

# *Joshua*

## *"Into the Promised Land"*

### Background Information

The name "Joshua" means "Jehovah saves," or "The Lord is salvation." It is the Hebrew equivalent of \_\_\_\_\_.

Author: Probably Joshua himself, though the author is not named. Some suggest another person penned the final section, dealing with Joshua's death.

In Deuteronomy 34, Moses passed leadership to Joshua, who had already proven himself a great man. That continues to be true throughout this book.

### Time Covered and Outlines

The major event of the book of Joshua is the conquest of the Promised Land, which covers about 20 years. Joshua dies at the end of the book at the age of 110.

#### Outline of Joshua

- I. Entering the Promised Land (1-5)
- II. Conquering the Promised Land (6-12)
  - A. Central campaign (6-8)
  - B. Southern campaign (9-10)
  - C. Northern campaign (11:1-15)
  - D. Summary (11:16-12:24)
- III. Distributing the Promised Land (13-22)
- IV. How to Remain in the Promised Land (23:1-24:28)
- V. Joshua's Death (24:29-33)

#### *Well-Known Stories in Joshua*

Rahab and the spies (Joshua 2)  
The fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)  
Achan (Joshua 7)  
The Gibeonite trickery (Joshua 9)  
The sun stops (Joshua 10)  
Caleb gets his reward (Joshua 14-15)  
"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

### Major Themes

"A key feature [in Joshua] is God's faithfulness to fulfill His promise of giving the land to Abraham's descendants (Gen. 12:7; 15:18-21; 17:8). By God's leading (cf. 5:14-6:2), they inhabited the territories east and west of the Jordan, and so the word "possess" appears nearly 20 times" (John MacArthur).

God's faithfulness

God's order

Faithful leadership

## God's Character in Joshua

Providence (7:14; 21:45)

Wrathful (10:25; 23:16)

Faithful (22:4; 23:14)

Jealous (24:19)

Holy (24:19)

Caring (cities of Refuge)

## Jesus in Joshua

There is no direct prophecy of Jesus in the book, but the name Joshua, as well as much of his character, shines forth as an example of Christ.

There may be some connection (at least in principle) between Rahab's scarlet cord and the blood of Jesus.

The Cities of Refuge serve as a type of the Church over which Christ rules.

## Key Words in Joshua

"Inheritance" (Hebrew *nachalah*) 13:14; 13:33; 14:3; 17:4; 19:1; 19:9; 19:49; 21:3; 24:32

"Rest" (Hebrew *shaqat*), literally, "to be at peace." 1:13; 3:13; 10:20; 13:27; 17:2; 21:44; 22:4; 23:1

## Elsewhere in the World...

As the Israelites grow into a world power in the Promised Land, the Egyptians rebuild their nation under the famous Pharaoh, Amenhotep III, who is a king of peace.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

Joshua stands alone in Scripture, beginning where Deuteronomy ends and leading exactly to the beginning of Judges.