

Joshua

1. Introduction to Joshua

- 1) Authorship – this book was written primarily by Joshua (24:1–26).
- 2) Purpose and Theme
 - a. This book describes the **conquest** and **division** of the land of Canaan.
 - b. Joshua shows how God’s **promises** to Israel were fulfilled in giving that nation the Promised Land
 - c. Joshua demonstrates God’s **holiness** by Israel’s **destruction** of the Canaanites, Deut 7:5-6; Josh 11:20
This was God’s way of **protecting** the covenant nation and keeping their faith **pure**. **Separation** is the doctrine and practice that **preserves** the faith and **protects** God’s people from sinful behavior.
 - d. Joshua shows that Israel **failed** to fully possess that land. This was not God or Joshua’s fault, and sets the scene for the period of **Judges** and Israel’s **apostasy** (falling away from God into idolatry)
 - e. The overall theme of Joshua is **conquering Canaan**. Note these important aspects—
 - (1) The covenant **faithfulness** of the Lord
 - (2) The importance of the **written** Word of God (1:8; 8:32–35; 23:6–16; 24:26–27)
 - (3) The **failure** of human effort apart from God’s help
 - (4) The **holiness** of God and His judgment on **sin**
 - f. Key passage: **21:43–45**
- 3) Content and Message
 - a. Joshua begins where Deuteronomy ends. Israel stands on the east side of the Jordan River, and was commanded by God to
 - (1) **Subdue** the land – **destroy** the inhabitants
 - (2) **Settle** the nation in the land – **divide** the land
 - b. The Canaanite nations were materially, technologically, and militarily superior to the Israelites, living in strong, fortified cities, but were grossly immoral and cruel.
 - c. The man Joshua (meaning “the LORD **saves**”)
 - (1) Born in Egypt, a genuine believer (Num 27:18)
 - (2) Moses’ aid (Exod 24:13)
 - (3) Represented his tribe in the initial survey of Canaan (Num 13:8, 16)
 - (4) Selected a Moses’ successor (Num 27:18–23)
 - (5) Joshua was about 80–85 years old when he succeeded Moses; he led in the conquest for seven years (Josh 14:7, 10), and he died at the age of 110 (24:29).

☞ The establishment of Israel in the Promised Land.

2. Outline of Joshua

Basic Outline

- 1) **Entering** Canaan, 1–5
- 2) **Conquering** Canaan, 6–12
- 3) **Dividing** Canaan, 13–24

More Detailed Outline

1) Entering Canaan, 1–5

- a. Preparations to conquer, 1
- b. Spying of Jericho, 2
- c. Crossing of Jordan, 3–4
- d. Consecration of Israel, 5

2) Conquering Canaan, 6–12

- a. The Central Campaign, 6–8
 - (1) Defeat of Jericho, 6
 - (2) Sin of Achan, 7
 - (3) Destruction of Ai, 8:1–29
 - (4) The altar at Shechem, 8:30–35
- b. The Southern Campaign, 9–10
 - (1) Deception of Gibeon, 9
 - (2) Defeat of the Amorites, 10
- c. The Northern Campaign, 11
 - (1) Defeat of the northern Canaanites, 11:1–15
- d. Summary of Conquests, 11:16–12:24

3) Dividing Canaan, 13–24

- a. Division of the Land, 13–21
- b. Final Words of Joshua, 22–24