

# Joshua 1 - 24

David Rountree

## What is in a Name?

1. The book of Joshua is named after its author (24:26). Though it is clear Joshua wrote the sources for the book, it may not have been compiled in its final form until after his death (cf. 24:29-33).
2. Joshua means "*Yahweh saves.*" The book of Joshua completes the salvation story begun in Exodus. Complete redemption multiple parts: 1) being brought out (i.e. out of Egypt/old life) and 2) being brought in (i.e. into the Promise land/new life).
3. Joshua was the leader of God's people during the conquest of Canaan — a courageous, enthusiastic, faithful leader (cf. Num. 14:6-10).

## Historical Overview of The Old Testament

Gen. — Deut. (Pentateuch) → Emerging Israel

Josh. — Ruth → Tribal Israel, Conquest and Judges Era

1Sam. — 2Chron. → Kingdom Israel

Ezek. — Dan. → Exilic Israel

Ezra — Esther → Returned Israel

## Purpose and Outline of Joshua

1. Purpose: To establish Israel in the land God promised (cf. Gen. 12:1; Exod. 3:8; 34:11; Josh. 3:10). The land was full of Amorites but God had promised to deal with them (cf. Gen. 15:16). God did just what he said (Josh. 24:8). Note God's working principle on who gets what land on the earth (Jer. 27:5). Thus, Israel had to be faithful to keep God's land gift. Faithfulness to God always matters.
2. Outline: ***Conquering the land (1-12)***
  - 1-5 Entering the land
  - 6-8 Conquering Jericho (the central part)
  - 9-10 Conquering the Southern part
  - 11-12 Conquering the Northern part***Consigning the Land (13-22)***  
***Counsel:*** The last words of Joshua (***23-24***)

## Conquering the Land (1-12)

1. The procedure for claiming God's promise (chpt.1):
  - a. Get up (v.1, 2)
  - b. Get going (v.3)
  - c. Know your goal (v.4)
  - d. Proceed with a God-blessed confidence (v.5; Exod. 3:12)
  - e. Be strong and courageous (v.6, 7, 9)
  - f. Be equipped (v.8)
  - g. Be Obedient (v.10, 11)
  - h. Willingly submit to your leader. (v.16)
  - i. Be holy. (3:5; 1 John 3:3)

2. Conquering Jericho (6-8): Preparation was made through worship, observing the sacraments of circumcision and the Passover, and by receiving God's favor (5:8-12). The Jericho walls were destroyed at God's command to march 7 days (13 times total) around the city (6:1-5). Obedience works even when at first it may appear foolish (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17-29).
3. Conquering the South and North (9-12): Joshua cuts through the mid-section of the Promised Land from Jericho to the Mediterranean Sea. This divides the land. He then proceeds to conquer the south then the north, an approximate 7 years process to complete. They faced a defeat at Ai because of disobedience (7:11-12). One man affects the whole church community (7:20-25).

### **Consigning the Land (13-22)**

By casting lots each of the 12 tribes of Israel were awarded land. All the major kings had been destroyed so that the territory could now be subdued according to each tribe's part. Each tribe maintained a loose federation with the other tribes. Consider the faith of Caleb (14:8).

### **The Final Counsel of Joshua (23-24)**

1. Notice the "I" as referring to God (24:2-13).
2. A Summary of Joshua's counsel (24:14, 15). The response: 24:16-18.

### **Application: 5 big themes:**

1. **Salvation:** Praise God he reveals his plan to provide us with salvation through the meaning of the name Joshua and through the meaning of the name Jesus. God alone is the one who will save his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).
2. **Sin:** Recognize the war with the power of sin that indwells us. The reason many people were removed from the Promised Land is because of their own wickedness. The reason Israel lost a battle at Ai was because of their sin. God still hates sin. He does not tolerate it. We cannot be in a favorable relationship with God and be enjoying sin at the same time.
3. **Grace:** Understand God desires to give the people who truly trust him and depend upon him a blessing. To such people he will provide great abundance. Our gratitude and unreserved devotion and obedience to God are always appropriate.
4. **Sovereignty:** Recognize the futility of praying for an easier life or different situations. God rarely seems interested in removing us from the battlefield on earth. Our need is not for easier tasks. Our need is for the strength and courage of a Joshua to perform the tasks of conquering all God has given us. Our ability to conquer will be proportionate to our surrender to God's lordship.
5. **God is with us:** Realize our security is always found in the presence of God. As long as God is with us we need never fear destruction or defeat.