

Joshua

Introduction:

The book of Joshua begins a series of 12 books called the historical books that cover the history of God's people inside the Promised Land. Joshua had been born in Egyptian slavery. The name Joshua means "Jehovah is Salvation", and when translated into Greek is JESUS. Joshua was one of the two spies who had the faith to enter Canaan when the nation rebelled in unbelief and refused to take the land (Numbers 14:6). As a result of their faith, he and Caleb were allowed to enter the Promised Land. They were the only 2 survivors of the original 600,000 adult men that had left Egypt.

Key Words – Faith is Key to Victory (see 1 John 5:4)

Key Verses – Joshua 1:5,9 and 3:17

"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed. For the Lord Your God is with you wherever you go." (9)

Structure and Outline:

- I. Entering the Land (Chapters 1-5)**
- II. Overcoming the Land (Chapters 6-12)**
- III. Occupying the Land (Chapters 13-24)**

I. Entering the Land (Chapters 1-5)



- 1 – Site of Chapters 1-2** Joshua is commissioned and the spies are sent out
- 2 – Site of Chapters 3- 5**-Jordan is crossed, memorial stones are left, and covenant is sealed
- 3 – Site of Chapter 6**
Defeat of Jericho
- 4 – Site of Chapters 7-8**
Defeat at Ai and subsequent victory at Ai

a. Joshua Commissioned (1) – his authority and success was based upon the Word of God. In this chapter God gives Joshua 3 powerful promises:

- **A Promise of Victory (1:3)** – Before he makes his first move, God has already guaranteed him victory over 31 kings and their armies.
- **A Promise of Power (1:5)**– *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"*
- **A Promise of Presence (1:9)** – *"God is with you wherever you go"*

b. Jericho Spied (2)– Sent 2 spies to this key city and we are introduced to an unlikely hero in Rahab

c. Jordan Crossed (3) – This was a critical moment for Israel. The people stood at the same place that their parents had been 40 years earlier.

d. Memorials Raised (4) – They must not forget what God had done. These memorials reminded their children of the power and faithfulness of God in deliverance.

e. Covenant Sealed (5) – They took time to set themselves apart as the people of God. This is true today as well. God has no grandchildren, only children. The faith of your parents will not suffice for your salvation.

II. Overcoming the Land (Chapters 6-12)

a. **The Fall of Jericho (6)** – The people of God learn that He would do the conquering if Israel would do exactly what God commanded. They must rely solely on His Power so that He alone gets the glory!

b. The Defeat and Victory at Ai (7-8)

Chapter 7 is a key chapter. After God's people are victorious at Jericho they are **defeated** trying to take the smallest city with the weakest army. Why are they defeated?

- They begin to rely on their own Power - Notice the difference in the reports of the spies. In Joshua 2:24 the emphasis is put on God's Power "Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands." while in Joshua 7:3 the emphasis is put on Israel's strength – Surely 3,000 of their men can whip 2,000 men from Ai – After all, look what WE just did at Jericho.
- They Abandoned God's Presence - **Also note that they did not even bother to take the ark with them into battle – They went ahead without God's presence and were defeated**
- They believed only some of God's people were needed- **When only a portion of God's people went into battle they were defeated (4-5)**
- They had sin in their camp – **Notice that the sin of only one man prevented the entire people of God from accomplishing the mission of God**

c. The Conquest of the Land (9-12)

After sin had been confessed and dealt with, God gave Joshua and Israel victories at Ai, and through the central, southern, and northern campaigns. Chapter 12 is a summary of all the kings and cities that fell at the hands of Israel (Note 11:23)

III. Occupying the Land (13-24)

The word **inheritance** is used more than fifty times in the second half of the book of Joshua. It's a very important word. Israel inherited their land. They didn't win it as a prize of warfare, or purchase it in a business transaction. The Lord was the sole owner of the land, and allowed them to occupy His land.

Inheritance and Stewardship God's Blessing

13 – Gad and Reuben are a picture of Partial Obedience. They felt they knew better than God and the result was disastrous for their children.

14-15 – Judah is a picture of Faithfulness and Obedience. Faith in God led to victory and blessings for years to come.

16-17 – Ephraim and Manessah are a picture of Selfishness. They feel they are too important/special to continue doing small jobs for God. The result is compromise and ineffectiveness



THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

18-19 – Remaining 7 Tribes are a picture of Disobedience and Complacency. Their lack of faith leads to their eventual defeat.