

B344 The Book of Joshua – Study Review

Purpose, Theme, and Key Word

1. The book of Joshua deals with the conquering, possessing, and the division/allotment of the promised land.
2. The book of Joshua is designed to show God's faithfulness to His promises as found in Genesis 15:18 with Joshua 1:2-6 and 21:43-45.
3. Ownership of the land depended on God's faithfulness and occupation of the land depended on Israel's faithfulness
4. The word “inherit” become a New Testament term for the enjoyment of the spiritual blessings.
5. Rahab's scarlet cord portrays salvation through the blood and death of Christ.
6. Rahab helped the two spies escape by hiding them on the top of her roof under piles of flax plants.

Overview

1. The Book of Joshua is filled with war, conquest, and destruction.
2. Joshua means "Yahweh delivered."
3. Joshua was a military leader, a political leader, and a spiritual leader.
4. Joshua was Moses' general, who led the troops in the actual fighting while Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands (Exodus 17:8-13).
5. Joshua communicated the Lord's will and the Lord's message.
6. Joshua was God's chosen leader during the conquest, the distribution, and settlement of Canaan.
7. It was Joshua not Moses who led the people into the promised land.
8. Joshua was born in Egypt during the period of slavery.
9. He was a member of the tribe of Ephraim.
10. Joshua first appeared during the battle with the Amalekites during the desert travels.
11. Israel inherited the land of Canaan by Joshua, Eleazar, heads of the fathers of the tribes.
12. According to 1 Corinthians 10:11, events of the Exodus, the wilderness wandering, and the conquest of Canaan are highly typical.
13. One element in the explanation for the holy wars of Joshua was the Judgment on sin.
14. Joshua's prayer for the standing still of the sun and moon on Gibeon can be found as recorded in Joshua 10:12-15.
15. Joshua is a type of Christ as our conquering commander.
16. The crossing of the Jordan is a type of our death with Christ experientially, as the crossing of the Red Sea is a type of our positional death in Christ.
17. The Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and others like them may typify our spiritual enemies (Ephesians 6:12).

18. The Gibeonites were noted to be the "hewers of wood and drawers of water."
19. King Og was from the remnant of the giants.
20. There are only several facts that suggest Joshua wrote the book.
21. The book apparently favors the Samaritans by its references to Shechem in Joshua 24:1, 32.
22. Joshua's equivalent in the New Testament is Jesus.
23. Joshua and Caleb were the two spies of the twelve sent that returned with a good report on the promise land.
24. Joshua led in the covenant renewal at mount Ebal and Shechem.
25. Rahab, the Canaanite prostitute along with her family, were accepted as a part of the covenant community.
26. All of the spoils of battle belonged only to God.
27. The Hebrew people saw paganism as poison.
28. It was Achsah, the daughter of Caleb, who asked her dad for an inheritance.
29. One element in the explanation for the holy wars of Joshua is judgment on sin.
30. The Israelite conquest came at a time when Egyptian control of Canaan was not at its greatest strength.
31. After Joshua passed from Makkedah with all Israel with him, he fought the city of Libnah.
32. Joshua fought the Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron, Debir, cities as part of the conquest for the Southland.
33. The conquest of Canaan occurred about 1400-1350 B.C.
34. Shortly after 1500 B.C., Egypt subdued Canaan.
35. From about 1400 B.C. onward, Egyptian control of Canaan weakened, opening the land up for possible invasion by an outside force.
36. Joshua's farewell address and death are found in Joshua Chapters 23 and 24.

Joshua's Strategy

1. Joshua's invasion of Canaan lasted for three days.
2. At the close of the wilderness wanderings the Israelites arrived on the plains of Moab in the Transjordan.
3. Sihon and Og were the two kings conquered at the plains of Moab in the Transjordan by Moses.
4. The Israelite forces marched around the city of Jericho once a day for 6 days and conquered Jericho (Joshua 6).
5. Then the Israelites attempted to conquer the nearby city of Ai and lost.
6. The loss at Ai was the result of the sin of Achan, who took items from the spoil from the battle of Jericho. (Joshua 7)
7. The Gibeonites avoided destruction by deceiving the Israelites into making a covenant of peace with them. (Joshua 9)

8. Some of the heavily-populated land along the coast and several major Canaanite cities like Jerusalem remained out of their control to conquer for many centuries.

Division of Land

1. The tribes of Reuben and Gad (and half of the tribe of Manasseh) settled in the land east of the Jordan river and chose not to advance into the newly conquered territory (Numbers 32:33).
2. The other nine and a half tribes drew lots to divide the land west of the Jordan river (Joshua 14:2 & 18:1-10).
3. Ephraim was distributed the territory in the central hill country near Shiloh; Manasseh took over land to the north near Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal (Joshua 16:1-17:18).
4. The tribe of Issachar settled further north (Joshua 19:17-23), while the tribes of Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali gained territory from the coast near Tyre further inland by the Lake of Kinnereth (the Sea of Galilee - Joshua 19:10-16 & 24-39).
5. The tribe of Simeon received land to the southern border of Canaan (Joshua 19:1-9), and the tribe of Judah took the country between Beersheba, Bethlehem and Jerusalem (Joshua 15:1-63).
6. Benjamin was allocated land to the south, Jerusalem. (This land remained controlled by the Canaanites until conquered by King David in 1004 BC - Joshua 18:11-28 & 15:63).
7. Dan was to acquire the coastal plain from the Philistines; They never overcame in these lowlands and later they conquered land in the far north which was renamed Dan after it was conquered (Joshua 19:40-48 & Judges 18:1-31).
8. There was no inheritance given to the tribe of Levi; The sacrifices of the Lord God of Israel made by fire *are* their inheritance, as He said to them (Joshua 13:14).
9. Joshua was given the town of Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim (Joshua 19:49-50).
10. Because of the faithfulness of Caleb, he was awarded the city of Hebron after spying out the 'promised land' forty years earlier (Joshua 14:6-15).
11. The six cities of refuge were designated in Joshua 20:7-8 as Kadesh (in Naphtali); Shechem (in W. Manasseh); Hebron (in Judah); Golan (in E. Manasseh); Ramoth (in Gad); and Bezer (in Rueben).

Digging Deeper

1. God instructed Joshua to apportion Canaan to the tribes which had not yet received territory.
2. The immigration model assumes that there was no real conquest of Canaan.
3. The Immigration model is not taught by the Word of God.
4. The best approach to understanding the conquest of Canaan is one which is rooted in the biblical materials.

Key Verses:

Joshua 1:6-9

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 24:14-15

"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

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