

The Book of Joshua



The Children of Israel Cross the Jordan

The Book of Joshua

Bible Study – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Collinsville, Illinois

Introduction

1. Jesus affirmed the divine inspiration of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).

Luke 24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

2. There are three references to Joshua in the New Testament.

Acts 7:45 "which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Joshua into the land possessed by the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of David,

Heb. 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

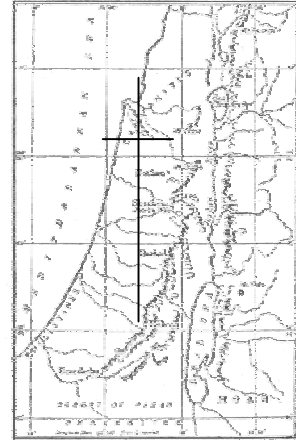
Acts 13:19 "And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

3. The Bible is divided into three sections: The Torah (Law) , The Prophets , and the Writings. Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings are known as the Former Prophets. They cover the time from the entry into the promised land until the Babylonian Captivity.
4. Prophetic History teaches history from a firm Law (sin) and Gospel (salvation) perspective.
5. Ultimately the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (Luke 24.44) find their focus and fulfillment in Jesus. In some ways the Book of Joshua can be compared to the Book of Acts. Joshua depicts the

conquest of the promised land. Acts depicts the conquest of the world with the Gospel of Jesus.

- Joshua is an important part of God's preparation for the sacrifice of Christ.

In the photo below Africans are clearing the jungle for a landing strip for future missionaries. In many ways the formation Israel can be seen as the "landing strip" that God prepared in order to bring His Son into the world.



- Although early Jewish and Christian traditions recognize Joshua as the author, the question remains open. Neither the book of Joshua nor any other book of the Bible names the author of the sixth book of the Bible.
- Assuming Israel's entrance into the promised land in 1406 B.C., we will assume that most of the book was written in the early part of the fourteenth century B.C.

9. Dating the Bible

The dates given in the Bible are **relative**. Example: King B reigned 15 years from the time of King A. But there are a few places where a chronology from another nation mentions an astronomical occurrence such as an eclipse of the sun. Now the entire chronology can be referenced to our system of dating.

When it comes to dating there are many complicating factors.
However

Roughly, you can remember the basic dates this way...

Actual Dates	People/Places/Events	Rough Dates	Time Span
2166-1805 BC	Abraham/Isaac/Jacob	2100-1800 BC	300 years
1876-1446 BC	Egyptian Slaves	1800-1400 BC	400 years
1446-1406 BC	Wilderness		
1406-1050 BC	Conquest of Pr. L.	1400-1000 BC	400 years
1050-931 BC	Saul/David/Solomon	1000-500 BC	500 years
931-722 BC	Judah & Israel		
722-586 BC	Judah		
586-516 BC	Babylonian Capt.		
516-424 BC	2nd Temple – Neh.	500-Birth of Christ	500 years
424-4 BC	Intertestamental P.		

10. The man Joshua...

Tribe of Ephraim (son of Joseph) (1 Chronicles 7.20-29)

Born in the bitter years of slavery in Egypt

Lived 110 years (Joshua 24.29)

Egypt – 40 years

Desert – 40 years

Promised Land – 30 years

Num 13.8 Original name was Hoshea which means "salvation"

Num 13.16 Moses changed his name to Joshua which means "Yahweh is salvation."

The Greek form of Joshua is Jesus.

Ex 17.8-13 Defeats the Amalekites while Aaron and Hur hold Moses' arms

Ex 24.13 Accompanies Moses at Mount Sinai

Ex 33.11 After the LORD spoke to Moses at the tent of meeting, Moses would return to camp but Joshua would remain at the tent of meeting.

Num. 14.6-9, 30 He and Caleb are the two faithful spies.

Deut. 31 The LORD commissions Joshua as successor of Moses.

Deut. 34.9 Joshua is filled with the Spirit of Wisdom

10. The main theme of Joshua

Joshua 21.43-45 Especially verse 45: *Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.*

11. Important Subthemes

Importance of the Word of God – Joshua copies the Torah of Moses and urges Israel to obey it.

Covenants – The covenants to Noah, Abraham, and Moses all play a role in Joshua

Leadership – Joshua is a courageous leader who follows God's word.

Disobedience brings disaster.

God judges human sin.

The incomplete rest of the Promised Land looks forward to the Promised Son and His complete rest.