

**“Joshua – an Overview”**

***FAST FACTS***

1. Does not identify who writer is, but it does state: *Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. Josh 24:26*
2. Does not say *when* it was written, but 6:25 states that *“Rahab dwells in Israel to this day”* – so it would seem within a generation of when the events took place.
3. Date of events: probably from 1405 to 1380 BC (see general timeline)
  - a. Some scholars suggest that the events took place between 1250-1150 BC, due to evidence of destruction of Canaanite cities during that time,.
  - b. **PROBLEM** – The Israelites only burned three cities: Jericho, Ai, Hazor, the remainder they were to live in.
  - c. May of these cities may have been destroyed later during the time of the Judges.
4. From the tribe of Ehpraim
5. Joshua’s given name was Hoshea, which means “saves”, and Moses changed it to Joshua, which means “God saves”
6. First mentioned in bible in Ex 17, given the task by Moses to go to battle against Amalek.
7. Joshua was 85 years old when he assumed the leadership role (Judges 2 tells us he died at 110, dated at 1380 - 25 years after the crossed the Jordan!)

***Highlights of Book***

8. Three parts:
  - a. Crossing and conquest (ch 1-11)
  - b. Allotment of land (ch 12-22)
  - c. Close of Joshua’s leadership (ch 23-24)
9. Jericho – walls came down
10. Rahab – the prostitute of faith
11. Several miracles:
  - a. Drying up of the Jordan for Israel to cross
  - b. The appearance of Jesus Christ – Christophany – prior to the battle of Jericho
  - c. The walls of Jericho thrown down by God
  - d. The Sun stood still for a day in the battle with Adoni-Zedek

## **Key Verses**

### **Josh 1:9**

*Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

### **Josh 3:5**

*"Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

### **Josh 11:15**

*As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.*

### **Josh 21:45**

*Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.*

### **Josh 24:14-15**

*... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

## **Object lessons**

1. Wherever God calls you – HE will go before you to accomplish it
  - a. God asks for us to OBEY – and TRUST – and ACT
2. God calls us to OBEDIENCE
  - a. Joshua obeyed *immediately, completely, and without grumbling!*
3. God calls His people to HOLINESS – to be distinctive from all others
  - a. Joshua commended the people “sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you”
  - b. God commanded the men to be circumcised.
4. Sin will find you out (Ai)
  - a. When Achan disobeyed God, it affected the whole nation, and the sin had to be dealt with FIRST
5. God can and will do the MIRACULOUS – but we cannot sit on the side of the river and say “let us know when you got it all done God!”
6. There is a time to pray and sanctify ourselves, and there is a time to go to battle!
7. We TEACH the next generation
  - a. After the death of Joshua, and the generation that came into the land, the very next generation strayed....

### **Judg 2:10-13**

*10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.*

*11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.*

### **Joshua and Jesus**

**1. The original name of Joshua was Hosea ("saves"), and Moses changed it into Joshua ("God saves"),**

- a. **and it was significant of the services he was to render, and typified those of a greater Savior, Jesus (Heb.1:8, Num.13:8).**
- b. **Jesus did the same with Peter, from Simon (soft), into Peter (rock), *And I tell you that you are Peter (Rock), and on this rock I will build my church,* (Mat.16:16).**

***Matt 1:21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

**2. Both are leaders of Israel:**

- a. **Joshua: *"(Moses) You shall not enter it, either. But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it."* (Deut. 1:37-38).**
- b. **Jesus: *"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."* (Matt. 2:6)**

**3. Both were appointed by God**

- a. **Joshua: *"the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them Josh 1:1-2***
- b. **Jesus: *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."* Matt 1:21**

**4. Both appointed twelve:**

- a. **Joshua appointed twelve men, one from each tribe, *"So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites."* (Joshua 4:4).**
- b. **Jesus: *These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas,***

*James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him." (Mark 3:16-19)*

5. Both bring the faithful into the promised land
6. Both lead God's people in righteous battle:
  - a. Joshua into the promised land
  - b. Jesus at the end of the age – returning with the armies of God from heaven

*Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

### ***Fully Vested?***

#### ***Josh 1:4***

*4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory*

1. As we wind through this book, and in the first chapter of Judges, we will find that Israel never fully possessed all of the land that God gave them.
  - a. In fact – to this day they have never inhabited the full area that God gave to them
  - b. (of course – any talk of this could start WW3 in the Mideast!)
  - c. Complete possession of the land is a future event
2. But as usual, the study of Israel is a lesson that we should apply to our lives...
  - a. Do we possess all of our possession?
  - b. According to Ephesians, we have been given, in Christ, ALL that pertains to life and Godliness – do we possess all of it?
    - i. blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, E
    - ii. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
    - iii. that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
    - iv. having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,
    - v. redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins
    - vi. riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence
    - vii. obtained an inheritance,

- viii. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed,
  - ix. you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
  - x. who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- c. I wonder how many live far below our privileges...
  - d. Simply because we have not risen up in faith to possess all that god has for us!