



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 11. Joshua

- **Introduction**

- Author: Probably Joshua (though not the ending)
- Date: 1406/1405–1386/1385 BC, though finished later
- Joshua marks the shift from the Pentateuch to the 'Former Prophets' (i.e., the 'historical books').
- *HP: Don't read 'historical books' as mere history; read them as the outworking of the concerns and covenants of the Pentateuch.*
- Context:
 - Moses has finished giving the Law and passed away, and Joshua is appointed as his successor to lead the nation into the Promised Land.
 - Israel has received all the preparation they are going to get; all that remains is to go claim it!

- Main themes:
 - The Land
 - God's faithfulness
 - God's judgment

- **Entering the Land (1–5)**

- The transition in _____ is shown by:
 - God charging Joshua
 - Joshua assuming command
 - The people promising to obey him
- The spies in Jerico reveal two things:
 - That the people in the Land are _____ of Israel
 - That some like Rahab are willing to repent and join the 'mixed multitude'
- Israel exits Egypt through God parting waters and enters the Promised Land through God parting waters.
 - Israel sets up a memorial so that this crossing will be remembered too.

- Israel addresses key _____ concerns now that they're in the Land:
 - The nation is circumcised.
 - They observe the Passover.
 - The manna ceased.
- A visit from the commander of YHWH's army shows Joshua his victories are going to come because _____ is really fighting the battles.

- **Conquering the Land (6–12)**

- Jericho's miraculous overthrow would have encouraged Israel and sent a message to the rest of the Land.
- Israel's first defeat at Ai comes because of the sin of Achan, showing the necessity of absolute _____.
- The Law is read at Ebal and Gerizim as Moses commanded.
- The Gibeonites figure out a sneaky way to avoid destruction because the Israelites 'did not ask the counsel of YHWH' (i.e., _____).
- Several details of the conquest are shared to show the success God gave them.

- **Dividing the Land (13–22)**

- This section serves as a testament to God's faithfulness:
 - To the nation
 - To individual tribes
 - To the administration of the Law in the Pentateuch

- **Renewing the Covenant in the Land (23–24)**

- Joshua ends his life with one last charge to the people to review God's _____ to them and commit to serving Him instead of forgetting and reaping the consequences.
- He renews the Covenant with the people.

- **Key Questions About Joshua**

- Were Israel's land promises fulfilled under Joshua?
 - Josh. 21:43–45 is a common text used to say the land promises of the Abrahamic Covenant were fulfilled, so we shouldn't expect any future fulfilment for Israel.
 - Chapter 13 refutes the idea that Israel actually possessed all that they were promised because even though apportioned all the land to them, they never finished claiming it!

- Gen. 15:18 and Josh. 1:4 both state the Israel's northern border would be the Euphrates River, something that has yet to happen in Israel's history.
 - Jdg. 1 is explicit that Israel did not faithfully carry out its task of removing the pagan inhabitants from the Land.
 - The promises were fulfilled in a *temporary, partial* sense for that generation, but not in the *everlasting, complete* sense characteristic of millennial promises, which is why they keep coming up in the Prophets
- How should Christians view the slaughter of the inhabitants of Canaan?
- Ethnicity was not the concern; sin was.
 - Leviticus shows that they were full of the worst kinds of evil that God promised Abraham would be ready for judgment when his descendants entered the Land.
 - The inhabitants had defiled the Land, so the Israelites needed to purge it before it was fit for holy habitation.
 - They were aware of YHWH and had opportunities to repent, but they chose to remain in their evil.
 - God explicitly commanded Israel to carry out this judgment in the Land and nowhere else (cf. Deut. 20), so it's not setting a precedent or pattern for us to follow today.

Discussion:

1. What does Joshua teach us about godly leadership?
2. What does Joshua teach us about trusting God's promises?

Blanks: leadership, terrified, covenant, God, holiness, pray, goodness