

LESSON 7 - JOSHUA

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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Lesson 7

JOSHUA

- The Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) told the story of the Children of Israel from their Egyptian slavery up to their arrival at the land of Canaan. The Book of Joshua takes the narrative into Canaan. The historical books from Joshua through Esther cover Israel's history inside the Promised Land.
- The author of this book is Joshua. If he did not write it by his own hand scholars believe he dictated the words to a Scribe who wrote them down.
- The name, Joshua means, "Jehovah is Salvation."
- The Structure of Joshua.
 - Part 1: Entering the Land (Chapters 1–5).
 - Part 2: Overcoming the Land (Chapters 6–12).
 - Part 3: Occupying the Land (Chapters 13–24).
- The central theme of Joshua is the victory of faith.

OUTLINE

- Entering the Land (Chapters 1-5).
 - God commissioned God for leadership (c. 1).

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (vv. 1-9)

 - The past is in the past - "Moses my servant is dead." (v. 2)
 - ...get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land... (v. 2)
 - No one will be able to stand against you... (v. 5)
 - I will never leave you nor forsake you. (v. 5) ...the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (v. 9)
 - Be strong and courageous... (vv. 6, 7, 9)
 - Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged... (v. 9)
- * Joshua sent two spies into Jericho because it was a key city.

...Joshua ...sent two spies... "Go, look over the land... especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

The king of Jericho was told, "...some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." So the king... sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house..."

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went... (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the

stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) So the men set out in pursuit of the spies... as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and... all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you... and what you did to Sihon and Og...

"Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you... spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them...

"If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land."

So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return..."

...the men had said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your [family] into your house... But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear."

"Agreed," she replied... And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. (vv. 1-21)

**NOTE: Rahab's story does not end here!*

- *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient" (Hebrews 11:30-31).*
- *"In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:25-26)..*
- *This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife... (Matthew 1:1-6)*
- *Crossing the Jordan River (c. 3).*
 - *NOTE: This is the same place the first generation of Israelites had been 40 years earlier when they refused to go in (Numbers 14).*
 - *So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing... The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground. (vv. 14-17)*
- *Building a memorial (c. 4).*
 - *While the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant continued stand-*

ing in the middle of the Jordan River a man from each of the 12 tribes took a large stone from the riverbed and used them to build a memorial on the bank so that future generations would know what God did that day.

- Only after the memorial was built did the priests come out of the riverbed and the water returned to its place.
- The Covenant is renewed at Gilgal (c. 5).
- Overcoming the Land. (Chapters 6-12).
 - The fall of Jericho (5:13-6:27).
 - An angel was sent to Joshua.

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. (5:13-15)
 - God gave Joshua specific, but strange instructions.

"March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." (vv. 3-5)
 - The Israelites followed God's instructions.
 - Jericho fell.
 - Rahab and all her family were spared.
 - Everything was destroyed, but the silver, gold, bronze, and iron was placed in the *treasury of God's house*.
 - The sin of Achan (cc. 7-8).
 - When Israel attempted to conquer Ai they were routed.
 - Joshua prayed and God told him *"Israel has sinned... They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies... I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction"* (vv. 11-12).
 - Achan of the Tribe of Judah confessed after an excruciating trial that involved standing before God as tribes, then clans, then families, then individuals. He had buried a robe, 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold inside his tent.
 - Achan and his family were stoned.
 - The Israelites lured the army of Ai out and then destroyed the city and everyone in it before killing the entire army, as well as the king.
 - Joshua built an altar at Mount Ebal and Israel renewed the Covenant there.
 - The Gibeonites trick the Israelites into a treaty (c. 9).
 - The Amorites are defeated (c. 10).
 - The king of Jerusalem formed an alliance of five Amorite kings and attacked Gibeon.
 - Joshua and the Israelites marched all night and took the Amorites by

surprise. Israel achieved a convincing victory with God intervening in two ways:

- He lengthened the day so the battle could continue.
- He attacked the Amorites with *large hailstones*.
- From there the Israelites conquered the rest of southern cities of Canaan (vv. 28-43).
- The northern cities are defeated (c. 11).
- A list of defeated kings in Canaan - 31 in all (c. 12).
- Occupying the land (Chapters 13-24).
 - God instructed Joshua to allocate the land to the tribes, including land that had yet to be conquered because *I myself will drive them out before the Israelites*. (13:6)
 - The tribes of Reuben and Gad, along with the half tribe of Manasseh were given land *east of the Jordan* according to their agreement with Moses. (13:8-32)
 - The land west of the Jordan was divided by *Eleazar... Joshua... and the heads of the tribal clans... by lot* (14:1-2).
 - The Levites were not given a share of the land as a tribe, but were given cities in each of the other tribal lands. (14:4)
 - Caleb of the tribe of Judah was given Hebron because Moses promised it to him for being the only other spy besides Joshua who kept the faith when the first generation of Israelites refused to enter Canaan.

“So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.’

“Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.” (14:9-12)
 - Judah’s allotment (c. 15).
 - Ephraim and Manasseh’s (Joseph) allotment (cc. 16-17).

The people of Joseph said to Joshua, “Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are a numerous people, and the Lord has blessed us abundantly.”

“If you are so numerous,” Joshua answered, “and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites.”

The people of Joseph replied, “The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have chariots fitted with iron, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel.”

But Joshua said to the tribes of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—“You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment but the forested hill country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have chariots fitted with iron and though they are strong, you can drive them out.” (17:14-18).
 - Benjamin’s allotment (c. 18).
 - Simeon’s allotment (19:1-9).
 - Zebulun’s allotment (19:10-16).
 - Issachar’s allotment (19:17-23).
 - Asher’s allotment (19:24-31).
 - Naphtali’s allotment (19:32-39).

- Dan's allotment (19:40-48).
 - Joshua was given the town of Timnath Serah (19:49-51)
 - Six cities of refuge were established (c. 20).
 - Cities for the Levites, as well as pastureland (c. 21).
 - The tribes of Reuben and Gad, along with the half tribe of Manasseh, were released from their promise to Moses and allowed to claim their land east of the Jordan River (c. 22).
 - Joshua's farewell address (cc. 23-24)
"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (24:14-15)
 - Epilogue (c. 24)
 - *Joshua... died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim... (24:29-30).*
 - *Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel. (24:31)*
 - *Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem... (24:32).*
 - *Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah... (24:33).*
- * By the time Joshua 24:31-33 was added to Joshua's account it is likely Caleb had also died, bringing to an end the entire first generation of Israelites.

**Next Week: Read the Books of Judges and Ruth (25 chapters total
 - read at least 4 chapters a day)**

