

The Book of Joshua



Moses Views the Promised Land

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Bible Study – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Collinsville, Illinois

Chapter One

1. (1.1) Moses

His Death: He was healthy and vigorous at age 120 when he died (Deut. 34.7). The LORD buried Moses in a secret location on Mount Nebo opposite Jericho (Deut. 34:1-5).

Servant of the LORD: (Num. 12.7-8) Joshua received the same title (Josh 24.29) as did Abraham (Gen 26.24), David (2 Sam 3.18), the Prophets (2 Kings 9.7), and especially Jesus (Isaiah 53).


Hebrews 3.5-6 especially focuses on the office of servant:



Michelangelo's Statue of Moses

^{NKJ} Hebrews 3:5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

2. The Name LORD:

Paleo-Hebrew	Aramaic Script	The Word "Lord"	Masoretic Pointing	Pronunciation
	יהוה	אֲדֹנָי	יהוה יהוה	Yahweh

Around 400 B.C. the Jewish people stopped pronouncing this divine name. Some manuscripts would use the Paleo-Hebrew version to signify its status. Later the Masoretes (AD 600-900) used the approximate vowel points for *Adonai* so that readers would say *Adonai* instead of *Yahweh*. The King James rendered this hybrid word *Jehovah*. But this is a misnomer. The Jews never said *Jehovah*. We know from Greek manuscripts that the four vowels probably sounded like *Yahweh*.

The importance of the name is explained in Exodus 3.14:

And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.' "

The first syllable of the name "Jesus," and "Joshua," "Je" is a shortened form of "Yahweh." Both names mean "Yahweh Saves."

Jesus applies the significance of the name to Himself in John 8.58:

^{NKJ} John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

That the Jews attempted to stone Jesus after He said this shows that they understood what He was saying.

What special comfort does this name of God give?

- The name stresses that God exists.
- The name points to the omnipresence of God (God is present everywhere.)

2. (1.2) The LORD Encourages Joshua... "Arise and Cross This Jordan."

This is the momentous event that God had promised long before. This is a picture of the Jordan River near Jericho. The name "Jordan" is taken from the Hebrew word "to go down." The river flows down from the Lebanon mountains to the Dead Sea.



3. (1.3) "I have given it."

Often mistranslated to indicate the future tense ("I will give...") the past tense is a very powerful way of saying, "Even though you don't have it yet, My promise is so sure that *it is as if you already have it!*"

Where does the "accent" belong... On Israel's obedience or on God's power to save? See Deut. 9.1-6 What application does this have for our Spiritual life?

4. (1.4) The Geographic Borders

These were the eventual borders of Israel in David's time.



Euphrates

The Hittites were from the North. They were early settlers in Canaan. Abraham purchased a cave from Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 23.10).

**Why did God choose this particular land? See Ezekiel 5.5
Can you see God using your life circumstances to bring His
promises to many different people?**

5. (1.5-6) The Presence of the LORD with Moses, with Joshua, and with Us...

What part of these promises apply only to Joshua? What applies to us?

Deut 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

How does Jesus fit into this promise?



Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Quoting Psalm 22)

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

6. (1.7-9) Success Through Scripture

How is God present with us? How does this encourage us for our Christian conquests? (What are our Christian conquests?)

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Discuss the importance of reading, studying, and memorizing Scripture.



7. (1.10-18) Joshua Commands the Officers and the People

When the Israelites refused to enter Canaan the first time, they were forced to wander for 40 years until that generation died. The next attempt to enter the promised land brought them East along the Jordan. The Tribes of Ruben, Gad and Manasseh requested that they be given this land since it was prime for their herds (Numbers 32). Moses was angry at first because he thought this would result in another failed attempt to enter the promised land. But the tribes promised to help all the tribes enter the land. This generation proved themselves better than their parents.

The goal of the entrance into the promised land was *rest*. But the rest that God was looking at was much greater than the rest this generation would experience. God wants all people to find rest in Jesus. See Hebrews 3.7-4.10.

How might we be tempted to live in our rest and fail to help others find that rest?