

Class Schedule

Class: Joshua
Day & Time: Sundays from 11:05am to 12:00noon
Beginning: January 3, 2010
Ending: March 28, 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
Jan 3	1	Joshua Introduction
Jan 10	2	Joshua 1: Joshua's commission
Jan 17	3	Joshua 2-3: Preparation for war
Jan 24	4	Joshua 4-5: Sanctifying the nation
Jan 31	5	Joshua 6:1-7:9: Jericho & Fall at Ai
Feb 7	6	Joshua 7:10-8:35: Sin of Achan & Fall of Ai
Feb 14	7	Joshua 9-10: Campaign in the south
Feb 21	8	Joshua Chapters 11-12: Campaign in the north
Feb 28	9	Joshua Chapters 13-16: Dividing the land
Mar 7	10	Joshua 17-19: Dividing the land
Mar 14	11	Joshua 20-22: Cities of refuge & altar of witness
Mar 21	12	Joshua 23: Joshua's Last days
Mar 28	13	Joshua 24: Joshua's last address & death

The Book of Joshua

Outline

1:1-9 Joshua's commission

- 1:1,2 The continuity of the task
- 1:3-9 Promise and Command

1:10 - 5:12 The entry into Canaan

- 1:10-18 Mobilization
- 2:1-24 The mission of the spies
- 3:1-13 Preparations for a holy war
- 3:14 - 4:18 The crossing of the Jordan
- 4:19 - 5:12 Encampment at Gilgal

5:13 - 12:24 The Conquest of Canaan

- 5:13-15 The Divine Commander
- 6:1 - 8:35 The first stage in the campaign: Jericho & Ai
- 9:1 - 10:43 The second stage: the campaign in the south
- 11:1-23 The third stage: the campaign in the north
- 12:1-24 List of conquered Canaanite kings

13:1 - 22:34 The Division of the land

- 13:1 - 19:51 Allocations to the tribes
- 20:1 - 21:45 Cities of refuge and cities of Levites appointed
- 22:1-34 Return of the eastern tribes and setting up of the altar of witness

23:1 - 24:33 Joshua's last days

- 23:1-16 First address
- 24:1-28 Second address and renewal of the covenant
- 24:29-33 Joshua's death and burial

Joshua, the first of the twelve historical books (Joshua—Esther), forges a link between the Pentateuch and the remainder of Israel's history. Through three major military campaigns, the people of Israel learn a crucial lesson under Joshua's capable leadership: victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word, rather than through numerical or military superiority.

This theme is underscored by the name of the book itself. Joshua's name, which means "Yahweh is Salvation," is symbolic of the fact that although he is the leader of Israel during the conquest, the Lord is the Conqueror.

Author

Jewish tradition assigns authorship of this book to Joshua himself, and there is little doubt that portions of the book are to be ascribed to him (24:26). Possibly some narratives were added later, however, such as Othniel's capture of Kirjath Sepher (15:13–19), Dan's migration to the north (19:47), and the account of Joshua's death and burial (24:29–33). In addition, the recurring phrase "to this day" (5:9; 13:13; 15:63) indicates a time of writing later than the events themselves.

Date

While a precise date for the composition of Joshua is uncertain, the events described take place between the beginning of the Conquest (1405 B.C.) and the death of Joshua (c. 1390 B.C.). If the later date of the Exodus is accepted (see Exodus), however, the beginning of the Conquest would date to c. 1250–1200 B.C.

Themes and Literary Structure

The book of Joshua divides neatly into two principal sections: chapters 1–12 record the Conquest; chapters 13–24 describe the assignment of tribal territories and the dispersal of the tribes throughout the Land of Promise.

The theme of conquest and occupation pervades the book of Joshua. The setting of the first five chapters begins east of the Jordan River as Joshua replaces Moses, and Israel crosses the Jordan on dry land and prepares for war. Like a wise general, Joshua utilizes a divide-and-conquer strategy. His campaign begins in central Canaan (chs. 6–8), thus preventing a massive Canaanite alliance against Israel. Then Joshua moves to southern Canaan (chs. 9, 10), and finally to northern Canaan (chs. 11, 12).

Though there are no direct messianic prophecies in the book, Joshua is clearly a type of Christ. His name *Yeshua* ("Yahweh is Salvation") is the Hebrew equivalent of the name "Jesus." In his role of triumphantly leading the people into their possessions, he foreshadows the One who will bring "many Sons to glory" (Heb. 2:10).

The scarlet cord, which provided safety for Rahab and her house (Josh. 2:17–21), portrays safety through the blood of Jesus (Heb. 9:19–22). Amazingly, this gentile woman is found in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:5).¹

¹Thomas Nelson, Inc., *Nelson's complete book of Bible maps and charts: Old and New Testament [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1996.



Joshua Chapter 1: Jan 10th 2010

Explore It

1. What promise did the Lord give to Joshua? (1:5)
2. Why was it important for Joshua to "be strong and courageous"? (1:6)
3. Who had been promised to inherit the land, according to the Lord? (1:6)
4. What specific steps did the Lord instruct Joshua to take in order to be successful? (1:7)
5. What did God say meditation on the Book of the Law would accomplish? (1:8)
6. Why were certain tribes given special instructions by Joshua? (1:12-15)
7. How did the Israelite leaders respond to Joshua's instruction? (1:16)
8. What did the leaders of Israel say to encourage Joshua in his new role? (1:17-18)

Get It

9. What does this passage teach us about how to deal with fear, doubt, and discouragement?
10. Why do you think God reminded Joshua of the relationship the Lord had with Moses?
11. What does it mean to meditate on God's Word?

Apply It

12. How can you meditate on God's word everyday this week?

Joshua Chapters 2-3: Jan 17th 2010

Explore It

1. How did Rahab protect the spies from the king's messengers? (2:4-6)
2. What instilled fear in the hearts of the Canaanites? (2:9-11)
3. What were Rahab's beliefs about the God of Israel? (2:11)
4. What were the conditions of the deal between Rahab and the spies? (2:14-20)
5. What was the nature of the spies' report to Joshua? (2:24)
6. What specific instructions did the officers give to the people regarding their journey? (3:3-4)
7. Why was it necessary for the Israelite people to consecrate themselves? (3:5)
8. For what reason did God choose to praise Joshua in the eyes of the Israelites? (3:7)
9. How were the Israelites to know that God was with them and would drive out their enemies from the land of Canaan? (3:10-13)
10. What happened when the priests who were carrying the ark reached the Jordan River? (3:15-16)

Get It

11. What do you think inspired Rahab's belief in the God of Israel?
12. In what season do the events of the crossing of the Jordan river take place, and why is this significant?

Apply It

13. What are some tangible things that remind you of what God means to you or what He has done for you?

Joshua Chapters 4-5: Jan 24th 2010

Explore It

1. Why did the Lord tell Joshua to choose twelve men from among the Israelites? (4:2-3)
2. Why were stones taken from the Jordan riverbed? (4:6-7)
3. How did the people of Israel respond to the miracle God performed on their behalf? (4:14)
4. What specific tradition did Joshua instruct the Israelites to initiate? (4:21-22)
5. For what two reasons did God perform this miracle? (4:24)
6. What reaction did the foreign kings have toward the news about Israel and their God? (5:1)
7. For what reasons was it necessary to circumcise the Israelites again? (5:4-7)
8. Why did the Israelites wander in the desert for forty years? (5:6)
9. How did the Lord respond to the Israelites' obedience to His command to be circumcised? (5:9)
10. Why did the manna stop appearing for the Israelites? (5:12)
11. Whom did Joshua meet outside of Jericho? (5:13-14)

Get It

12. How was the Israelites' celebration significant in light of their circumcision?

Apply It

13. What promises of God are significant to you?

Joshua Chapters 6:1-7:9: Jan 31st 2010

Explore It

1. What instructions did the Lord give to Joshua about defeating Jericho? (6:2-5)
2. What did the Israelites do differently on the seventh day of their siege of Jericho? (6:15)
3. According to Joshua, who gave the city of Jericho over to the Israelites? (6:16)
4. Why did Joshua instruct the Israelites to keep away from the devoted things in Jericho? (6:18)
5. What were the Israelites supposed to do with all of the wealth of Jericho? (6:19)
6. How were Rahab and her family treated by the Israelites? (6:22-23, 25)
7. What did Joshua say would happen if a man were to rebuild Jericho? (6:26)
8. How did the Israelites act unfaithfully? (7:1)
9. Why were the spies confident of their ability to overcome the city of Ai? (7:3)
10. What was the outcome of the Israelites' battle with the men of Ai? (7:4-5)
11. How did the leaders of Israel demonstrate their shock and remorse over losing the war with Ai? (7:6)

Get It

12. For what reason was Rahab's life spared?
13. Why was it important for the Israelites to devote Jericho and all of its wealth to the Lord?
14. Why would God destroy so many Israelites for Achan's sin?

Apply It

15. In what specific ways do you think people allow greed to creep into their lives?

Joshua Chapters 7:10-8:35: Feb 7th 2010

Explore It

1. Why had the Lord allowed Israel to lose the battle with Ai? (7:10-12)
2. How did the Lord reveal to the Israelites who had taken the devoted things from Jericho? (7:14-15)
3. Why did Achan take the devoted things from Jericho? (7:21)
4. How did the Israelites repent of their sin before the Lord? (7:22-26)
5. In what way did the battle with Ai differ from the Israelites' war with Jericho? (8:2)
6. What was the strategy to overtake the city of Ai? (8:4-7)
7. Who was the leader of the army of Israel? (8:8)
8. How did the king of Ai respond to Israel's second advance against his city? (8:14)
9. What was the outcome of Israel's war with Ai? (8:20-23)
10. What did Joshua do following Israel's victory over the city of Ai? (8:30-35)

Get It

11. Why did Joshua need special encouragement when the Lord told him to attack the city of Ai?

Apply It

12. How does God's response to Israel's repentance encourage you?

Joshua Chapters 9-10: Feb 14th 2010

Explore It

1. What was the reaction of Israel's neighbors when they heard about the battles Israel had won? (9:1-2)
2. How did the people of Gibeon respond differently to Israel from the rest of their neighbors? (9:3-4)
3. Why did the Gibeonites go to such lengths to make a treaty with Israel? (9:6, 24)
4. How did Joshua respond to the Gibeonites' request to establish a treaty? (9:7-8)
5. What mistake did the leaders of Israel make in dealing with the Gibeonites? (9:14)
6. What did the Israelites do when they discovered that the Gibeonites had deceived them? (9:16-18)
7. Of what significance was the city of Gibeon to the king of Jerusalem? (10:2-4)
8. How did the Gibeonites respond to the attack of the Amorites? (10:6)
9. How did Joshua respond to the plea for help from the Gibeonites? (10:7)
10. What did Joshua do when he heard that the five Amorite kings were hiding from him? (10:18-19)
11. Where did Joshua go after he had defeated the city of Makkedah? (10:29-39)
12. Why was Joshua able to conquer the whole region in one campaign? (10:42)

Get It

13. In what circumstances do we tend to rely on ourselves instead of seeking God's wisdom?

Apply It

14. How can you "inquire of the Lord" the next time you have an important decision to make?

Joshua Chapters 11-12: Feb 21st 2010

Explore It

1. How is the combined army of the northern kings described? (11:4)
2. What encouragement did the Lord give to Joshua when he faced this immense army? (11:6)
3. What strategy did Joshua use against the armies of the northern cities? (11:7)
4. What was the outcome of the battle between Israel and the northern cities? (11:8)
5. In what specific way did Joshua obey the Lord? (11:9)
6. In addition to the Lord, whom was Joshua obeying by destroying the royal cities? (11:12)
7. How long did Israel's war with the northern cities continue? (11:18)
8. Why did the northern kings decide not to make treaties of peace with Israel? (11:20)
9. How was the land divided after Israel had won it through battle? (11:23)

Get It

10. How did the northern cities combining their armies help fulfill God's plan?
11. Why is the land that the Israelites won referred to as an "inheritance"?
12. Why did God want them to hamstring the horses and burn the chariots?

Apply It

13. How do you think Joshua felt facing a huge army? How did he overcome this overwhelming force?

Joshua Chapters 13-16: Feb 28th 2010

Explore It

1. What specific instructions and promise did the Lord give to Joshua about the land that remained to be conquered? (13:6-7)
2. Why did the tribe of Levi not inherit a portion of the land? (13:14, 33)
3. How did Joshua know how to divide the land between the tribes of Israel? (14:2, 5)
4. Why did Caleb approach Joshua at Gilgal? (14:6-12)
5. What did Moses promise Caleb because of his obedience? (14:9)
6. How had the Lord kept His promise to Caleb? (14:10)
7. How long did Caleb have to wait before God fulfilled His promise to him? (14:10)
8. Where did Caleb place his confidence? (14:12)
9. How did Joshua respond to Caleb's request? (14:13)

Get It

10. What does it mean to follow the Lord wholeheartedly?
11. Why couldn't Judah and Ephraim drive out the Jebusites and Canaanites respectively?

Apply It

12. What do these chapters reveal about the reliability of God's promises?

Joshua Chapters 17-19: Mar 7th 2010

Explore It

1. Why did the people of Joseph complain to Joshua? (17:14)
2. What was Joshua's response to the tribe of Joseph's request for more land? (17:17-18)
3. Why was it necessary for Joshua to give instructions to some Israelites? (18:2-3)
4. What were the three appointed men from each tribe supposed to do? (18:4)
5. How did Joshua know how to divide the land? (18:6)
6. Why did the Levites not receive an inheritance of land? (18:7)
7. Who gave Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh their inheritance of land? (18:7)
8. When did Joshua receive his inheritance in relation to the rest of Israel? (19:49)

Get It

9. Why do you think the Israelites were slow to divide the land they had conquered?
10. Why do you think Joshua received his inheritance last?

Apply It

11. What is one characteristic of Joshua that you would like to have in your own life?

Joshua Chapters 20-22: Mar 14th 2010

Explore It

1. Why did the Lord tell the Israelites to designate cities of refuge? (20:2-3)
2. What role did elders play in a city of refuge? (20:4)
3. How long would a person remain in a city of refuge? (20:6)
4. Why did the family heads of the Levites approach Eleazar, Joshua, and the heads of the other Israelite tribes? (21:2)
5. What specific promise did the Lord fulfill to Israel? (21:43)
6. What did the eastern tribes receive from Joshua before he sent them on their way? (22:5-6)
7. Why did the Israelites plan to go to war against the eastern tribes? (22:11-12)
8. What were the intentions of the eastern tribes when they built the altar on the Jordan River? (22:24-28)

Get It

9. Why was it important to establish places of refuge in Israel?
10. Where are the places of refuge for Christians today?

Apply It

11. In what specific ways has the Lord provided protection for you?

Joshua Chapter 23: Mar 21st 2010

Explore It

1. When did the events of this passage take place? (23:1)
2. Whom did Joshua credit for Israel's success in subduing their enemies? (23:3)
3. Of what promise did Joshua remind the Israelites? (23:5)
4. Why was it important for Israel not to associate with the nations around them? (23:7)
5. What did Joshua say would happen to Israel if they turned away from the Lord? (23:12-13)
6. Is it significant that Joshua gave this advice to Israel when he thought he would die soon? (23:14)
7. What did Joshua believe about the reliability of God's promises? (23:14)
8. What would be the end result of Israel turning away from God? (23:16)

Get It

9. Why do you think Joshua thought it was necessary to give Israel such a harsh warning?

Apply It

10. In what way are the promises and stipulations God gave to Israel applicable to our relationships?

Joshua Chapter 24: Mar 28th 2010

Explore It

1. Why did Joshua assemble all of the tribes of Israel at Shechem? (24:1-2)
2. What role did Abraham play in the history of Israel? (24:3)
3. What did the Lord give to Israel, and what did He ask in return? (24:13-14)
4. What choice did Joshua present before the Israelites? (24:15)
5. How did the Israelites respond to Joshua's challenge? (24:16-18)
6. What was keeping the Israelites from fully surrendering to the Lord? (24:23)
7. What did Joshua do to help the Israelites remember their promise to the Lord? (24:25)
8. In what way could the stone that Joshua set up be a witness for Israel? (24:27)

Get It

9. How could Joshua speak for his entire family?
10. Why did Joshua say that the people of Israel were not able to serve the Lord?
11. When is it most helpful to be reminded of God's faithfulness?

Apply It

12. When did you make the decision to serve the Lord? Have you ever needed a reminder?