OLD TESTAMENT · HISTORY · BOOK 6 OF 66

# Joshua

*Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid (1:9)*

| 24 | Joshua | c. 1406 B.C. | Enter · Take · Divide |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chapters, 658 Verses | Author (24:26) | Jordan Crossed | Then Serve the LORD |

STRUCTURE

## The Book in Four Parts

Joshua moves from promise to possession: Israel **enters** the land (1–5), **takes** it (6–12), **divides** it among the tribes (13–21), and is called to **serve** the LORD in it (22–24).




Each bar shows that part's share of the 658 verses.

I 1:1–5:12 · 95 verses

### Entering the Land

Joshua's charge, Rahab and the spies, the Jordan crossed, and Gilgal.

II 5:13–12:24 · 208 verses

### Taking the Land

Jericho, Achan and Ai, Gibeon, and the southern and northern campaigns.

III 13–21 · 272 verses

### Dividing the Land

The tribal inheritances, Caleb, Shiloh, the cities of refuge and the Levites.

IV 22–24 · 83 verses

### Serving the LORD

The altar of witness, Joshua's farewell, and the covenant at Shechem.

DATES B.C. (APPROXIMATE)

## Timeline of the Conquest

Dates follow the early exodus (c. 1446 B.C., 1 Kings 6:1) and the ages and years the book gives.

c. 1446 B.C.

### The Exodus

Joshua serves Moses (Exodus 17:9; 24:13)

c. 1445 B.C.

### The Spies

Joshua and Caleb's good report (14:7)

c. 1406 B.C.

### Moses Dies

Joshua takes command (1:1–2)

c. 1406 B.C.

### Jordan Crossed

The tenth day of the first month (4:19)

c. 1406 B.C.

### Jericho Falls

The walls fall down flat (6:20)

c. 1406–1399 B.C.

### The Campaigns

South, then north (10–11)

c. 1399 B.C.

### Caleb Gets Hebron

At eighty-five (14:10)

c. 1390–1380 B.C.

### Joshua Dies

At a hundred and ten (24:29)

JOSHUA 1:1–9

## Joshua's Charge

God gives Joshua three promises, a command repeated three times, and one secret of success.

1 1:3

### The Land Given

"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you."

2 1:5

### No Enemy Shall Stand

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life."

3 1:5

### God's Presence

"as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

JOSHUA 1:8

### The Secret of Success

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

"Be strong and of a good courage" is said three times in the chapter (1:6, 7, 9), and the people say it back to Joshua (1:18).

JOSHUA AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 7

# Rahab, the Jordan and the Fall of Jericho

JOSHUA 2–5

## Rahab, the Jordan and Gilgal

Before a single battle, God prepares His people and shows His power.

**1** 2

### Rahab's Faith

She hides the spies and binds the line of scarlet thread in her window.

**2** 3

### The Jordan Parts

The waters are cut off when the priests' feet touch the river.

**3** 4

### Twelve Stones

A memorial at Gilgal: "What mean ye by these stones?"

**4** 5:2–9

### Circumcision

The new generation receives the sign of the covenant.

**5** 5:10–12

### Passover

Kept in the land; the manna ceases the next day.

**6** 5:13–15

### The Captain of the LORD's Host

Joshua worships; the battle belongs to the LORD.

> *"That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."*
>
> Joshua 4:24 (KJV)

JOSHUA 6

## The Fall of Jericho

Jericho was taken not by siege but by faith and obedience to God's word.

**1** 6:3

### Six Days

Once around the city each day

**2** 6:4

### Seven Priests

Trumpets of rams' horns before the ark

**3** 6:15

### The Seventh Day

Seven times around the city

**4** 6:20

### The Shout

"the wall fell down flat"

> *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."*
>
> Hebrews 11:30 (KJV)

Rahab and all her household were saved (6:25). She married Salmon of Judah and is named in the line of King David and of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5).

# The Conquest of Canaan and Caleb's Faith

JOSHUA 7–12

## The Conquest of Canaan

Defeat at Ai teaches that hidden sin brings defeat; then the LORD fights for Israel in the south and the north.

7
### Achan's Sin
A garment, silver and gold hidden in his tent; Israel defeated at Ai.

8:1–29
### Ai Taken
An ambush behind the city; Ai burned.

8:30–35
### The Law at Mount Ebal
An altar built and all the words of the law read.

9
### The Gibeonites
A league made without asking counsel of the LORD.

10
### The Southern Campaign
Hailstones, and the sun standing still over Gibeon.

11
### The Northern Campaign
Jabin of Hazor and his allies defeated at the waters of Merom.

> *"So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; … And the land rested from war."*
>
> Joshua 11:23 (KJV)

The Canaanites were judged for their wickedness, which God had waited four hundred years to punish (Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 9:5). Chapter 12 lists 31 kings defeated west of the Jordan.

JOSHUA 14:6–15

## Caleb: He Wholly Followed the LORD

Forty-five years after he and Joshua gave the good report, Caleb asks for the hardest ground in the land.

40 14:7
### At Kadesh-barnea
Sent by Moses to spy out the land; he brought back a true report.

85 14:10–11
### Still Strong
"As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me."

✓ 14:13–14
### Hebron Given
"because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel."

> *"Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; … if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out."*
>
> Joshua 14:12 (KJV)

# Map of the Conquest

JOSHUA 2–12 · MAP

## Map of the Conquest

Israel crossed the Jordan from Shittim to Gilgal, took Jericho and Ai, and read the law at Mount Ebal. Then came two campaigns: south, after the LORD fought for Gibeon, and north, against Jabin of Hazor. The numbers match the cards below.

JOSHUA 2–12

### The Conquest of Canaan

*Across the Jordan and three campaigns*

c. 1406–1399 B.C. · Routes approximate




| | |
|---|---|
| **Across Jordan to Jericho and Ai**<br>Chapters 2–8 | **The southern campaign**<br>Chapter 10 |
| **The northern campaign**<br>Chapter 11 | **Other cities named**<br>Bethel, Libnah, Eglon and more |

*"And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel."*

JOSHUA 10:42 (KJV)

*The conquest took "a long time" (11:18), about seven years. Routes and several sites are approximate.*

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

**1** 2:1; 3:1

#### Shittim

**Crossing and center.** Joshua sends two spies; Israel sets out for the Jordan.

**2** 3:14–17

#### Adam

**Crossing and center.** The waters stand up upon an heap "very far from the city Adam."

**3** 4:19–5:12; 10:15, 43

#### Gilgal

**Crossing and center.** Twelve stones set up; the men circumcised; the passover kept. Israel's camp.

**4** 6

#### Jericho

**Crossing and center.** The walls fall down flat after seven days; Rahab is saved.

**5** 7–8:29

#### Ai

**Crossing and center.** Defeat because of Achan's sin, then victory by an ambush.

**6** 8:30–35

#### Mount Ebal

**Crossing and center.** An altar built and the law read before all Israel, blessings and cursings.

**7** 9; 10:1–14

#### Gibeon

**Southern campaign.** The Gibeonites deceive Israel; five kings attack them; the sun stands still.

**8** 10:10–11

#### Beth-horon

**Southern campaign.** The LORD casts down great stones from heaven on the fleeing Amorites.

**9** 10:16–28

#### Makkedah

**Southern campaign.** The five kings found hidden in a cave and slain.

**10** 10:31–32

#### Lachish

**Southern campaign.** Taken on the second day; Libnah and Eglon also fall.

**11** 10:36–37; 14:13–15

#### Hebron

**Southern campaign.** Taken by Joshua; later given to Caleb for his inheritance.

**12** 10:38–39; 15:15–17

#### Debir

**Southern campaign.** The southern campaign ends; Othniel later takes it (Kirjath-sepher).

**13** 11:1–9

#### Waters of Merom

**Northern campaign.** Jabin's alliance, "as the sand that is upon the sea shore," routed.

**14** 11:10–13

#### Hazor

**Northern campaign.** "The head of all those kingdoms" burned with fire.

# The Land Divided and the Cities of Refuge

JOSHUA 13–19

## The Land Divided Among the Tribes

The land was divided by lot before the LORD. For a map of every tribe's land, see 12 Tribes of Israel.

EAST · 13:15–33

### Reuben, Gad, Half Manasseh

Beyond the Jordan, given by Moses

15

### Judah

The south, with Jerusalem's border

16–17

### Ephraim and Manasseh

The children of Joseph, in the centre

18:11–28

### Benjamin

Between Judah and Ephraim

19:1–9

### Simeon

Within Judah's inheritance

19:10–39

### Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali

The north, around Galilee

19:40–48

### Dan

Toward the coast; later moved north

13:14, 33; 21

### Levi

No land: "the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance"

After Judah and Joseph received their land, the tabernacle was set up at Shiloh (18:1), and the land of the seven remaining tribes was described in a book and divided there by lot (18:8–10). Joshua himself received Timnath-serah last of all (19:49–50).

JOSHUA 20–21

## Cities of Refuge and the Levites

Six cities, three on each side of the Jordan, where one who killed a man unawares could flee from the avenger of blood (20:3).

| WEST OF THE JORDAN | EAST OF THE JORDAN |
|---|---|
| **Kedesh in Galilee, in mount Naphtali** 20:7 | **Bezer in the wilderness, of Reuben** 20:8 |
| **Shechem in mount Ephraim** 20:7 | **Ramoth in Gilead, of Gad** 20:8 |
| **Kirjath-arba (Hebron) in the mountain of Judah** 20:7 | **Golan in Bashan, of Manasseh** 20:8 |

The Levites received forty-eight cities with their suburbs among all the tribes (21:41), so that God's teachers lived throughout the land.

> *"There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."*
>
> Joshua 21:45 (KJV)

# Map of the Tribes and Cities of Refuge

JOSHUA 13–24 · MAP

## Map of the Tribes and Cities of Refuge

Each tribe’s land, as given by lot at Gilgal and Shiloh, with the six cities of refuge, three on each side of Jordan. The numbers match the cards below.

JOSHUA 13–24

### The Land Divided Among the Tribes

*The inheritance of the twelve tribes*

Divided by lot at Gilgal and Shiloh, c. 1399 B.C. · Borders approximate




**The tribes’ lands**
By lot, Joshua 13–19

**The six cities of refuge**
Joshua 20

**Shiloh, Gilgal and Joshua’s city**
Joshua 14; 18; 24

*“There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”*

JOSHUA 21:45 (KJV)

*Simeon’s cities lay within Judah (19:1–9); the Levites received forty-eight cities among the tribes (21). Borders approximate.*

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 20:7; 21:32

### Kedesh

**City of refuge.** City of refuge in Galilee, in mount Naphtali.

2 20:7; 24:1–28

### Shechem

**City of refuge.** City of refuge in mount Ephraim; Joshua’s last covenant: “choose you this day.”

3 14:13–15; 20:7

### Hebron

**City of refuge.** Kirjath-arba in the mountain of Judah: Caleb’s inheritance and a city of refuge.

4 20:8

### Bezer

**City of refuge.** City of refuge in the wilderness upon the plain, of Reuben.

5 20:8

### Ramoth in Gilead

**City of refuge.** City of refuge of the tribe of Gad.

6 20:8

### Golan in Bashan

**City of refuge.** City of refuge of the half tribe of Manasseh.

7 18:1–10; 22:12

### Shiloh

**Camp and tabernacle.** The tabernacle set up; the land surveyed and divided by lot before the LORD.

8 19:49–50; 24:29–30

### Timnath-serah

**Camp and tabernacle.** Joshua’s own inheritance in mount Ephraim, where he was buried.

9 14:6; 15:7

### Gilgal

**Camp and tabernacle.** The first camp, where Judah and Joseph received their lots.

JOSHUA AT A GLANCE · PART 7 OF 7

# Joshua's Farewell, Christ in Joshua, Key Themes and Key Verse

JOSHUA 22–24

## Choose You This Day

Joshua's last words call Israel to love the LORD, keep His law, and serve Him alone.

1 · 22

### The Altar of Witness

Ed: "a witness between us that the LORD is God" (22:34).

2 · 23

### Farewell to the Leaders

"One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, He it is that fighteth for you" (23:10).

3 · 24:1–28

### The Covenant at Shechem

History retold; the people choose; a great stone set up as a witness.

JOSHUA 24:15

### As for Me and My House

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; … but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Three burials end the book: Joshua at Timnath-serah, Joseph's bones at Shechem (Genesis 50:25), and Eleazar the priest (24:29–33).

LOOKING FORWARD

## Pictures of Christ in Joshua

Joshua bears the same name as Jesus, and the book points ahead to the greater salvation He brings.

1:1–9 · HEBREWS 4:8–9

### Joshua, "The LORD Is Salvation"

Joshua led Israel into rest in the land; Jesus gives the rest that remains for the people of God.

5:13–15

### The Captain of the LORD's Host

The LORD Himself appears with a drawn sword and receives Joshua's worship.

2:18 · HEBREWS 11:31

### The Scarlet Line

Rahab's house saved under a scarlet sign, as Israel was under the blood at Passover.

20 · HEBREWS 6:18

### The Cities of Refuge

"we … who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."

BIG IDEAS

## Key Themes

### God Keeps His Promises

Not one good thing failed of all the LORD had spoken.

21:43–45; 23:14

### Courage and God's Presence

Be strong, for the LORD is with thee.

1:5–9

### God's Word

Meditate on the book of the law day and night.

1:8; 8:34–35

### The LORD Fights for Israel

Victory is the LORD's doing, not Israel's strength.

6:2; 10:14, 42; 23:10

### Faith and Obedience

Jericho fell by faith; Rahab was saved by faith.

6; Hebrews 11:30–31

### Sin Brings Defeat

Achan's hidden sin troubled all Israel.

7:1, 11–12

### Holiness and Judgment

God judged the wickedness of Canaan.

Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 9:5

### The Inheritance

Each tribe received its portion by lot from the LORD.

13–21

### Choose to Serve the LORD

Each generation must choose for itself.

24:14–15, 24

KEY VERSE

*"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."*

**Joshua 1:9 (KJV)**