

From the Garden to Glory

Joshua

Author: Probably Joshua

Timeline: c. 1407 - 1383 B.C.

Location: Canaan

Category: Historical

Theme: Possessing our Inheritance

Overview:

Joshua picks up where Deuteronomy leaves off. It is a continuation of the history of the Israelites. Joshua gives the account of God leading His people into the Promised Land. Chapters 1 - 13 describe the seven-year conquest of the land, while chapters 14 - 24 give the details of the division and settlement of the land.

The Book of Joshua tells us how to be victorious soldiers and how to claim our rich spiritual inheritance in Jesus Christ. It tells us how to be strong and courageous as we face our enemies and march forward to claim new territory for the Lord. Warren Wiersbe

Introduction:

As the Israelites enter and occupy Canaan, God's people learn critical lessons concerning the fact that victory does not come through military might but through faith in God and obedience to His Word. Before beginning your study of Joshua, consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. List some of the blessings you have found at the end of a trial. What are possible dangers that can be encountered during this time?
2. Read Psalm 20:7. List at least five present day "chariots and horses" which can keep you from trusting in the Lord for victory in your life.
3. Think of a specific promise that the Lord fulfilled in your life. Write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to Him for His faithfulness.
4. What is one lesson you have learned as the Lord has shown Himself faithful on your behalf? How has this lesson changed your relationship with Him?
5. In what areas of your life are you called to be a leader? How does your faith in the Lord and obedience to His Word help you in this role?

Joshua's Commission

Read Joshua 1 and 2

1. Look at verse 1:1. Joshua is called "Moses' assistant." Look up the word *assist* in a dictionary and write the definition. What have you learned as you have assisted another? How did this prepare you to be a leader at a later time?
2. The Lord chose Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. Read the following verses and list all that you learn about Joshua's preparation for this ministry: Exodus 17:9-14, 24:13, Numbers 11:28, Numbers 14:6-10, 27:18-23, 32:12 and Deuteronomy 34:9.

3. Look at Joshua 1:8. What is the purpose of meditating on the Word of God? How do you do this? Be specific.

4. Summarize the second chapter of Joshua. Jeff Lasseigne says: Rahab, the prostitute turned convert, has several special distinctions in Scripture: hers was the first recorded conversion of a woman in the Bible; she is one of only four women referred to by name in the genealogy of Jesus; and she is one of only two women mentioned in the Hebrews 11, the great "Hall of Faith."
How is Rahab's life an encouragement to you?

Crossing the Jordan

Read Joshua 3

1. What were the people commanded to do in verses 3-4? The ark was the symbol of God's presence going before His people. Why was it important that there be a space between the people and the ark?

2. Look at verse 5. What did Joshua say to the people? What would you do if you were told to "sanctify yourself"? Webster's defines *wonder* as:
 - 1) a cause of astonishment or surprise: marvel, miracle
 - 2) the quality, sense of state of exciting, amazed admiration.What *wonders* have you seen the Lord do?

3. Look at verse 7. What did the Lord say all Israel would know? Read Matthew 28:20. How has the Lord let you know He will be with you? How does this encourage you?

4. Summarize verses 14-17. What was God's part? What was the people's part? Comment on this quote from What the Bible is All About by Henrietta Mears: A man once said, "If God tells me to jump through a stone wall, it would be my duty to jump; it would be God's duty to remove the wall."

The Fall of Jericho

Read Joshua 6

1. How is Jericho described in verse 1?
2. What were the Lord's instructions to Joshua in verses 2-5? Think of a time when the Lord asked you to do something that didn't make sense to you. How did you respond? What were the results?
3. Summarize the people's response to the Lord's instructions.
4. Look at verse 20. What happened to the wall? John MacArthur says, "The city was fortified by a double ring of walls; the outer 6 ft. thick and the inner 12; timbers were laid across these, supporting houses on the walls." Read Jeremiah 32:17. What does the destruction of Jericho teach you about the Lord?

The Sin of Achan

Read Joshua 7

1. Look back at chapter 6. What had been Joshua's instructions to the people in 6:18-19?
2. Look at verse 1. What did Achan do? What was the Lord's response?
3. What happened in verses 2-5? What lesson do you think the Lord was trying to teach His people? Halley's Bible Handbook has this commentary about the defeat at Ai, "Coming right after the miraculous crossing of the Jordan and the miraculous fall of Jericho, it was a terrible shock to Israel. It was a disciplinary lesson. God was with them, but He meant them to understand that He expected Obedience."(sic) How has the Lord "worked" this lesson into your life?

4. Look at verse 21. What were the steps in the progress of Achan's sin? How do you stop this progression in your own life?

Occupation of the Land

Read Joshua 11

1. Look at verses 1-5, and summarize Jabin's attempt to stop the armies of Israel.
2. What was God's promise to Joshua in verse 6? (Note: to hamstring meant to cut the leg tendons which crippled the horses and thus made them useless). Why did the Lord tell Joshua not to fear the enemies' armies?
3. The battle took place in two phases. What do you learn about the first phase of the battle from verses 7-9? What do you learn about the second phase of the battle from verses 10-14?

The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord and Zuck says: But why did God command such drastic action, burning the chariots and hamstringing the horses? Because the Canaanites used horses in their pagan worship...Also, there was a danger that Israel might trust in these new weapons of war rather than in the Lord. The Psalmist David declared, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

What are some "chariots and horses" in which you might be tempted to trust?

4. Look at verse 15. What was the key to victory? How has this been the key to a victory in your life?

Caleb's Possession

Read Joshua 14

1. Look at verse 1. Who were responsible for distributing the inheritance to the children of Israel?
2. Read Numbers 26:51-56. What did the Lord tell Moses concerning the division of the land? Look at Proverbs 16:33. What does this add to your understanding about how the allocations were made?
3. What was Caleb's request? What was Joshua's reply?
4. Look at verse 9. Why did Moses say Caleb would receive the inheritance? How do you "wholly follow the Lord your God?" Be specific.

Joshua's Farewell

Read Joshua 24

1. In verses 1-23, Joshua spoke for the Lord, recounting God's provision for His people from the time of Abraham through the conquest of Canaan. What are the people told to do in verse 14?
2. Look at verse 15. What choice must the people make? What choice did Joshua make?
3. Consider the words in verse 15, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." How do you and your house serve the Lord? Be specific.

4. What were the people told to do in verse 23? How do you do this in our world today?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Joshua consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
2. What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
3. List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: