

## Joshua Chapter 1

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**Introduction:** Joshua is a book of war and conquest, this book communicates real history – inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1. Coming in after the “Torah” or “Pentateuch” – the 5 books of the Law.
2. Joshua is the first of what are called the historical books of the Old Testament, also referred to by the Jews as the first of the “prophetic” books of Jewish cannon.

**Time period:** 1,400 BC.

3. Joshua is the first book of the Bible to be named after a person.

**Authorship:** Written by Joshua, the son of Nun.

- Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim (**Numbers 13:8**).
- Joshua was born a slave in Egypt, his parents named him “Oshea” which means “Salvation”, which is a testimony to their faith.
- **1 Chronicles 7:27**, Joshua was their first born son, meaning his life was spared by the blood of the Lamb at the first Passover.
- Later (**Numbers 13:16**) Moses changed his name to Jehoshua, Yeshua / Joshua.
- Joshua is the Hebrew equivalent for the Greek name translated “Jesus”; both of which mean Yahweh or Jehovah is salvation – God is salvation.
- Joshua experienced the bondage of Egypt, he saw the terrible plagues, the parting of the Red Sea – he saw it all.
- Joshua is first mentioned at Israel’s first general (**Exodus 17**) fighting against the Amalekites. Joshua was one of the two faithful spies sent out to reconnoiter the promised land, and he was Moses’ minister / servant. Jesus was a servant.

Joshua was a total servant, and so was Jesus:

**Philippians 2:7** “But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;”

- All of these things may have been helpful but his greatest qualification was that he loved the Lord and loved being in his presence.

**Exodus 33:11** “And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.”

**Theme:** Overcoming the enemy in battle, learning to walk in the Spirit.

- This is an account or a picture of leading the children of Israel, the believer into the promised land – which to us is not heaven, but the victorious Christian life here and now in this world.

**Galatians 3:11** “But no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.”

- Whereas neither the Law or Moses could not lead the children of Israel into the promised land, only Joshua could or would be allowed to do that; but even Joshua could only take them so far.
- Joshua led the children of Israel into the promise land and to it's conquest but never into complete rest – only Jesus can do that through His sacrifice.

**Hebrews 10:14-18** No more sacrifice for sin.

- We can only receive that rest and that peace by faith in Jesus.

Please turn to / read:

**1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 11** “<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup>and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup>and did all eat the same spiritual meat; <sup>4</sup>and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” – “<sup>11</sup>Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

1. Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, which is likened to the world, the place of bondage to sin.
2. Moses brought them through the Red Sea as God parted the waters, which is symbolic of water baptism of the believer.
3. Joshua will lead the children of Israel in to the promise land, and he will do it by leading them across or through the Jordan River – which is likened to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, enabling them to live the victorious Christian life and abundant life that God has intended for them.

Jesus said:

**John 10:10** “... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

- As the children of Israel enter into the promise land there will still be battles to be fought, just as there are battles for the Christian who's entered into the promised land – spiritual battles – but in both cases one of which is a model for the other – God's children have been given the power for victory, or the victory has been handed to them.

- When we get to heaven – which is different, there are no more battles to be fought.

**Isaiah 2:4** “And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

- The book of Joshua besides just being a good – not to mention true story really gets things rolling, the pace quickens quite a bit, and it’s a type or picture of things to come for the Christian who’s walking in the spirit.

As Paul prays:

**Ephesians 1:3** “... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing...”

- The leading character of this book is not Joshua, it is his namesake – Jesus!

Jesus told the Pharisees:

**John 5:39** “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.”

**Key Verse: Joshua 1:8-9**

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V: 1 “*Moses the servant of the Lord...*” – the highest title a man can have.

**Psalm 27:4** “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

- Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ minister – Moses’ servant.
- Before we can lead effectively, we need to know how to follow. Joshua was a servant to Moses being prepared for his leadership role for a long time before actually playing that role.
- A servant’s heart is a special blessing from the Lord.
- Later at the end of his life God refers to Joshua the same way.

V: 2 Everyone is facing a new reality and it is time to move on.

- Arise and go over the Jordan, go where Moses couldn’t take you.
- Religious observance, rules, and laws will not make us righteous, will not enable us to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. It is through relationship, through the blood of Jesus.

Jesus said:

**John 3:3** "... verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- It is through a personal relationship that we are enabled to enter into His presence, to enter into heaven.
- In a personal relationship the motive to please is based upon love and devotion, otherwise it is a legal relationship based on fear, or pride, or our attempt at self-righteousness.
- As they cross over the Jordan things are going to be different:
  1. They will no longer see the pillar of fire or the pillar of cloud, they will no longer be fed with manna, or water from the rock.
  2. They will be led by the Spirit of God speaking through Joshua, they will be fed from the land of promise flowing with milk and honey.
  3. God will deal with them in a whole new way.

V: 3-4 You've been given (past tense) the land, every place your foot treads is yours. It has already been given, now it's just a matter of taking it.

- Previously spoken to Moses in **Deuteronomy 11:24** – all in fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- The children of Israel under Joshua never took all this land, under kings David and Solomon at the height of their power they took less than 25% of the land. The Canaanites, Philistines, and all the rest were a constant source of conflict.
- There is always that danger of not laying hold of all that God has for us:

**Hebrews 4:1** "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."

V: 5 This is another way of saying that no man shall be able to oppose you all the days of your life.

- Just as God was with Moses, so shall He be with Joshua.

*"I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."*

Jesus tells us the same thing:

**Matthew 28:20** "... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

V: 6-7 The soon to be repeated exhortation – be strong and of a good courage – God’s promise to Joshua that His presence will go with him.

- Do all the things listed in the law, the 5 books of Moses which is all that they have up to this point. Keep the commandment.
- That you may prosper.

**Psalm 1:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

1. God’s Word is good for us!
2. God’s Word strengthens and prospers us.

V: 8-9 This is what the Psalmist is talking about, meditating day and night – the law not departing out of your mouth – always on our lips.

- The key to success and blessing.
- Be strong, good courage, not afraid or dismayed or discouraged.
- Faith and fear are mutually exclusive:

**1 John 4:18** “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

- The cure for fear and anxiety is the consciousness of the presence of God in our lives.
- We see it over and over again – whenever God says “fear not” – He always gives us the reason why we should fear not – “<sup>5</sup>I will be with thee” – “<sup>9</sup>God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

**Psalm 23: 1-3** “<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. <sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

- God’s presence dispels, casts away all fear – because we are confident in Him, trusting in Him.

V: 10-11 Joshua is obedient and decisive – he “commanded” the people to get ready to move out.

- There’s no vote, no committee to explore the feasibility or possibility – God said it so lets get moving.
- Notice that he says get some “victuals” – food together. Not, let’s build some boats. He’s trusting God to get them over or through the Jordan!

V: 12-15 The Reubenites, Gadites, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh were keeping the land on the East side of the river Jordan – you never hear about the “east bank” it’s always seeming about the “west bank” – God gave them both sides.

- These tribes would leave their families and flocks behind and help the children of Israel conquer the land – that was the deal they made with Moses and now it’s time to honor that agreement.

V: 16-18 These tribes swear allegiance to Joshua to do all that he says.

- There weren’t any conditions save one.

“... only the Lord thy God be with thee, as He was with Moses.”

- As long as you’re walking in the spirit, as long as you’re being obedient to God and walking in His ways.

The Apostle Paul modeled this:

**1 Corinthians 11:1** “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

- They also tell Joshua to be strong and of a good courage.
- God has given him the same word 3 times now, and now the 2 ½ tribes give him the same word – a confirmation of God’s word.
- Finally there was commitment: death to anyone who disobeys!

**Hebrews 10:35-39** <sup>35</sup>Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. <sup>36</sup>For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. <sup>37</sup>For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. <sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”