

6. Joshua

- 1) Writer: Uncertain. Most likely Joshua*, but it was written after most of the events had transpired because of the repeated usage of the expression “unto this day” (13 times); however, it was written relatively close in time because Rahab (the harlot from Jericho) was still alive when it was written. (See Joshua 6:25 *Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive ... and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day*) *The last four verses describe the events immediately after Joshua’s death (Joshua 24:29-33)
- 2) Time Period: Starting after the nation has mourned 30 days for the death of Moses, while still on the far (east) side of Jordan, through the conquering of large portions of Canaan until the deaths of Joshua and Eleazar.
- 3) Key Figures: Joshua – Prophet leader of nation of Israel after Moses. Eleazar – High Priest, son of Aaron.
- 4) Theme: Be Strong and of Good Courage!
- 5) Key Verses: *Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.* Joshua 1:6-9

6) Significant Events by Chapter:

Chapter 1 – After Moses’s death, God speaks to Joshua and instructs him to enter the promised land and gives general description of the boundaries the wilderness (the south coming from Egypt), Lebanon (region to the north) as far north as the river Euphrates (This wasn’t accomplished till Solomon’s reign. See 1 Kings 4:24- Tiphsah is city on the Euphrates about 300 Miles North of Jerusalem) and the Great Sea to the west (Mediterranean Sea). The Lord commands him to be Strong and Courageous to observe the whole law. Joshua reminds the tribes of Rueben, Gad and ½ of Manasseh of their oath to cross over Jordan to help their brothers conquer the land.

Chapter 2 – Joshua sends two spies into the city of Jericho, which is very close to the river Jordan. Rahab, a local harlot, hid the two spies in her home on the wall of Jericho in exchange for the sparing of the lives of her and her family for she knew that the Lord had given the land into Israel’s hand.

Chapter 3 – The camp advances from Shittim to the banks of Jordan and God instructs Joshua to send priests bearing the ark to the brink of the river Jordan. As soon as the priests’ feet were dipped in the water, God cuts off the water flow far north on river causing the waters to stand in a heap (a dam without a physical barrier) and all the downstream waters flowing to the Salt Sea (Dead Sea) failed. At a time when the river was a flood stage, the children of Israel were given entry to the promised land by crossing on dry land.

Chapter 4 – After the people had crossed, twelve stones were lifted out of the now dry riverbed to be carried to their lodging place that night (Gil-gal - just to the east of Jericho) where they would be set up as a memorial of what God had done that day so *all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD that it is mighty* and that Israel would fear the LORD. The Lord magnified Joshua that day so the people feared him like they had feared Moses. As soon as the priests came out of the river, the river returned to its flood-stage flowing.

Chapter 5 – The hearts of the Kings of the Amorites and of the Canaanites ‘melted’ when they heard that the river Jordan dried up to allow Israel passage. God instructs Joshua to have all the men born during the 40 years of wandering to be circumcised at Gil-gal where they camped until they were

healed and kept the Passover four days after crossing. Once they ate of the corn of the land, the daily provision of manna stopped. The Captain of the Lord's host appears to Joshua.

Chapter 6 – At God's command, Israel marches around Jericho once a day, silently except for the seven priests blowing rams horns as they go. On the seventh day, they march seven times and then on command all the company shouts and the walls of Jericho fall. Jericho and everything in it is cursed and all the inhabitants are to be killed except for Rahab and her family. Joshua prohibits the people from taking any spoil of the city as it is all cursed, except the precious metals (gold, silver, iron and brass) that would be put into the treasury of the Lord. The city is completely burned and Joshua declares that anyone who tries to rebuild the cursed city will suffer the loss of both his oldest and youngest son. (See the fulfillment in 1 Kings 16:34)

Chapter 7 – After such a tremendous lopsided victory, Israel only sends a few thousand men to defeat the little city of Ai, but they were soundly defeated and fled from Ai. It is discovered that an Israelite name Achan (of the house of Judah) had disobeyed God's command and had taken spoils from Jericho and had hidden them in the ground under his tent, including some items that were reserved for the house of the Lord (so he also stole from God). Because of Achan's trespass, the whole assembly was cursed and could not stand before their enemies. Achan, his family, the stolen spoils, and all his goods were first stoned and then burned to destroy the accursed thing.

Chapter 8 – Joshua divides his forces and secretly sends a large band to encamp behind the city of Ai. When Joshua's main force feigns a second hasty retreat, the men of Ai all rush out to chase them off leaving the city open and unguarded. The hidden band quickly enters the city and sets it afire and the fleeing main forces turn and destroy their pursuers. Joshua builds an alter and writes copy of the law on it in plaster (As commanded in Deuteronomy 27). The people were divided half on Mount Ebal and half on Mount Gerizim and all the words of the law, and the blessings and cursings, were read in the ears of all the people.

Chapter 9 – Gibeon, a strong royal city of the Hivites (one of the seven nations) is so fearful of Israel and its God that they make a pretense of having travelled on a long journey in hopes that Israel will make a league or peace with them. The Princes of Israel examined the old bread, clothing, and wine bottles and without consulting the Lord, assumed the Gibeonites are telling the truth and agreed to make a truce with them. Three days later, it was discovered that they are indeed one of the seven nations with whom they were commanded to make no peace and for their word's sake, they could not destroy them, but the Gibeonites became the servants unto the children of Israel (See Deuteronomy 7)

Chapter 10 – Five kings of the Amorites joined forces to attacked Gibeon for joining with the invaders. Upon receiving Gibeon's pleas for aid, Joshua and the host of Israel ascended up quickly to Gibeon from Gilgal by night. The Lord gave the battle to Israel who quickly were pursuing the fleeing Amorites, who God was destroying in their flight with hail stones and killed more than Israel did with a sword. At Joshua's word, God caused the Sun and Moon to stand still for about a whole day so they could keep fighting. The five kings hid in a cave in Makkedah so Joshua sealed the cave with stones and continued pursuing the rest of the hosts of the Amorites and later return to slay the kings and hang them upon a tree until night fall. Joshua then utterly destroys leaving none alive as he was commanded eight cities that were all to the south in what would be Judah's territory.

Chapter 11 – Kings in the north gather together to battle Israel at the Waters of Merom and were soundly defeated. Joshua leads the nation in fighting a long time as the Lord continued to hardened the hearts of the kings to battle Israel that they might be destroyed. All the children of the Anakims (who were giants) will killed except for some who still lived in Gaza, Gath (home of Goliath), and Ashdod. The land finally rested from war.

Chapter 12 – An accounting of all the kings conquered: 2 of the far (east) side of Jordan (Og and Sihon) and 31 on this (west) side of Jordan, who are identified by their cities.

Chapter 13 – Joshua is now old, but there remained large portions of the promised land that still needed to be conquered. The boundaries are described of these unconquered lands. The Lord commands Joshua to divide the land among the nine and ½ remaining tribes. The Levites are excluded because they are to receive no portion, and the tribes Reuben, Gad, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh are also

excluded because they had already received their portions on the far side of Jordan. The chapter ends with a brief history of how the 2 ½ tribes received their portions and short descriptions of them. Chapter 14 – The remaining land is to be divided by lot (or chance) between the 9 ½ tribes. Caleb, now 85 years old (after 40 years of wandering plus 5 years of warfare) asks for the unconquered city of the Anakims- Abrah (later renamed Hebron) to be his possession and with the Lord he conquered it and the land had rest from war. (This is same city where the family cemetery of Abraham was located called Machpelah, where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob were all buried). Sometimes it is referred to a Kirjath-Arba: Kirjath just means “City”.

Chapter 15 – The large portion to the south is described for Judah. A description of the geographic boundaries of Judah's land with a special note about Caleb's inheritance at Hebron and his offer of his daughter's hand in marriage to anyone who could conquer the city of Debir (formerly called Sepher). His nephew Othiel completes his challenge. An accounting of all the cities in the Judah's land.

Chapter 16 – A large portion to the north is described for Joseph (Manasseh and Ephraim) with a description of the boarders of Ephraim. Ephraim's failure to drive out the Canaanites in Gezer is noted.

Chapter 17 – The boarders of Manasseh (firstborn of Joseph). An inheritance is given to the daughters of Zelophehad, who had no sons. Manasseh's failure to drive out certain Canaanites and their request for more than one portion of land are also noted.

Chapter 18 – The host gathers at Shiloh and sets up the tabernacle. Seven tribes still remain who still hadn't received their inheritance and Joshua chastens them for their slackness. Three men from each of the seven tribe were sent to go and describe the remaining land of the inheritance so it could be divided into seven lots. Upon receiving their descriptions in a book, Joshua cast lots and divided up the land. The first lot went to Benjamin. His boundaries and 14 cities are recited.

Chapter 19 – The second lot went to Simon, whose lot of 13 cities was within the lot of Judah because Judah was too large for their number. The third lot went to Zebulun with their boarders and 12 cities. Fourth to Issachar with his boarders and 16 cities. Fifth to Asher with his boarders and 22 cities. Sixth to Naphtali with his boarders and 19 cities. Finally, Dan with his boarders, which they thought were too small so they went and took Leshem and renamed it Dan (See Judges 18). Joshua given the city of Timnathserah.

Chapter 20 –Three more cities are appointed as cities of refuge: Kadesh (North), Shechem (Central), & Hebron (South). Total of six including the three on the far side of Jordan: Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan.

Chapter 21 - 48 cities are given to Levites in the inheritances of the other tribes of which 13 were for the Priests (Aaron's descendants).

Chapter 22 – Joshua blesses and dismisses Reuben, Gad, and 1/2 of Manasseh to return to their inheritance on the far side of Jordan. As they left, they built a great altar beside Jordan, which causes a dust up over their intentions and raises concerns they will sacrifice outside the tabernacle in Shiloh so Israel gathers to go to war against them. The 2 ½ tribes explain that they feared their descendants would be considered outsiders and wanted this alter only as a memorial of the bond between the tribes on both sides of the river.

Chapter 23-24 – Many years after the Lord gave them rest in the land, Joshua now very old and feeble, exhorts all of Israel to cleave unto God and keep his commandments. Admonishes them to choose who they would serve God or Idols and all the people swear twice to follow the LORD. Joshua wrote a copy of the law and set up a great stone in Shechem as memorial of their oath. Joshua and Eleazar both die and are buried. Joseph's bones, which had been brought from Egypt, are buried in Shechem.

7) How does this book point to Jesus the Christ?

- a) Joshua is a type of Jesus. His name is the compound of two Hebrew words (Strong 3068 and 3467) meaning “Jehovah-Saved.” Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew word Joshua.
- b) Joshua Chapter 5: Jesus appears to Joshua as the Commander of the Lords Host, who instructs Joshua to remove his shoes for he is on hallowed ground (mirrors Moses and Burning

Bush) and Joshua is permitted to worship him (Angels aren't to be worshiped See Rev. 22:8-9 and Colossian 2:18)

