

INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY OF

JOSHUA

JOSHUA OVERVIEW

The account of Joshua describes in fast-paced detail the Israelites' conquest of Canaan - from the initial invasion across the Jordan River to the final division of all the land.

The two most prominent themes in the book of Joshua are the possession of the land that God had promised to Abraham long ago and Israel's continued covenant with the Lord. God was fighting for the Israelites. He continually demonstrated His faithfulness to His promise of long ago, He in turn expected Israel to be faithful to His covenant with them. Through their obedience they would in turn possess the land.

WHO WAS JOSHUA?

Son of Nun (1:1; 24:29) of the tribe of Ephraim; Moses' personal assistant and successor (Exodus 24:13; Deuteronomy 31:14, 23). Military hero of ancient Israel, Joshua once led twelve spies to search out the Promised Land (Numbers 13). Here, he leads the twelve tribes to conquer and settle that land.

MILITARY STRATEGY

Joshua commanded about 40,000 troops using military intelligence, the ambush, and the night march (2:1ff; 4:13; 8; 8:13; 10:9). He dealt with Israel's enemies firmly, yet with integrity. He worshipped, read the law, encouraged his captains, disciplined his troops, humbled himself, and trusted in God (5:13-15; 6:6-9; 7:6, 16-26; 8:30-35; 9-11; 10:25).



CURRENT SERIES

IT'S NOT THE START...

Achan was a warrior in a leading tribe (7:1), but he disobeyed the Lord by taking Jericho's forbidden spoils. As a symbol of "sin in the camp", Achan was exposed before all the nation. He and his family lost their lives because of his evil choice (7:16-26).

... IT'S THE FINISH

Rahab entered the drama as a harlot (2:1). When she heard about God and His people, she believed, hid the spies, and saved herself and her household (2:1ff; 6:17, 22-25). After a bad start, she repented and finished well. She will be rewarded with the faithful (Hebrews 11:31).

KEY PASSAGE

"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful 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." JOSHUA 1:7-8 (ESV)



APPLICATION

Three basic questions form this section.

What does this story tell us about God?

Though Joshua is Israel's main leader - it is God who leads the people throughout their conquest of the land. In the book of Joshua we see God's continued provision and faithfulness toward His people.

Just as He prepared the way for the exodus out of Egypt, God led the people over the dry land of the Jordan, led in victory over Jericho and Ai, made the sun stand still over Gibeon all day, and countless other miracles. He is the God of miracles, the God who provides, the Mighty Warrior for His people.

What does this story tell us about humanity?

In the pages of Joshua we read stories of people who were faithful to God and prospered and stories of those who disobeyed and were destroyed.

How do we apply this to our lives?

Deuteronomy ends with a choice, "*choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him*" (Deut 30:19-20). As Joshua leads the people they were faithful to "choose life" and for that God blessed them and led them through victory after victory.

Joshua ends with this note: "*Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel*" (Josh 24:31). Thus, for us the choice remains as well, will we follow God all our days and remember all that He has done and will continue to do?

WHAT IS MY STORY? (THOUGHTS):