

The Book of Joshua

Author: Joshua the son of Nun (Num. 13:16)

Originally his name was **הוֹשֵׁעַ** --Hoshea (Salvation)

Moses changed his name to **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** --Yehoshua (The Lord is Salvation)

In later books his name was shortened to **יֵשׁוּעַ** --Yeshua (Neh. 8:17)

In the Greek translation of the OT the name was spelled Jesus and so in the New Testament (Acts 7:45)

He was general of Israel's army against the Amalekites at Rephidim (Ex. 17:8-16)

He was Moses personal attendant (Ex. 24:13)

He was with Moses on Sinai when the golden calf was made (Ex. 32:17, 18)

He had charge of the first Tent of Meeting (Ex. 33:11)

He was one of the 12 princes sent to spy out the land (Num. 13:16; 14:6-9)

By Divine order he was appointed Moses successor (Num. 27:18-23; Deut. 1:38)

Date: c 1365 BC

Joshua was about 30 years old at the Exodus (1445 BC)

He died at 110 years of age.

Outline of Joshua

(M. H. Woudstra)

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Joshua Prepared Israel to Cross the Jordan (Joshua 1)

Key Verse: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.” (Josh. 1:9)

Introduction: After Moses died, the LORD commanded Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River to take possession of the Promised Land. He gave Joshua the needed words of encouragement and promised him success. So Joshua prepared the people to travel and got the troops ready for entering enemy territory.

I. The LORD Commanded Joshua to Cross the Jordan with His Success (1:1-9)

- A. The LORD commanded Joshua to take the Israelites across the Jordan (1:2-4)
 - 1. Moses My servant is dead (1:2)
 - 2. Take the children of Israel across the Jordan to the Promised Land (1:2)
 - 3. The Lord has given you every place your feet tread upon (1:3-4)
- B. The LORD promised success because of His presence (1:5)
 - 1. No enemy will be able to resist you all of your life (1:5)
 - 2. The LORD will be with you as He was with Moses (1:5)
 - 3. The LORD will never leave you nor forsake you (1:5)

II. The LORD Commanded Joshua to be Strong and Courageous (1:6-9)

- A. Be strong and courageous to divide the land (1:6)
 - 1. Be strong and of good courage (1:6)
 - 2. For you shall divide the land to this people as an inheritance (1:6)
- B. Be strong and courageous to observe the Law of Moses (1:7-8)
 - 1. Only be strong and very courageous (1:7)
 - 2. That you may observe all the Law of Moses (1:7)
 - 3. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left (1:7)
 - 4. That you may prosper wherever you go (1:7)
 - 5. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth (1:8)
 - 6. But you shall meditate in it day and night (1:8)
 - 7. That you may observe to do according to all that is written in it (1:8)
 - 8. For then you will make your way prosperous (1:8)
 - 9. And then you will have good success (1:8)
- C. Be strong and courageous because of the LORD’s presence (1:9)
 - 1. Be strong, courageous, unafraid, undismayed (1:9)
 - 2. For the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go (1:9)

III. Joshua Made the People Ready to Cross the Jordan (1:10-18)

- A. Joshua commanded the officers to prepare the people to journey (1:10-11)
 - 1. They were to prepare their provisions for travel (1:11)
 - 2. For within three days they were to cross the Jordan to possess the land (1:11)
- B. Joshua commanded the eastern tribes’ troops to prepare to cross with them (1:13-15)
 - 1. The LORD had given them the territory east of the Jordan (1:13)
 - 2. Their families and possessions will remain east of the Jordan (1:14)
 - 3. But their troops must cross over to help their brothers conquer their territory (1:14-15)
 - 4. Then they may return to their possession and enjoy it (1:15)
- C. The troops replied with obedience (1:16)
 - 1. We will obey all your commands (1:16)
 - 2. We will go where you send us (1:16)
 - 3. We will obey you as we obeyed Moses (1:17)
 - 4. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses (1:17)
 - 5. Rebels will be put to death (1:18)
 - 6. Only be strong and of good courage (1:18)

Conclusion: Whatever God has commanded His obedient servant to do, he can engage the task with courage and confidence of success.

James D. Price

Joshua Investigated Jericho's Vulnerability (Joshua 2)

Key Verse: “And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He *is* God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” (Josh. 2:11)

Introduction: In preparation for entering to conquer the land, Joshua sent spies to investigate the vulnerability of Jericho. This was an unnecessary venture because God had commanded the conquest and promised success.

I. Joshua Sent Spies to Determine Jericho's Vulnerability (2:1)

- A. Joshua sent two men to spy out the city of Jericho (2:1)
- B. They entered Jericho and stayed in harlot Rahab's house (2:1)

II. The Spies Escaped Being Captured (2:2-7)

- A. Their presence was reported to the king (2:2)
- B. The king sent soldiers to capture the spies (2:3)
- C. Rahab hid them and lied that they had escaped the city (2:4-6)
- D. The soldiers vainly pursued the spies along the road to the river (2:7)

III. The Spies Learned that Jericho Was Vulnerable (2:8-11)

- A. Rahab told the spies her people were terrified of Israel (2:8-11a)
- B. Rahab confessed her faith in the LORD God of Israel (2:11b)

IV. The Spies Promised their Informant Safe Deliverance (2:12-21)

- A. Rahab asked for mercy and sworn deliverance for her family (2:12-13)
- B. The spies swore deliverance on the basis of secrecy (2:14)
- C. Rahab let the spies escape to the mountain for safety (2:15-16)
- D. The spies explained the necessity of secrecy for her deliverance (2:17-20)
- E. Rahab promised secrecy and the sign of the scarlet cord (2:21)

V. The Spies Safely Returned with a Favorable Report (2:22-24)

- A. The spies departed safely to the mountain (2:22)
- B. The spies returned to Joshua with a good report (2:23-24)

Conclusion: The unnecessary venture was successful even though it was not commanded by the LORD. It is unwise to admit the least doubt of God's commands and promises.

The Israelites Miraculously Crossed the Jordan (Joshua 3-4)

Key Verse: “The waters which came down from upstream stood *still*, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that *is* beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. “(Josh. 3:16)

Introduction: Having determined that Jericho and the rest of the land was ready for conquest, the people consecrated themselves in preparation for crossing the Jordan River. The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant into the river’s edge and the waters were stopped upstream. So the people miraculously crossed over on dry ground as they had done at the Red Sea. Twelve memorial stones were set up for future generations to remember the event.

I. The Israelites Prepared to Cross the Jordan River (3:1-5)

- A. The Israelites moved from Acacia Grove to the Jordan River (3:1)
- B. They were to follow the priests bearing the Ark at a distance of 2,000 cubits (3:2-4)
- C. They were to sanctify themselves in preparation for the LORD’s miracles (3:5; Ex. 19:10, 14-15; Num. 11:18)

II. The Priests Were to Go Before and Stand Firm in the Middle of the River (3:6-13)

- A. Joshua commanded the priests to take up the Ark and move out before the people (3:6)
- B. The Lord foretold His impending honor of Joshua as He had done for Moses (3:7)
- C. Joshua must command the priests to enter and stand in the Jordan (3:8)
- D. The miraculous crossing will assure the people the LORD will drive out the pagan nations (3:9-10)
- E. The waters will be cut off upstream when the priests enter it (3:11-13)

III. The Water Stopped Upstream for the People to Cross Over on Dry Ground (3:14-17)

- A. When the priests’ feet dipped into the water the stream was stopped upstream (3:14-16a)
- B. The people crosses over the Jordan on dry ground (3:16b)
- C. The priests stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the river (3:17)

IV. Twelve Stones Were Set Up as a Memorial for Future Generations (4:1-9)

- A. Joshua was commanded to have twelve men carry memorial stones from the river (4:1-3)
- B. Joshua appointed a man from each tribe to take up a stone from where the priests stood (4:4-5)
- C. The stones will be a memorial sign for future generations (4:6-7)
- D. The men took up the stones and laid them down across the Jordan (4:8)
- E. Likewise Joshua set up twelve other memorial stones where the priests stood in the Jordan (4:9)

V. Camp Was Set Up at Gilgal East of Jericho (4:10-24)

- A. The priests finished crossing the Jordan after all was accomplished (4:10-11)
- B. Meanwhile the men of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had preceded the other tribes (4:12-13)
- C. Thus the LORD exalted Joshua before Israel so that they feared him (4:14)
- D. When the priests carried the Ark onto the west bank the waters returned to overflowing (4:15-18)
- E. The crossing took place of the tenth day of the first month (4:19a)
- F. The people set up camp in Gilgal east of Jericho (4:19b)
- G. Joshua erected the stones as a memorial in Gilgal as a witness to future generations (4:20-24)

Conclusion: The LORD keeps His covenant promises and displays His mighty power in delivering His people in the time of their need. He is pleased for us to remember His deed of mercy and grace. Memorials help.

Circumcision, Passover, Commander, and Conquest of Jericho (Joshua 5-6)

Key Verse: Then the Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy." And Joshua did so. (Josh. 5:15)

Introduction: Following the crossing of Jordan, Israel had to be spiritually prepared for the task of occupying the Promised Land. The males had to be circumcised; the appropriate feasts had to be observed; and submission to the Angel of LORD was necessary. Only then were they ready for strategic instructions and combat.

I. The LORD Commanded That All the Males Be Circumcised (5:1-9)

- A. Israel's enemies were terrified at the news of their miraculous crossing (5:1)
- B. Joshua was commanded to circumcise the males of Israel (5:2-3)
- C. Because circumcision was not done during the forty-year wilderness wandering (5:4-8)
- D. Israel called the place Gilgal after the rolling away of Egypt's reproach (5:9)

II. Israel Kept the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (5:10-12)

- A. Israel kept Passover on the fourteenth day (5:10)
- B. Israel kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread the next day of local produce (5:11)
- C. The manna ceased after they began to eat the local produce (5:12)

III. The Commander of the LORD's Army Met With Joshua (5:13-15)

- A. Joshua met the sword-drawn Angel of the LORD (5:13)
- B. He was the Commander of the LORD's Army (5:14a)
- C. Joshua worshipped Him and removed his shoes (5:14b-15)

IV. The LORD Instructed Joshua on how to Conquer Jericho (6:1-5)

- A. The LORD had given them the city (6:1-2)
- B. The troops shall march around the city once for six days (6:3)
- C. The troops shall march around the city seven times on the seventh day (6:4)
- D. Seven priests shall precede the Ark blowing trumpets (6:4)
- E. On the seventh day, with a long trumpet blast and shout, the city walls will collapse (6:5)
- F. The troops shall move in straight way for conquest (6:5)

V. Joshua Instructed the People on the Military Strategy ((6:6-10)

- A. The priests were to take up the Ark of the Covenant and seven trumpets (6:6)
- B. The armed troops were to advance before the Ark (6:7-9)
- C. The rear guard was to follow after the Ark (6:8-9)
- D. The people were to shout only at Joshua's command (6:10)

VI. Jericho Was Conquered and Destroyed (6:11-27)

- A. The Ark circled the city once and returned to camp the first day (6:11)
- B. The Ark circled the city once and returned to camp the second day (6:12-14a)
- C. This tactic was repeated for six days (6:14b)
- D. The Ark circled the city seven times on the seventh day (6:15)
- E. Joshua gave final instructions (6:16-19)
- F. The people shouted (6:20)
- G. The city walls collapsed (6:20)
- H. The troops utterly destroyed all in the city (6:20b-21)
- I. The two spies removed Rahab and her family to safety outside the camp (6:22-23)
- J. The troops burned the city of Jericho (6:24)
- K. Rahab and her family continued living with the Israelites (6:25)
- L. Joshua pronounced a curse on Jericho (6:26)
- M. Joshua's fame spread throughout all the country (6:27)

Conclusion: Conquest of the enemy depends on faith and obedience.

James D. Price

Israel's Sin and Defeat at Ai (Joshua 7)

Key Verse: Get up, sanctify the people, and say, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you." (Josh. 7:13)

Introduction: After the destruction of Jericho, unknown to Joshua and the people, Achan had sinned against the LORD's covenant and brought a curse on Israel. Consequently, Israel was defeated in their attempt to conquer Ai. Being greatly distressed, Joshua learned from the LORD that the cause of the curse must be destroyed before Israel could have further victory.

I. Achan's Sin Brought a Curse and Defeat to Israel (7:1-9)

- A. Achan's sin kindled the LORD's anger against Israel (7:1)
- B. Meanwhile, Joshua sent men to spy out Ai (7:2)
- C. The spies reported that only a few troops were needed to take Ai (7:3)
- D. Israel's troops Attacked Ai but were defeated to their dismay (7:4-5)
 - 1. Three thousand Israeli troops attacked Ai but fled from their men (7:4)
 - 2. Ai's men chased and killed about 36 Israeli troops (7:5a)
 - 3. The Israelites became disheartened (7:5b)
- E. Joshua and the elders mourned before the LORD (7:6)
- F. Joshua complained that the LORD had brought Israel to defeat (7:7-9)
 - 1. The LORD has brought Israel to be destroyed by the Amorites (7:7)
 - 2. Israel should have stayed east of the Jordan (7:7)
 - 3. The Canaanites will hear and destroy Israel (7:8-9)
 - 4. The LORD's name will be in disrepute (7:9b)

II. The LORD Explained that the Defeat Was Due to Israel's Sin (7:10)

- A. Joshua and the elders should cease mourning and act! (7:10)
- B. Israel has sinned and transgressed the LORD's covenant (7:11)
 - 1. They have taken some of the accursed things (7:11)
 - 2. They have deceptively stolen what belongs to the LORD (7:11)
 - 3. They have put it among their own stuff (7:11)
- C. Israel has become doomed to destruction because of their sin (7:12)

III. The LORD Commanded Joshua to Destroy the Source of the Curse (7:13-15)

- A. The people should sanctify themselves in preparation for the search (7:13)
 - 1. There is an accursed thing in Israel's midst (7:13)
 - 2. Israel can have no victory until the accursed thing is removed (7:13)
- B. Israel should inquire of the LORD who has the accursed thing (7:14)
- C. The person would be singled out by tribe, family, household, and person (7:14)
- D. The guilty person and the accursed thing must be burned with fire (7:15)
 - 1. He has transgressed the LORD's covenant (7:15)
 - 2. He has done a disgraceful thing in Israel (7:15)

IV. Joshua and All Israel Found and Destroyed the Source of the Curse (7:16-26)

- A. Joshua brought the people before the LORD as commanded (7:16)
- B. Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah was taken (7:16-18)
- C. Achan confessed his sin of coveting and stealing the accursed things (7:19-21)
- D. Joshua sent and acquired the accursed things (7:22-23a)
- E. They laid the accursed things before the LORD (7:23b)
- F. All Israel took Achan, his family, and all his possessions to the Valley of Achor (7:24)
- G. All Israel stoned Achan and burned him and all his possessions in the Valley of Achor (7:25)
- H. All Israel put a great heap of stones on Achan (7:26)
- I. The place was called the Valley of Achor (7:26)

Conclusion: Covenant obedience comes before covenant victory.

James D. Price

The Conquest of Ai and the Affirmed Covenant (Joshua 8)

Key Verse: Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. (Josh. 8:21)

Introduction: After Israel destroyed the accursed things from their midst, the LORD sent them against Ai with a promise of victory. They were to set an ambush behind the city in order to take the city when the main army drew Ai's troops away under pretense of flight.

I. The LORD Instructed Joshua on How to Conquer Ai (8:1-2)

The people were not to be afraid or dismayed (8:1)

All the troops were to attack Ai (8:1)

They should destroy Ai as they did Jericho (8:2)

They may take the spoil and cattle as booty for themselves (8:2)

They should ambush the city from behind (8:2)

II. Israel Conquered and Destroyed Ai (8:3-29)

A. Joshua sent by night 30,000 troops behind Ai as an ambush (8:3-4)

1. The rest of the troops would attack from the front and pretend to flee (8:5)

2. The ambush troops should take the city when Ai's troops have been drawn away (8:6-9)

B. Joshua set up the main troop encampment north of Ai early the next morning (8:10-13)

C. The king of Ai sent out his troops to engage Israel at the appointed place (8:14)

D. The king did not know about the ambush behind the city (8:14)

E. Joshua's troops fled to the wilderness in pretense of defeat (8:15)

F. All Ai's troops were drawn away from the city as they pursued Israel (8:16-17)

G. At Joshua's signal the ambush took the city, setting it on fire (8:18-19)

H. All Ai's troops were trapped and completely struck down by Israel's two armies (8:20-22)

I. Ai's king was brought alive to Joshua (8:23)

J. All the inhabitants of Ai—12,000—were destroyed (8:24-26)

K. Israel's troops took Ai's livestock and spoil for themselves (8:27)

L. Joshua burned Ai to a desolate heap of ashes forever (8:28)

M. Joshua hanged the king of Ai and raised a heap of stones on his body (8:29)

III. Israel Affirmed the LORD's Covenant (8:30-35; cf. Deut. 27-28)

A. Joshua built an altar to the LORD of uncut stones as Moses had commanded (8:30-31)

B. They offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the LORD (8:31)

C. Joshua wrote a copy of Moses' Law on whitewashed stones (8:32)

D. Half the people stood on the Ebal side of the Ark and half on the Gerizim side (8:33)

E. Joshua read all the Book of the Law to the entire population of Israel (8:34-35)

Conclusion: Victory comes to those with a clean life and obedient heart. After victory it is wise to reaffirm one's commitment to the LORD and His word.

The Regrettable Peace Covenant with the Gibeonites (Joshua 9)

Key Verses: Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD. ¹⁵ So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them. (Josh. 9:14)

Introduction: The LORD's name had gained great fame through Israel's conquests. So the nation-states of the Promise Land rallied together to defeat Israel. But the Gibeonites decided rather to seek peace. They did so by posing as citizens of a distant land. Israel was deceived into making a peace covenant without divine counsel. Thus the Gibeonites were spared but were made perpetual slaves.

I. The Gibeonites Deceived Israel into Making a Peace Covenant (9:1-15)

- A. All the nation-states of the land prepared to make war with Israel (9:1-2)
 - 1. All the people of the land heard of Israel's conquests (9:1)
 - 2. They joined in a coalition to make war with Israel (9:2)
- B. The Gibeonites chose rather to seek peace with Israel (9:3-6)
 - 1. They chose to deceitfully try to make peace with Israel (9:3-4a)
 - 2. They disguised messengers as ambassadors from a distant land (9:4b-5)
 - 3. The messengers entered the camp at Gilgal desiring a peace covenant (9:6)
- C. Israel made a peace covenant with the Gibeonites without divine counsel (9:7-15)
 - 1. The Israelites questioned the propriety of a covenant with them (9:7)
 - 2. The messengers falsely claimed to come from a distant land because of the LORD's fame (9:8-10)
 - 3. So their leaders wanted to make peace with Israel (9:11)
 - 4. The messengers displayed their deceitful evidence of a long journey (9:12-13)
 - 5. The leaders of Israel swore to peace with them by a covenant without divine counsel (14-15)

II. The Gibeonites Were Spared and Made Perpetual Slaves (9:16-27)

- A. Israel's confronted the Gibeonites about their deceit (9:16-18)
 - 1. After three days Israel heard the messengers were nearby Gibeonites (9:16)
 - 2. The Israelites went to Gibeon peacefully because of the sworn covenant (9:17-18a)
- B. Meanwhile Israel had decided the fate of Gibeon (9:18-21)
 - 1. The congregation complained to their leaders about the covenant (9:18b)
 - 2. The leaders explained their obligation to the sacred oath (9:18b-20)
 - 3. So the people agreed to mercifully make the Gibeonites slaves of the house of God (9:21)
- C. Joshua informed the Gibeonites of their fate (9:22-27)
 - 1. Joshua confronted Gibeon's leaders with their deceit (9:22)
 - 2. The Gibeonites were under a curse to be permanent slaves of the house of God (9:23)
 - 3. The Gibeonites explained their deceit and accepted their fate (9:24-25)
 - 4. So the Gibeonites were spared and not killed (9:26)
 - 5. Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for Israel and the altar (9:27)

Conclusion: The Gibeonites were spared through deceit but ended up as slaves. Israel was bound to honor an ill-advised oath but suffered later for their lack of divine counsel. One should always seek the Lord's guidance.

Joshua Conquered the Southern Territory of the Promised Land (Joshua 10)

Key Verse: All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel. (Josh. 10:42)

Introduction: After the Gibeonites deceptively made a peace covenant with Israel, the kings of the southern Canaanite confederacy assembled their armies to destroy the Gibeonites for traitorously breaking covenant with them. They appealed to Joshua for protection, who rescued them and proceeded to conquer the entire southern territory as Israel's inheritance.

I. Five Southern Kings United to Destroy Gibeon for Breaking Treaty (10:1-5)

- A. The King of Jerusalem heard of Israel's conquests with fear (10:1-2)
- B. He called four other kings for help to attack Gibeon for making peace (10:3-4)
 - 1. Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem (my lord is righteous)
 - 2. Hoham king of Hebron (whom Jehovah impels)
 - 3. Piram king of Jarmuth (like a wild donkey)
 - 4. Japhia king of Lachish (shining one)
 - 5. Debir king of Eglon (sanctuary)
- C. The five kings assembled their armies to make war with Gibeon (10:5)

II. Joshua and His Troops Delivered Gibeon, Defeating the Enemy with a Mighty Victory (10:6-15)

- A. The rulers of Gibeon sent to Joshua for help (10:6)
- B. Joshua took Israel's troops to rescue Gibeon (10:7)
- C. The Lord encouraged Joshua, promising victory (10:8)
- D. Joshua attacked and pursued the enemy as far as Azekah and Makkedah (10:9-10)
- E. From Heaven the Lord cast down large hail stones, killing more enemy than Israel (10:11)
- F. Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still to provide more daylight (10:12)
- G. So the sun and moon stood still until Israel had victory (10:13-14)
- H. The unsurpassed miracle was recorded in the Book of Jasher (10:13-14)
- I. Joshua and his troops returned to the camp at Gilgal (10:15)

III. Joshua Encouraged His Captains with a Victory Ritual (10:16-27)

- A. Meanwhile, the five kings had fled and hidden in a cave at Makkedah (10:16)
- B. Joshua ordered the cave closed and guarded while the pursuit continued (10:17-19)
- C. At the end of the pursuit Joshua ordered the kings brought to him (10:20-24a)
- D. He had the captains put their feet on the neck of the kings as a sign of victory (10:24b-25)
- E. The king were hung on trees until sundown and buried under piles of large stones (10:26-27)

IV. Joshua Conquered the Cities of the South, Destroying All Their Inhabitants (10:28-43)

- A. They took Makkedah (10:28)
- B. They took Libnah (10:29-30)
- C. They took Lachish and the army of Gezer after a two-day siege (10:31-33)
- D. They took Eglon (10:34-35)
- E. They took Hebron (10:36-37)
- F. They took Debir (10:38-39)
- G. They took all the southern territory in one continuous campaign (10:40-42a)
- H. They succeeded because the Lord fought for them (10:41b)
- I. Then Joshua and his troops returned to the camp at Gilgal (10:43)

Conclusion: The Lord will grant victory those who willfully and sincerely obey His instructions.

Joshua Conquered the Remaining Territory (Joshua 11-12)

Key Verse: As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses. (Josh. 11:15)

Introduction: Immediately after Joshua conquered the southern territory, the coalition of northern kings prepared to attack Israel. But Joshua preempted their assault by swiftly attacking them by surprise. Thus Israel was able to possess and inherit all the Promised Land.

I. Joshua Conquered the Northern Kings and Their Territories (11:1-15)

- A. The northern kings united their armies to attack Israel (11:1-6)
 - 1. The king of Hazor summoned the vast armies of the northern cities (11:1-3)
 - 2. They met together at the Waters of Merom to fight against Israel (11:4-5)
 - 3. The Lord encouraged Joshua, promising swift victory over the enemy (11:6a)
 - 4. They were to slay the troops, burn the chariots, and disable the horses (11:6b)
- B. So Joshua and his troops defeated the northern armies and conquered their land (11:7-15)
 - 1. So Joshua and his troops attacked the enemy suddenly at the Waters of Merom (11:7)
 - 2. The Lord delivered the enemy troops into Israel's hands (11:8a)
 - 3. Israel defeated the enemy, pursuing them through the northern territory (11:8b)
 - 4. They slew all the troops, burned their chariots, and disabled the horses (11:9)
 - 5. Joshua turned back and killed the people and king of Hazor, burning the city (11:10-11)
 - 6. Thus Joshua conquered the northern cities, killing all the people and taking the spoil (11:12-14)
 - 7. Joshua left none of the Lord's commands undone (11:15)

II. Thus Israel Inherited All the Promised Land, Giving It Rest from War (11:16-23)

- A. Joshua conquered all the territory of the south and north (11:16-17)
- B. But the war extended a long time with the surviving kings (11:18-19)
- C. The Lord had hardened the enemy's heart that He might utterly destroy them (11:20)
- D. Joshua particularly destroyed the Anakim giants from the territory (11:21-22)
- E. So Joshua gave the land as an inheritance to Israel, bringing the land rest from war (11:23)

III. A Summary of All of Israel's Conquered Kings and Territory (12:1-24)

- A. Joshua conquered two kings and their territory east of the Jordan (12:1-6)
 - 1. Sihon king of the Amorites and his territory (12:2-3)
 - 2. Og king of Bashan and his territory (12:4-5)
 - 3. Moses had given their land to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (12:6)
- B. Joshua conquered twenty-nine kings and their territory west of the Jordan (12:7-24)

Conclusion: God promises us victory, but we must fight the battle. He gives the victory as we obey His commands.

The Land Inheritance of the Tribes of Israel (Joshua 13, 14)

(See also Num. 21, 32; Deut. 2-3; Lev. 25:23)

Key Verse: Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the LORD *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said. (Josh. 14:12)

Introduction: Having finished conquering the Promised Land, it was now time for the land to be allocated to the tribes of Israel as their inheritance. So the Lord commanded the process to begin under the oversight of Joshua and Eleazar.

I. The Lord Commanded the Land Allocation for the Western Tribes (13:1-7)

- A. In Joshua's latter years much land remained yet to be possessed (13:1)
- B. The Lord named the territory yet to be possessed (13:2)
 - 1. The southern border was Sihor and the land of the Philistines (13:2-4a)
 - 2. The northern border was Sidon, Lebanon, Hammath, and the Brook Misrephoth (13:4b-6)
- C. The Lord commanded Joshua to apportion the land to the western tribes (13:7)

II. The Lord Reviewed the Land Allocation of the Eastern Tribes (13:8-33)

- A. The territory included all the kingdoms Sihon, Og, the Geshurites, and Maachathites (13:8-23)
 - 1. The southern border was the Arnon River (the border of Moab) (13:8-10)
 - 2. The eastern border stopped at the boundary of the Ammonites (13:10)
 - 3. The northern border included the land of the Geshurites and Maachathites (13:11)
 - 4. Israel failed to dispossess the Geshurites and Maachathites (13:13)
 - 5. The Tribe of Levi received no inheritance (13:14, 33)
- B. The tribe of Reuben inherited the southern part of the kingdom of Sihon (13:15-23)
- C. The Israelites killed the soothsayer Balaam the son of Beor (13:22)
- D. The tribe of Gad inherited the northern part of the kingdom of Sihon (13:24-28)
- E. The Half-tribe of Manasseh inherited the territory of Og King of Bashan (13:29-32)

III. Preliminary Details for the Land Allocation for the Western Tribes (14:1-15)

- A. The land inheritance was to be by allocation (14:1-4)
 - 1. The allocation was made by Eleazar, Joshua, and the tribal leaders (14:1)
 - 2. The allocation was made by lot (14:2)
 - 3. The Levites received no inheritance (14:3-4)
 - 4. The allocation was done at the command of the Lord (14:5)
- B. Caleb was allowed to choose his inheritance (14:6-15)
 - 1. He had brought back a good report from spying out the land (14:6-8)
 - 2. Moses had promised him the right to choose (14:9)
 - 3. He had survived the 40-year wilderness wandering and the conquest with strength (14:10-11)
 - 4. He requested the mountain of the giants (14:12)
 - 5. Joshua gave him Hebron, formerly Kirjath Arba (the city of the giant) (14:13-15)

Conclusion: Possession follows conquest. An inheritance is best when left in the hands of the Lord. To those who wholly follow the Lord, He gives the desires of the heart.

The Land Inheritance of the Tribes of Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh (Joshua 15-17)

Key verse: And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, “You *are* a great people and have great power; you shall not have *only* one lot,¹⁸ but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it *is* wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots *and* are strong.” (Josh. 17:17-18)

Introduction: The allocation of the tribal inheritances began with the tribes of Judah and Joseph (Ephraim, and Manasseh). These were sons of Jacob that had received his special blessing—Judah, the blessing of family headship, and Joseph, the double portion.

I. The Tribe of Judah Was Allocated Their Inheritance (15:1-63)

- A. The borders of Judah enclosed an area north and west of Edom (15:1-12)
 - 1. The southern border reached from the southern tip of the Dead Sea to the Brook of Egypt (15:1-4)
 - 2. The eastern border was the Dead Sea (15:5)
 - 3. The northern border extended from the northern tip of the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean (15:6-11)
 - 4. The western border was the Mediterranean Sea (15:12)
- B. Caleb took his inheritance within the territory of Judah (15:13-20)
 - 1. Caleb conquered and inherited Hebron and Debir (15:13-15)
 - 2. Caleb gave his daughter Achsah to Othniel as a prize for taking Debir (15:16-17)
 - 3. Caleb gave Achsah a field and water springs as a wedding present (15:18-20)
- C. The tribe of Judah was given many cities in the southern territory (15:21-63)
 - 1. The tribe of Judah inherited 29 cities in the South (15:21-32)
 - 2. They inherited 39 cities in the lowlands (15:33-47)
 - 3. They inherited 29 cities in the mountain country (15:48-60)
 - 4. They inherited 6 cities in the wilderness (15:61-62)
 - 5. They failed to drive out the Jebusites (15:63)

II. The Tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh Were Allocated their Inheritance (16:1-17:18)

- A. The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh conquered the territory north of Judah (16:1-4)
- B. The tribe of Ephraim received its inheritance (16:5-10)
 - 1. The borders of the tribe of Ephraim are described (16:5-9)
 - 2. They inherited some cities within the territory of Manasseh (16:9)
 - 3. They failed to drive out the Canaanites (16:10)
- B. The tribe of Manasseh received its inheritance (17:1-18)
 - 1. The clan of Machir inherited Gilead and Bashan east of the Jordan (17:1)
 - 2. The other clans of Manasseh inherited territory west of the Jordan (17:2)
 - 3. Zelophehad’s daughters were given an inheritance along with his brothers (17:3-6)
(cf. Num. 27:1-11; ch. 36)
 - 4. The borders of the tribe of Manasseh are described (17:7-11)
 - 5. They could not drive out the Canaanites (17:12-13)
 - 6. The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh wanted more territory (17:14)
 - 7. Joshua told them to clear themselves a place in the forests (17:15-18)

Conclusion: We have a heavenly inheritance waiting in glory, prepared by the Lord in proportion to the treasures sent beforehand. Let there be no unconquered territory.

The Land Inheritance of the Other Tribes (Joshua 18-21)

Key Verse: Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass. (Josh. 21:45)

Introduction: After the three principal western tribes had taken possession of their inheritance, there remained yet seven that had not done so. Joshua directed the completion of their occupation together with the appointment of six cities of refuge and 48 cities for the Levites commanded by Moses. Thus the acquisition of the Promised Land was completed, and the land had rest.

I. The Remaining Seven Tribes Took possession of Their Inheritance (18:1-19:51)

- A. Joshua challenged the remaining tribes to take possession of the land (18:1-3)
- B. Joshua appointed surveyors to divide the land into seven parts (18:4-9)
- C. Joshua apportioned the land to the seven tribes by lot (18:10)
 - 1. The borders of Benjamin were assigned between Judah and Ephraim with 14 cities (18:11-28)
 - 2. The inheritance of Simeon was 17 cities within the territory of Judah (19:1-9)
 - 3. The borders of Zebulun were north of Manasseh with 12 cities (19:10-16)
 - 4. The borders of Issachar were between Manasseh and Zebulun with 16 cities (19:17-23)
 - 5. The borders of Asher were north of Zebulun with 22 cities (19:24-31)
 - 6. The borders of Naphtali were north of Asher with 19 cities (19:32-39)
 - 7. The borders of Dan were west of Ephraim with 17 cities (19:40-46)
 - 8. The tribe of Dan also took the city of Leshem north of Naphtali (19:47-51)

II. Six Cities of Refuge Were Appointed for the Unintentional Killer (20:1-9)

- a. The Lord commanded Joshua to appoint cities of refuge (20:1-2; cf. Num. 35)
- B. The cities were to be a safe haven for unintentional killer (20:3-6)
- C. They appointed three cities west of the Jordan (20:7)
- D. They appointed three cities east of the Jordan (20:8-9)

III. Forty-Eight Cities Were Appointed for the Levites (21:1-45)

- A. The Levite leaders reminded Joshua that Moses promised them 48 cities (21:1-3; cf. Num. 35:6)
- B. Joshua appointed the Levites 48 cities by lot 21:4-42)
 - 1. The Kohathites were given 13 cities in Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin (21:4)
 - 2. The rest of the Kohathites were given 10 cities in Ephraim, Manasseh, and Dan (21:5; 20-26)
 - 3. The Gershonites were given 13 cities in Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh (21:6; 27-33)
 - 4. The Merarites were given 12 cities in Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun (21:7-8; 34-40)
 - 5. The sons of Aaron were given 13 cities (21:9-19)
 - 6. The total number of cities given to the Levites was 48 (21:41-42)
- C. Thus the Lord gave Israel all the Promised Land without fail (21:43-45)

Conclusion: While God fulfill His promises, we may fail to possess what has been given to us. We have a city of refuge in Christ and the benefits available from His appointed servant who dwell among us.

The Armies of the Eastern Tribes Went Home with Blessings (Joshua 22)

Key Verse: “Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which *is* before His tabernacle.” (Josh. 22:29)

Introduction: All twelve tribes had now taken possession of their land inheritance, so Joshua discharged the troops of the eastern tribes who had helped them with the conquest. On the way home they decided to protect their identity and unity with the western tribes by erecting a memorial replica of the tabernacle altar as a witness to that unity. The western tribes misunderstood that altar as a sign of rebellion against the Lord. But tribal war was averted by respectful diplomacy.

I. The Troops of the Eastern Tribes Were Discharged from Further Duty (22:1-8)

- A. Joshua commended the eastern tribes for their faithful help in conquering the Canaanites (22:1-3)
- B. The Lord has now given Israel the promised rest (22:4a)
- C. Joshua released the eastern tribes to return to their own possessions (22:4b)
- D. Joshua exhorted them to remain faithful to the Lord (22:5)
- E. Joshua sent them home with his blessing (22:6)
- F. Joshua gave the half-tribe of Manasseh a special departure blessing (22:7-8)

II. The Eastern Tribes Built an Altar by the Jordan River on the Way Home (22:9-12)

- A. The troops of the eastern tribes departed from Israel at Shiloh (22:9)
- B. They built an impressive memorial altar by the Jordan River (22:10)
- C. A report of the altar reached the leaders of the western tribes (22:11)
- D. The western tribes assembled their armies at Shiloh to attack them for rebellion against the Lord (22:12)

III. The Western Tribes Confronted Them as Rebels Because of the Altar (22:13-20)

- A. The western tribes sent a delegation to urge them to repent from their rebellion (22:13)
- B. They appointed as representatives high priest Phinehas and ten leaders, one from each tribe (22:13-14)
- C. The delegation met with the leaders of the eastern tribes in Gilead (22:15)
- D. They asked why the eastern tribes were rebelling against the Lord (22:16)
- E. They reminded them of the judgment of the rebellion at Peor (22:17)
- F. They reminded them that their rebellion would bring the Lord’s wrath against the whole nation (22:18)
- G. They urged them to take their inheritance west of the Jordan if their inheritance is unclean (22:19)
- H. They reminded them of the consequences of Achan’s rebellion (22:20)

IV. The Eastern Tribes Explained the Purpose of the Altar They Built (22:21-29)

- A. They invoked the Lord’s wrath if building the altar was an act of rebellion (22:21-23)
- B. They explained that the altar was a memorial to their loyalty to the Lord (22:24)
- C. They feared lest future western Israelites would exclude them from the Lord’s people (22:24-25)
- D. They built the altar as a memorial witness to guard against future exclusion (22:26-28)
- E. They again denied any thought of rebelling against the Lord (22:29)

V. The Misunderstanding Was Resolved (22:30-34)

- A. The delegation was pleased with the eastern tribes’ explanation (22:30)
- B. They acknowledged that they had not provoked the Lord to wrath (22:31)
- C. The delegation took back a good report to the western tribes (22:32)
- D. The western tribes were pleased to drop the plans of war (22:33)
- E. Meanwhile the eastern tribes named the altar “witness” (22:34)

Conclusion: Loyalty to the Lord and His covenant was expected of the people of Israel, or disciplinary judgment occurred. Likewise, in the church, where disharmony, disloyalty, or dissension occurs, such grievances should be resolved by wise counsel or by discipline.

Joshua Bade Farewell and Confirmed the Covenant (Joshua 23:1-24:33)

Key Verse: “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Josh. 24:15)

Introduction: At the end of his life Joshua gave a farewell address to his beloved people Israel. He encouraged them to be faithful to the LORD and His Law, and to diligently love the LORD. Then he confirmed the LORD’s covenant with Israel, urging them to serve only the LORD.

I. Joshua Bade Farewell to Israel (Josh. 23:1-16)

- A. Faithfulness to the LORD will make you irresistible (23:1-10)
 - 1. The LORD has given the Promised Land (1-5)
 - 2. Therefore, obey the Law of Moses (6-7)
 - 3. Hold fast to the LORD (8)
 - 4. Then no one will be able to resist (9-10)
- B. Love for the LORD will prevent failure (23:11-13)
 - 1. Be diligent to love the LORD (11)
 - 2. Or else idolatry will become a snare (12-13)
- C. Unfaithfulness to the covenant will bring curses (Josh. 23:14-16)
 - 1. The LORD has fulfilled His promises (14)
 - 2. But the curses of the covenant will come (15)
 - 3. When God's covenant is broken (16)

II. Joshua Confirmed the Covenant at Shechem (Josh. 24:1-33)

- A. The LORD fulfilled His covenant promises (24:1-13)
 - 1. He brought the patriarchs out of paganism (1-3)
 - 2. He brought Israel out of Egypt (4-7)
 - 3. He gave Israel the Promised Land (8-13)
- B. Israel affirmed their choice of the LORD (24:14-24)
 - 1. Joshua repeatedly urged Israel to choose the LORD (14-15, 19-20, 33)
 - 2. Israel repeatedly affirmed their choice (16-18, 21-22, 24)
- C. Joshua confirmed the covenant (24:25)
- D. Joshua set up a stone of witness to the covenant (24:26-28)
- E. Joshua and Eleazar died (24:29-33)

Conclusion: Faithfulness, obedience, and love are characteristics of mature Christians. They choose to serve only the LORD and honor His Son Jesus.