

# *Joshua*

**Purpose:** To teach Israel how to live in the land God had given them.

**Outline:** 1:1–12:24 – Conquest of the Land

13:1–22:34 – Inheritance of the Land

23:1–24:33 – Covenant Life in the Land

**Author:** Joshua

**Date:** Events 1406 BC; Final Written Document – 1100 BC

## **Highlights:**

The book of Joshua begins the section of the Hebrew Bible known as the “Former Prophets” (Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings). “They prophetically interpret God’s covenant ways with Israel in history – how he fulfills and remains true to his promises (especially through his servants such as Joshua, the judges, Samuel, and David)” (NIV Study Bible intro notes). This theme is seen in the verse (21:45).

Note: Ruth, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are referred to in the Hebrew Bible as “The Writings.”

Dating – cf. Judges 11:26 and 1 Kings 6:1 (966 + 480 = 1446); but a lot of archaeological data suggests 1290 exodus and 1250 invasion into Canaan.

Authorship – 18:8 and 24:5 (and possibly 5:1,6) vs. 10:13; 16:10 (vs. 1 Kings 9:16) and “until this day.” It is probable that Joshua wrote much of it, and then others (perhaps even Samuel) were involved in later shaping or compiling the materials into its final form.

The ethical question of war: “Joshua is the story of the kingdom of God breaking into the world of nations at a time when national and political entities were viewed as the creation of the gods and living proofs of their power” (NIV Study Bible intro notes).

Compare sin of the Canaanites with Genesis 15:16

From Hoshea (Numbers 13:8,16) “salvation” to Joshua “The Lord saves.”

The Lord commands Joshua to be strong and courageous – chapter 1

Rahab and the Spies – chapter 2

Crossing the Jordan – chapter 3 & 4

Fall of Jericho – chapter 5 & 6

Achan’s sin – chapter 7

Renewal of the covenant – chapter 8

Sun stands still – chapter 10

List of defeated kings – chapter 11 & 12

Division of the land – chapter 13-19

Special designations for land – chapter 20 & 21

Joshua’s farewell address – chapter 23

Covenant renewed – chapter 24 – “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

The book of Joshua is about neither Joshua, nor the Israelites. It is about God and how he keeps his covenant promises, no matter how impossible they may seem.

This is a great book showing God’s faithfulness and what happens when the people of God are faithful, in response.