



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 14 – Joshua and the Conquest of the Promised Land (Joshua)

#### JOSHUA

The name Joshua means “Savior”. It is the same name as Jesus. In fact, Jewish Christians today often call Jesus by the name “Jeshua”<sup>1</sup>. Joshua saved the people of Israel from their earthly enemies and gave them the Promised Land of Canaan. Jesus saved us from sin and death and won for us an eternal home in heaven.

The book of Joshua was completed after his death, perhaps by one of his younger assistants. It is divided into two equal parts: the first twelve chapters tell of the conquest of the land (1407-1400 BC); the second twelve chapters tell how the land was divided among the twelve tribes.

#### God’s Dealing with Nations

Each nation has its period of prosperity, but then, when its cup of iniquity is full, God destroys it. Sometimes He uses great catastrophes, such as floods, fires, earthquakes, or economic disasters. Usually, however, He uses other nations. In this way God used His people, the Israelites, to destroy the Canaanites together with their cruel and shameful religion. Some of the Canaanite cities, such as Jericho, were “devoted” to the LORD – that is, the city and its inhabitants were utterly wiped out.

God intended the conquest of Canaan to take many years. After a time, however, Israel grew tired of war and made compromises with the Canaanites. This was sinful disobedience to God and led Israel away from the true God of grace, who had promised them a Savior from sin.

Read Joshua chapters 1-11 and chapters 22-24, along with the notes below. If you have questions, ask them.

#### Joshua 1 – Preparation for the Crossing of the Jordan River

The LORD encourages Joshua to conquer the land (vv. 1-9).

Joshua gives the people general instructions for crossing the Jordan (vv. 10-11).

Joshua commands the 2½ eastern tribes to help in the conquest (vv. 12-18).

#### Joshua 2 – The Mission of the Two Spies

Joshua sends two spies to Jericho (vv. 1-3).

Rahab protects and hides the two spies because of her faith in Israel’s God (vv. 4-13).

**“I know that the LORD has given you the land... for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath”** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_)

Rahab is listed as an ancestress of Jesus in Matthew 1:5.

The spies promise to save Rahab, and then return to report to Joshua (vv. 14-24).

<sup>1</sup> The Greek translation of “Joshua” is in fact “Jesus”.

Joshua 3 – The Crossing of the Jordan River on Dry Ground

The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD led the way.

**“The waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Joshua 4 – The Two Memorials of Stones (one in the Jordan River, one in Gilgal)

Joshua 5 – The Israelites in Gilgal

The Canaanites are afraid (v. 1).

**“There was no spirit in them any longer.”**

The Israelites are circumcised and keep the Passover (vv. 2-12).

**“The children of Israel no longer had manna”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Joshua meets the Commander of the Lord’s army, who is the pre-incarnate **JESUS** (vv. 13-15).

**“Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy”** (v. \_\_, like at Moses’ burning bush)

Joshua 6 – The Miraculous Conquest of Jericho

The seven days of marching; the trumpets; the final shout (vv. 1-21).

**“The city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

**“The people shouted with a great shout”** and **“the wall fell down flat”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Rahab and her family are saved (vv. 22-25).

Joshua curses the rebuilder of Jericho (vv. 26-27).

This curse fell on Hiel many years later (see 1 Kings 16:34).

Joshua 7 – Achan’s Sin Prevents Israel from Conquering Ai

The little city of Ai defeats Israel, and Joshua prays in sorrow (vv. 1-9).

God reveals Achan as the transgressor, and he is put to death (vv. 10-26).

Joshua 8 – The Defeat of Ai and the Curses and Blessings on Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim

Joshua defeats Ai by means of an ambush (vv. 1-29).

The blessings and curses are read on the two mountains (vv. 30-35).

Joshua 9 – The Trickery of the Gibeonites

The Gibeonites pretend to be from a far country and Israel makes a treaty with them (vv. 1-15).

Joshua discovers their trickery and makes them Israel’s slaves (vv. 16-27).

Joshua 10 – The Conquest of the South Country

Five great kings plan to take revenge on the traitorous Gibeonites (vv. 1-5).

Joshua defends Gibeon and defeats the five kings with God’s miraculous help (vv. 6-14).

**“The LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

**“The sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Joshua kills the five kings who were trapped in a cave (vv. 15-27).

Joshua conquers the entire South Country (vv. 28-43).

Joshua 11 – The Conquest of the North Country and the Giant Anakim

Joshua defeats the kings of the North at Merom (vv. 1-15).

Joshua’s conquest of other kings and the giant Anakim (vv. 16-23).

Joshua 12 – *A List of Conquered Kings*

Joshua 13 – *The Unconquered Country; the Possession of the 2½ Tribes*

Joshua 14 – *Caleb Receives His Inheritance: Hebron*

Joshua 15 – *The Inheritance of the Tribe of Judah*

Notice that Jerusalem was not taken over by the Israelites at this time.

Joshua 16 – *The Inheritance of the Tribe of Ephraim*

The city of Gezer and others were not yet taken at this time.

Joshua 17 – *The Inheritance of the Half-Tribe of Manasseh* (the west side of the Jordan)

**“The children of Israel...did not utterly drive them out”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Joshua 18 – *The Tabernacle at Shiloh; the Survey; the Inheritance of Benjamin*

Joshua 19 – *The Inheritances of Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan*

Joshua 20 – *The Six Cities of Refuge*

Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron on the west, Bezer, Ramoth, Golan on the east.

Joshua 21 – *The 48 Levitical Cities* (Aaron 13; Kohath 10; Gershon 13; Merari 12)

Joshua 22 – *The Dismissal of the 2½ Eastern Tribes*

Joshua dismisses the 2½ eastern tribes (vv. 1-9).

They build a great altar at the Jordan as a memorial (vv. 10-20).

The 9½ tribes think it is a false altar and prepare to fight against them.

The 2½ tribes clear up the misunderstanding of the 9½ tribes (vv. 21-34).

Joshua 23 – *Joshua’s Farewell Address*

**“Not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

Joshua 24 – *The Death and Burial of Joshua, Eleazar, and Joseph’s Bones*

Joshua: **“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

## Questions

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1. In what way was Jesus like Joshua?
2. Why did God want His people Israel to wipe out the Canaanites?
3. Why are we not to declare war against unbelievers today and destroy them?
4. How did Rahab reveal her faith in the God of Israel?
5. What evidence is there that the Commander who met Joshua was Jesus?
6. In what miraculous way was the city of Jericho taken?
7. Why did God allow the small city of Ai to defeat the Israelites?
8. What mistake did Joshua and his men make regarding the people of Gibeon?
9. In what ways did God help Joshua defeat the five kings?
10. What is the subject matter of the last half of the book of Joshua?
11. Why did the Israelites believe that the 2½ tribes were rebelling?
12. How was a war against the 2½ tribes averted?