

# Joshua

## “Overcoming the Enemy”

## “Possessing Our Possessions”

### I. Introduction to Joshua

#### A. Marks a transition in Old Testament Scripture

1. First five books, the Pentateuch, were written by Moses and deal primarily with the formation of the nation of Israel.
  - a. Genesis – chosen
  - b. Exodus – redeemed
  - c. Leviticus – worship
  - d. Numbers – organized
  - e. Deuteronomy – reminded
2. As we begin the book of Joshua
  - a. the nation of Israel is formed
  - b. Moses has died
  - c. Israel is on the border of the Promised Land

#### B. Joshua begins the historical section of the Old Testament

1. Next 12 books, Joshua through Esther
  - a. Covers a period of approximately 800 years of inspired history
  - b. Primarily narrative
  - c. Tells the history of the Nation
2. Can be clearly divided into 2 or 3 sections
  - a. Joshua through 2 Chronicles – Israel in the Promised Land
  - b. Ezra through Esther – Israel after the exile
  - c. Could add a 3<sup>rd</sup> division by separating
    - i. Joshua through Ruth as the pre-kingdom years
    - ii. 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles as the kingdom years

#### C. The book of Joshua includes

1. Crossing the Jordan
2. Commander of the Lord’s Army (Jesus)
3. Rahab
4. Conquering Jericho
5. Failing at Ai
6. Sun standing still
7. Caleb’s heroics
8. Dividing the Land
9. Joshua’s death
10. And much, much more . . .

## II. Why Study Joshua

- A. Tells the story of the occupation of the land of Canaan
  - 1. Genesis 15: 12-16 key verse; reason land was given to Israel
    - a. God allowed His chosen people to suffer 400 years of captivity in Egypt giving the inhabitants of Canaan time to turn to Him.
    - b. They only grew worse
    - c. History records the Canaanites to be a polytheistic, idol worshipping people
      - i. They worshipped El, Asherah, and Baal
      - ii. Archeology points to evidence showing they practiced religious prostitution and child sacrifice
    - d. As a result, all Canaan was doomed
      - i. Joshua 6:17a – “Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it.”
    - e. Even with all this, the mercy of God reached out
      - i. We will read of Rahab’s conversion
        - 1. Joshua 6:17b – Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”
- B. Second reason for studying Joshua
  - 1. An allegory of the Christian life
    - a. Entering the Promised Land is not a picture of going to heaven but of enjoying a fuller, deeper Christian walk
      - i. Abundant life
      - ii. Life in the Spirit
    - b. Both Scripture and personal experience confirm that there is a work of God’s grace distinct from what we call conversion.
      - i. It is that work where a person goes from having Christ as Savior of life to His becoming LORD of all.
        - 1. Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
        - 2. Philippians 1:21 “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- C. In Joshua we will see Israel possess what was promised to them
  - 1. Hopefully, compelling us to a deeper walk; one where we are walking into the promises of God.

## III. Joshua Outline

- A. Genesis through Deuteronomy (the Pentateuch) covered a period of no less than 2,600 years.
  - 1. Joshua picks up where Deuteronomy left off
  - 2. Covers approximately 25 years
  - 3. Joshua assumes the role of Israel’s leader after Moses’ death.
  - 4. He prepares the people to enter the Promised Land
- B. Book can be divided into 3 sections:
  - 1. Chapters 1-5 entering the Land

2. Chapters 6 – 12 overcoming the enemy
  3. Chapters 13- 24 occupying the inheritance
1. Section 1 - Chapters 1-5
    1. Joshua
      - a. After Moses' failure, Joshua was chosen to lead Israel into the Land
        - i. Deuteronomy 34:9 "Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses."
        - ii. Numbers 27:16-18 "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, "who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd. And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. . . "
    2. Why was Joshua selected?
      - a. Sovereignty of God – 1Corinthians 12:11
      - b. Soldier, fought Amalekites, a soldier – Exodus 17:10 (already serving)
      - c. Did not depart from Tabernacle – Exodus 33:11 (a man of fellowship)
      - d. Assisted Moses – Numbers 11:28 (a disciple)
      - e. Spied out Canaan – Numbers 13:16 (missions work)
      - f. Exhorted others in faith – Numbers 14:6 (disciple others)
    3. What was he called to?
      - a. To take the Land – Joshua 1:2-4, Deuteronomy 3:28
    4. How would he succeed?
      - a. Joshua 1:7-8 "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. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

#### Chapter 2 - Jericho

1. 2 spies are sent Canaan to do reconnaissance.
2. Meet Rahab the harlot
  - a. She is a picture of conversion to the Lord
    - i. Recognizes her sinful condition
    - ii. Cries out to the God
    - iii. Accepts His terms
    - iv. Reaches out to her family
    - v. Becomes a valuable asset in the work of God
      1. Hides the spies
      2. Appears in the genealogy of Christ

#### Chapter 3 - Crossing the Jordan

1. Arriving borders of the Jordan River, Israel camps according to pattern established in Numbers 2.
  - a. Priests carry the Ark of the Covenant to shoreline; when feet touch, the Jordan stops

- i. Verse 16 – the river stops flowing far away from where they step foot into the waters.
    - ii. It would take time for evidence of river stopping to appear to Israel
  - b. Priests remained in water until all had passed
    - i. A picture of tediousness and faithfulness in ministry
- 2. Israel built two memorial altars
  - a. One on shore for all to see; a reminder of the work of God
  - b. One in the water to remember the 2<sup>nd</sup> baptism

#### Chapter 5 - Gilgal

- 1. Chapter 5 records 3 critical elements for any and all who want to experience the fullness of the Christian life. Before Israel could strike the fear-filled Canaanites (Joshua 5:1) they must complete:
  - a. Circumcision
    - i. had been neglected in the wilderness (Joshua 5:5)
    - ii. cutting away the flesh
  - b. Passover
    - i. 3<sup>rd</sup> recorded Passover
    - ii. Manna stopped
    - iii. Must learn to trust the provision of God
  - c. Captain Jesus
    - i. Joshua 5:13-17
    - ii. Must learn who is in charge
    - iii. Must submit to God's authority
- 2. Section 2 - Chapters 6 – 12 Overcoming Enemies; may be divided into 3 smaller sections
  - 1. Group 1 Chapters 6 -8 Central Campaign - Plan of God was to divide Canaan in half by first conquering the most fortified central city of Jericho
    - a. Jericho teaches God's victory must be done God's way
      - i. "Faith's first rule of action is to ascertain the will and word of God. Faith's second rule of action is to obey that will and word implicitly. Faith's final rule of action is to reckon on that word, and count the thing as good as done, giving glory to God in anticipation – as the Israelites gave their mighty shout of victory before the walls of Jericho had actually fallen." JSB
      - ii. Ai teaches the devastating effects of individual sin. Joshua 7:20-21
    - b. Ai teaches the devastating effects of individual sin; Joshua 7:20-21
      - i. Saw, coveted, took, and hid accursed things
      - ii. He wanted what God had forbidden
      - iii. As a result, 36 men died
  - 2. Group 2 Chapters 9-10 Southern Campaign; Reaction to Israel's success
    - a. Most city states form alliances in an attempted to conquer Israel
    - b. Gibeon makes a treaty
      - i. Pretends allegiance to Israel
      - ii. Should have repented like Rahab
      - iii. Ended in a life of servitude
    - c. Chapter 10 records Israel's victory over Southern Canaan
  - 3. Chapters 11-12 Northern Campaign

- a. Under Joshua's leadership, Israel conquered 31 city states
- 3. Section 3 Chapters 13 -24 Occupying the Inheritance
  - 1. The remainder of Joshua deals with the allotment of the Land to the 9 ½ tribes and Levi followed by an exhortation from Joshua (Chapter 23)
    - a. Chapters 13 – 19 Distribution of Land
      - i. Chapter 13:1 Lots more to experience; God has more for all of us.
      - ii. Chapter 14:10-12 Example of Caleb
      - iii. Chapter 17:14 – 18 Failure of the tribe of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh)
      - iv. Chapter 18:1 -13 Neglect the sin of many
      - v. Chapter 19:9 Sharing in the work
    - 2. Cities of Refuge
      - a. A place to hide
        - i. “Jewish interpreters tell us how in later times, the roads leading to the cities of refuge were always kept in repair – all obstructions were removed that might stay the flyer's feet or hinder his speed. No hillock was left, no river was allowed over which there was no bridge, and at every turning there were posts erected bearing the word ‘Refuge.’” Maclear
      - b. Levitical Cities
        - i. Dispersing the Word of God
    - 3. Dangerous Doctrine
      - a. Chapter 22:5 Joshua warns the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to stay in the Word
      - b. Chapter 22:10 The altar
    - 4. Chapter 23 -24 Joshua's farewell
      - a. Chapter 24:14 – 15 Your decision

#### **IV. Types of Christ**

- 1. No Messianic prophesies in Joshua
- 2. A few pictures of Christ
  - a. Commander of the Lord's army
  - b. City of Refuge
    - i. Fleeing person stays in the city of refuge until the High Priest dies