

# JOSHUA

## CONQUERING THE PROMISED LAND

Ralph Porter  
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### AUTHOR

Jewish tradition credits Joshua with authorship of the book.  
He is identified as the writer of certain parts of the book, such as 24:1-26.  
He was obviously an eyewitness to much of its content.  
Therefore, it seems likely that Joshua was its author.  
A few parts were apparently written after his death.

### DATE

The book begins at Moses' death in 1406 B.C.  
Events cover period of 25-30 years, ending with Joshua's death at 110 years old.  
Thus the dates covered in the book are from about 1406 to 1380 B.C.

### BACKGROUND

Israel completed 40 years of wandering in the wilderness due to unbelief and disobedience.  
They've been camped on the plains of Moab, preparing to enter Canaan and possess the land.  
God called Moses up to Mt. Nebo to die. The great leader is no longer present.  
God appointed a new leader whom Moses had prepared to lead them.  
Joshua is called to lead the people across the Jordan and into the land.

### PURPOSE AND THEME

As the first historical book, Joshua introduces the theme which continues through all of them.

*HISTORICALLY*, Joshua reveals the events God uses to:

Bring Israel into the land,  
Conquer the pagan Canaanites who were residing in the land, and  
Distribute the land to each tribe and family.

*DOCTRINALLY*, Joshua reveals God's character and His relationship to His chosen people.

His holiness                      His love  
His faithfulness                His power and sovereignty

Joshua reveals the character of God's covenant people.

God's choice and love for them is not because of their merit.

They are a rebellious and often a disobedient people.

Israel must learn the importance of submission to God's authority and obedience to His Word.

In summary, Joshua's message is that:

God fulfilled His covenant to His people by establishing them in the land He promised them.

His people fail Him by partial obedience to God's command to eliminate pagan Canaanites.

Disobedience by God's covenant people always results in judgment.

**In spite of God's complete provision of all that His people need, they are unfaithful and He will have to correct them.**

### ORGANIZATION

Joshua is organized around three major stages by which Israel takes possession of the land:

- |      |                          |       |              |
|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| I.   | Entrance into the land   | 1-5   | INVASION     |
| II.  | Conquest of the land     | 6-12  | SUBJECTION   |
| III. | Distribution of the land | 13-24 | DISTRIBUTION |

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## GOD'S PEOPLE CONQUER THE PROMISED LAND

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INVASION OF THE LAND	DOMINATION OF THE LAND	DISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND
1-5	6-12	13-24
<b>Preparing for battle</b>	<b>Conquest of central Canaan</b>	<b>Territory assigned for permanent inheritance</b>
1-2	6-8	13-21
Joshua commissioned	Defeat of Jericho	Command to divide land
1:1-9	6	13:1-7
Death of Moses	Sin of Achan	Division of eastern territory
1:1-2a	7	13:8-33
Command to conquer	Destruction of Ai	Division of western territory
1:2b-4	8:1-29	14-19
Promise of God's presence	Reminder of the covenant	Cities of refuge established
1:5	8:30-35	20
Call to courage		Cities for Levites designated
1:6-9		21:1-42
People prepared	<b>Conquest of southern Canaan</b>	Fulfillment of covenant land promise summarized
1:10-18	9-10	21:43-45
Officers organized	Deception by Gibeon	
1:10-11	9	<b>Border dispute concerning altar</b>
Transjordanites reminded	Defeat of southern confederation	22
1:12-15	10	Permission given for eastern tribes to return home
Obedience promised	Southern alliance against Gibeon	22:1-9
1:16-18	10:1-8	Accusation made for construction of the altar
	Nature's alliance against southern alliance	22:10-20
Land surveyed	10:9-21	Explanation given concerning altar as a witness
2	10:22-28	22:21-29
Spies sent to Jericho	Death of five kings	Explanation accepted with praise to God
2:1-3	10:29-43	22:30-34
Spies hidden by Rahab		
2:4-21	<b>Conquest of northern Canaan</b>	
Spies encouraged by results	11:1-15	<b>Final challenge by Joshua</b>
2:22-24		23:1-24:28
<b>Crossing the Jordan</b>	<b>Summary of conquest</b>	Warning to be faithful to the covenant
3:1-5:1	11:16-12:24	23
	Territory conquered	Reminder of God's faithfulness to the covenant
<b>Circumcising God's people</b>	11:16-23	24:1-13
5:2-12	Kings defeated	Reconfirmation of relationship under the covenant
	12	24:14-28
<b>Meeting God's commander</b>		<b>Three burials in Canaan</b>
5:13-15		24:29-33