

## The Historical Books

### IV. The Conquest Stage (Joshua)

- Joshua covers a period of about 25 years
- The main characters are Joshua, Caleb, and Rahab
- Joshua means God's salvation
- Joshua has 24 chapters, 658 verses and 18,858 words
- The book of Joshua is about Israel's entry into, and settlement of the promised land
- The book of Joshua is referred to in Psalms 44:2;78:54, Habakkuk 3:11-13; Acts 7:45; 13:19, Hebrews 11:30-31 and James 2:25
- Joshua is about a land and a people
  - The land is an inheritance from God waiting to be occupied
  - The people must overcome the obstacles of war, greed and fear to lay hold on the promises of God -
- Joshua shows the end of Israel as a nation in wandering, and the beginning of Israel as a nation in settlement
- In Genesis God gave Abraham, Isaac and Jacob a promise of the land of Canaan
- In Exodus He delivered His people from bondage in Egypt and led them on their way to the promised land
- In Leviticus He gave them laws to live by
- Numbers records the journey of Israel through the wilderness
- Deuteronomy records final preparations for entering the land
- Joshua then records the entering into Canaan, the conquest of the land and the division of its territories
- In Exodus God led his people OUT of the land of bondage
- In Joshua God led his people INTO the land of blessing -In Exodus God parted the Red Sea
- In Joshua God parted the Jordan River
- Joshua is the author Jos. 24:26. Also, Compare Lev. 1 : 1 , Num. 1:1 and Jos. 1:1
- The book of Joshua covers about 30 years- from the death of Moses to the death of Joshua
- Joshua was about 40 years younger than Moses and was about 80 when he took command of Israel, and died at the age of 110
- The purpose of the book is two-fold
  - It shows how God's promises were fulfilled in the giving of the land to Israel
  - Second, it shows how Israel failed to fully possess the land Jos. 23:14; 18:3

#### A. Claiming the land Joshua 1-5

##### 1. The Preparations 1:1-9

- Joshua is commended to be courageous

##### 2. Two spies sent 2:1-24

- hid by Rahab
- Rahab is spared the coming judgment

##### 3. The passage across the Jordan River 3:1-17

- Unlike at the Red Sea, the waters were divided as the stepped into the river (step by step, the life of Faith)

##### 4. Memorials made 4:1-24

- Two, made of twelve stones each

##### 5. Purification of the people 5:2-9

- The men were circumcised

##### 6. The Passover kept at Gilgal 5:10

##### 7. The manna ceases and they eat of the fruit of the land 5:11-12

##### 8. Joshua is visited by the Captain of the Lord's host 5:13-15

- Told to take off his shoes
- Joshua fell on his face and worshipped

## B. Conquering the land Joshua 6-11 Central Campaign Jos. 6-8

1. Joshua first takes the central cities of Jericho and Ai, driving a wedge between the north and the south
2. Jericho is taken
  - Rahab and her family were spared by the scarlet thread being placed out the window
3. Ai Jos. 7:1-829
  - Defeated at the first try
  - 36 men die
  - Sin in the camp
  - Achan stole what was God's
  - It affected the nation
  - Achan and his family is killed
  - God gives them the victory the second time 8:1-29
4. The law is written on the stones of the altar that Joshua built 8:30-35 5,  
The law is read to the congregation 8:30-35

### Southern Campaign Jos. 9-10

1. Gibeon 9+27
  - Joshua is deceived by his feelings and emotions
2. The sun stands still in the valley of Ajalon 10:12-13
3. Five kings defeated 10:10, 28-43

### Northern Campaign Jos. 11-12

1. Hazor defeated II 11-14
2. Anakims cut off II :21-23
3. 31 kings listed that Joshua destroyed 12:1-24

## C. Dividing and Possessing the land Jos. 13-24

1. The land divided among the 12 tribes Jos. 13-19
  - Caleb asks for a mountain 14:7-12
  - Tabernacle is set up at Shiloh 18:1
  - Joshua gets his land last Jos. 19:49 (great illustration of a Christian Minister) 2.
2. Cities of refuge appointed Jos. 20
3. Cities given to the Levites Jos. 21
4. The two and a half tribes take land on the east side Jordan Jos. 22
5. Joshua's farewell address and death Jos. 23-24
  - A great tribute to Joshua- "And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua" Jos. 24:1

## V. The Judges Stage Judges. Ruth. I Samuel 1-7

Judges -Begins after the death of Joshua

-Judges has 21 chapters, 618 verses and 18,976 words

-Samuel is believed by many to be the author of Judges

-A book of defeat and disgrace

-The key verse is 17:6 those days there was no king in Israel. but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

-Self-will rules the day in the book of Judges

-The purpose of the book is two-fold; continue the history of Israel and show what happens when man does that which is right in his own eyes

-Evil is mentioned 14 times; judge, judged and judgment used 22 times -

An outline of the book could be:

Sin

Servitude

Supplication

Salvation

Only to return to sin again

-Judges is a book of incomplete victory

-Judges covers 300-350 years

-Judges shows us what man can do if he lives in the flesh

#### A. Four main Truths we see in Judges

1. Disobedience to God brings oppression and bondage

2. A strong individual is needed to guide a people in the right way -to lead

3. God responds in deliverance to the repentance and prayers of His oppressed people

4. The majority is usually wrong

-See the contrast between Joshua and Judges

Joshua

Judges

-victory

-defeat

-freedom

-bondage

-faith

-unbelief

-progress

-losing ground

-obedience

-disobedience

-heavenly vision

-earthly emphasis

-joy

-sorrow

-strength

-weakness

-unity among tribes

-disunity among tribes

-strong leader

-no leader for much of the book

#### B. The Judges

Othniel 3:7-11

a. Oppressing nation- Mesopotamia

b. 4 years of oppression

c. 40 years of peace

d. Othniel was of the tribe of Judah

e. Othniel was the son-in-law of Caleb

f. He won his wife by taking a city

2. Ehud 3:12-30

a. Oppressing nation- Moab

b. 18 years of oppression

c. 80 years of peace

d. Ehud was a left-handed Benjamite

e. He killed Eglon with a double-edged dagger

3. Shamgar 3:31

a. Oppressing nation- Philistines

- b. Unrecorded length of oppression and years of peace
  - c. His tribe is not mentioned
  - d. He killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad
4. Deborah (Barak) Ch. 4-5
- a. Oppressing nation- Canaanites
  - b. 20 years of oppression
  - c. 40 years of peace
  - d. Barak leads 10,000 men to battle against Sisera, who is killed by Jael
  - e. Barak is mentioned in Hebrews 11
- 5. Gideon ~~6:1-8~~
- a. Oppressing nation- Midianites
  - b. 7 years of oppression
  - c. 40 years of peace
  - d. Gideon is called while threshing wheat in secret
  - g. Gideon confirms God's call with a fleece (two times)
  - f. He starts with 32,000 men
  - g. 22,000 return home for fear
  - 9 h. —Hail the test and he's left with 300 men
  - i. He goes to battle with 450 to 1 odds against him- they defeated an army of 135,000
  - j. They go to battle with a trumpet (for testimony), a pitcher (earthen vessel of self being broken) and a torch (picture of the Holy Spirit) and a shout (The sword of the Lord and of Gideon) b. Gideon is mentioned in Hebrews 11
6. Tola 10:1-2
- a. Oppressing nation and length of oppression unrecorded
  - D. 23 years of peace 7. Jair 10:3-5
  - a. Oppressing nation and length of oppression unrecorded
  - b. 22 years of peace
  - c. Jair and his 30 sons delivered 30 cities from oppression
8. Jephthah ~~10:6-~~
- a. Oppressing nation- Ammon and Philistines
  - b. 18 years of oppression
  - c. 6 years of peace
  - d. Was the son a harlot, and rejected by his brethren
  - e. He made a foolish vow- promised if God gave him to victory to sacrifice the first thing that came out of his house when he got home
  - f. Jephthah is mentioned in Hebrews 11
9. Ibzan 12:8-10
- a. Oppressing nation and length of oppression unrecorded
  - b. 7 years of victory
10. Elon 12:11-12
- a. Oppressing nation and length of oppression unrecorded
  - b. 10 years of peace
11. Abdon 12:13-15
- a. Oppressing nation and length of oppression unrecorded
  - h. 8 years of peace

## 12. Samson ch. 13-16

- a. Oppressing nation- Philistines
  - T. 40 years of oppression
  - c. 20 years of Samson as judge, but not peace- he never delivered Israel out of the hands of the Philistines
  - d. His birth was foretold by an angel
  - e. His mode of training was told to his parents
  - f. He was given the vow of a Nazarite
  - Q. The Spirit of the Lord moved him
  - h. He carried away the gates of the city
  - i. He kills 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass
  - j. He gave in to temptation concerning women
  - k. He violated the vow of a Nazarite that he had on him by eating the honey out of the dead body of the lion
  - l. He tells the secret of his strength to Delilah and has his head shaved and eyes plucked out
  - m. He lost the presence of God
- Samson is mentioned in Hebrews 11

## C. Ruth

- Has 4 chapters, 85 verses and 2,578 words
- Is set in the days of the Judges
- One of two books named after women
- Ruth 1:1- "Now it came to pass in the days"
  - This phrase is used 3 other times in the Bible; Gen. 14:1, Esther 1:1 and Isaiah 7:1
  - Each time it speaks of impending trouble, followed by deliverance and a happy ending
- This book shows us that despite apostasy in a nation there were individuals that were living godly lives!
  - God has never left himself without a witness
  - God has always had loyal children, living by faith, uncompromising! - The theme is Redemption
- There are six main characters- 3 wealthy men and 3 poor widows
  - Elimelech- Forsook God's place and God's people when the famine came. He joined himself to the heathen and died
  - The nearest kinsman- no name given- He is the self centered man, rich, but not toward God, caring only for his own inheritance. He was able in fact, but selfishness made him unable in practice