that regardless of the strength of the enemy. GOD can and will enable you to prevail
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Praise Points in Joshua

- ❖ HIS faithfulness to his promises (1:3);
- ❖ HIS presence among his people (1:9);
- ❖ HIS provision for daily needs (5:12);
- ❖ HIS salvation that is available to all people (6:25);
- ❖ HIS concern for obedience and purity in worship (7:10-15);
- ❖ HIS intervention on our behalf (10:12-13);
- ❖ Our assigned responsibilities and the strength he gives us to fulfill them (15:13-14);
- ❖ HIS concern for justice and mercy (20:1-9);
- ❖ Committed leaders like Joshua (24:15);
- ❖ The testimony of his people (24:16-18).

Worship Insights in Joshua

The book of Joshua teaches us that worship involves action. We must act on God's promises. Time and again Joshua consulted God, acted on his instructions, and then worshiped God in response to his deeds. Joshua followed God's instructions for crossing the Jordan River, and then he created memorials of stone to remind the people of the event. Later, Joshua received instructions for conquering Jericho, carried them out, and then built an altar to the Lord.

Worship may involve a bold step into the unknown or a humble walk on familiar ground. Worship may require us to go forward in obedience or to stand still in reverence. Regardless of what God asked, Joshua obeyed and charged others to do the same. But even during Joshua's lifetime, it was becoming clear that the people were failing to possess their inheritance.

At the end of his life, Joshua seemed to suspect that the people lacked the zeal that was necessary to serve the Lord (24:19). The tragic results of this trend became evident

during the time of the judges, when action failed to follow commitment to the Lord. Let us constantly strive to put feet to our worship today, lest we make these same mistakes.

God's people have battled against evil since the earliest times. In the New Testament, Paul reminds us that we are engaged in a daily struggle against the powers of Satan (Ephesians 6:10-12). In the book of Joshua, the Ark of the Covenant led the Israelites into battle, and the walls of Jericho crumbled at the sound of the ram's horn, which was normally used to call the people to worship (6:4-5). A hailstorm killed droves of Amorites (10:11). The sun and moon stood still as Joshua finished off a coalition of enemy kings (10:12-13).

Although the Israelites possessed military skill, they were dependent on God's leadership to overcome the considerable obstacles they faced. If we are faithfully following God, we will almost certainly encounter obstacles in our journey. Yet we can take encouragement from God's directive to Joshua: "I command you—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (1:9).

- ❖ In order to please God, we should meditate on his Word (1:8).
- ❖ The Lord's deeds proclaim to everyone his dominion over the world (2:11).
- ❖ The Lord will guide us, but we must follow in obedience (3:17).
- ❖ Symbols and memorials testify to God's deeds and remind us to fear him (4:20-24).
- ❖ If we are to overcome our enemies, we must obey the Lord's instructions (6:1-21).
- ❖ The Lord is faithful to his promises, including his promise of rest for those who obey him (21:43-45).
- ❖ Misunderstandings over worship methods lead to needless dissension and feuding (22:30-34).
- ❖ The testimony of those who have witnessed God's mercy can help us remain faithful to God (24:31).

An Outline of Joshua

I. A Lifestyle of Promise: [Jos_1:1-9](#)

A. Living Life with Your Back to the Past: [Jos_1:1-2](#)

B. Claiming the Promises While Meeting the Conditions: [Jos_1:3-9](#)

II. A People Mobilized for Action: [Jos_1:10-18](#)**A. A Profile of a Leader: [Jos_1:10-15](#)****B. A Profile of a People: [Jos_1:16-18](#)****III. So God Can Use Anyone: [Jos_2:1-24](#)****A. God Working Through the Ordinary and the Unlikely: [Jos_2:1-7](#)****B. Rahab—A Worthwhile Model: [Jos_2:8-24](#)****IV. The Crossover People: [Jos_3:1-17](#)****A. Those Crossover Times: [Jos_3:1-4](#)****B. An Action Pattern for a Crossover People: [Jos_3:5-17](#)****V. The Importance of Memories: [Jos_4:1-24](#)****A. Memory Stones: [Jos_4:1-14](#)****B. What Do These Stones Mean? [Jos_4:15-24](#)****VI. A Time for Renewed Commitment: [Jos_5:1-15](#)****A. When God Acts, People Take Notice: [Jos_5:1](#)****B. Reconsecration Precedes Forward Action: [Jos_5:2-10](#)****C. Alert to Change: [Jos_5:11-12](#)****D. Every Leader Needs to Be Led: [Jos_5:13-15](#)****VII. Jericho—A Model for Victory: [Jos_6:1-20](#)****A. Our God is a God of Strange Strategies: [Jos_6:1-5](#)****B. The Result of True Worship is Obedience: [Jos_6:6-19](#)****C. God Gives Victory to His Obedient People: [Jos_6:20](#)****VIII. Two Different Gods? [Jos_6:21-27](#)****A. The Problem****B. Four Observations****IX. Achan and Ai—Learning How to Avoid Spiritual Defeat: [Jos. 7:1-8:35](#)****A. Vulnerability at the Moment of Success: [Jos_7:1-6](#)****B. Turning Defeat into Victory: [Jos_7:7-13](#)****C. The Profound Effect of the Disobedience of One: [Jos_7:14-18](#)****D. A Scenario that Leads to Personal Defeat: [Jos_7:19-23](#)****E. The Severity of God's Judgment: [Jos_7:24-26](#)**

F. A Hopeful Conclusion: [Jos_8:1-35](#)

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A. Deception: [Jos_9:1-13](#)

B. Gullibility: [Jos_9:14-15](#)

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XI. When on God's Side: [Jos_10:1-15](#)

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B. You Will Discover that God Keeps His Covenant: [Jos_10:6-11](#)

C. You Have Supernatural Resources: [Jos_10:12-15](#)

XII. Completing the Conquest: [Jos. 10:16-12:24](#)

A. A Life of Ongoing Warfare: [Jos_10:16-21](#)

B. A Spiritual Battle to Death with Christ as Victor: [Jos_10:22-42](#)

C. A Spiritual Home Base: [Jos_10:43](#)

D. The Responsibility of Completing the Conquest: [Jos. 11:1-12:24](#)

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B. God Gives and Holds Accountable: [Jos. 13:8-14:5](#)

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