

WHAT'S THE POINT OF

Joshua?

+++

To be a winner, listen to God and show a lot of courage because God is with you.

+ FEAR ONLY GOD

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.

PROVERBS 29:25

+++

"Make the LORD of Heaven's Armies holy in your life.

He is the one you should fear.

He is the one who should make you tremble."

SAIAH 8:13

+ GODLY PEOPLE CAN BE BOLD

The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions.

PROVERBS 28:1

Timeline



EXODUS FROM EGYPT

1446 BC

1406 +
ISRAELITES ENTER CANAAN

1375 +
JUDGES BEGIN TO RULE

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT:

Courage

+ STAND TALL

Be on guard.
Stand firm in the faith.
Be courageous.
Be strong. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

1050 +
UNITED KINGDOM UNDER SAUL

1010 +
DAVID BECOMES KING

Joshua

WHAT'S THIS BOOK ABOUT? The Israelites conquer the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership.

WHO WROTE IT? Christian and Jewish traditions say the author was Joshua, or that he arranged for it to be written.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? In the 1300s B.C.

WHERE DOES THIS BOOK FIT? Joshua takes place after the death of Moses, as the people of Israel enter and begin to conquer the Promised Land.

THE BREAKDOWN

- Chapter 1: Joshua assumes leadership of Israel
- Chapter 2: Rahab protects the spies
- Chapters 3-5: Joshua and the people enter the Promised Land
- Chapter 6: The conquest of Jericho
- Chapters 7-8: Achan's sin and its consequences
- Chapters 9-12: Battles to conquer the rest of the land
- Chapters 13-22: The land is divided and settled
- Chapters 23-24: Joshua's farewell

KEY CONCEPTS

- Worship (offerings, sacrifices)
- Salvation
- Courage

SCORECARD

- Joshua:** Moses' successor
- Caleb:** An old soldier, still strong
- Achan:** His sin hurt many people
- Gibeonites:** Led Israel to sin

READING TIME



WORTH MEMORIZING

- **1:9** "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
- **24:14-15** "So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone. But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."

THE MASCULINE PERSPECTIVE

- **LEADERSHIP.** Joshua is an excellent role model for us. His relationship with his people was based on his relationship with God. He wasn't shy about being in charge. But he wasn't in it for personal glory or power. God had placed him in that position, so he worked at it with all his strength.
- **DECISION.** Joshua led a focused life. When faced with choices, he didn't have to think about whether he would obey God. He'd already decided that long ago, and he didn't change his mind when challenges came. God wants us to be that focused today. He wants us to be able to say, from the depth of our hearts, "As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."



Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, once quipped, "Promises and pie-crust are made to be broken." We've all heard enough political promises in our lives to share his cynicism. But the theme of Joshua tells us that God is utterly faithful to His promises, for His Word cannot be broken. As Joshua himself said late in life: "Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to Israel. All came to pass" (Joshua 21:45).

Joshua was born and raised in Egypt. He was a young man when he watched the contest between Moses and Pharaoh and the parting of the Red Sea. Moses later appointed Joshua head of the Hebrew army; and after the death of Moses, Joshua assumed leadership of Israel. The book of Joshua is the story of how he led God's people to possess the Promised Land.

Joshua's book tells this story in four phases. Chapters 1 through 5: Entering the land. Chapters 6 through 12: Conquering the land. Chapters 13 through 21: Dividing the land. Chapters 22 through 24: Beginning life as one nation under God.

The theme through it all is: Yahweh is a promise-keeping God, therefore we're to live courageously. I don't know about you, but I'm strengthened whenever I read the opening chapter of this book, as the Lord tells us: "I will not leave you nor forsake you (Joshua 1:4). "Be strong and of good courage . . . Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).



KEY THOUGHT:

Yahweh is a promise-keeping God who leads His children through warfare to victory, just as He gave the Israelites the land promised to Abraham and his descendants.



KEY VERSE:

"Be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."

Joshua 1:7



KEY ACTION:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:15



KEY PRAYER:

God, thank you for the assurance that You will never leave us nor forsake us.

HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE

Joshua

- 1:3
- 2:11
- 2:13
- 13:22
- 24:10
- 24:14
- 24:29

BASIC SURVEY

JOSHUA

AUTHOR: Traditionally, Joshua himself, except for the final five verses (24:29–33), which describe Joshua's death and legacy.

DATE: Approximately 1375 BC.

IN TEN WORDS OR LESS

The Israelites conquer and settle the promised land of Canaan.

DETAILS, PLEASE

With Moses and an entire generation of Israelites dead, God tells Joshua to lead the people into Canaan, their promised land. Joshua leads a successful military campaign to clear idol-worshipping people from the land. Major cities subdued, Joshua divides the land among the twelve tribes of Israel, reminding the people to stay true to the God who led them home: "Now therefore. . . put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel" (24:23 NKJV).

QUOTABLE

> "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (1:9 NIV).

UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL

Fearing for their lives, the Gibeonites appeared before Joshua dressed in old clothes, carrying dry, moldy bread, claiming they had come from a faraway land. Joshua and the Israelite leaders "asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD" (9:14 KJV) and agreed to a peace treaty. When Joshua learned the truth, he honored his agreement with the Gibeonites—but made them slaves.

SO WHAT?

Joshua shows, over and over, how God blesses His people. The promised land was His gift to them, as were the military victories that He engineered.

READ DEUTERONOMY 31:1–8 AND JOSHUA 1.

- One-Month Course: your next reading is on page 40. →
- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 35. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 35. →

HEART OF THE BOOK

JOSHUA THE MIGHTY WARRIOR

Joshua is one of few major Bible characters who seemed to do everything right—he was a strong leader, completely committed to God, who never fell into recorded sin or disobedience. He is famous for challenging the Israelites, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15 KJV).



Joshua was a powerful leader who led the Israelites in defeating the Amalekites—a victory depicted in the painting *The Victory of Joshua over the Amalekites* by Nicolas Poussin (1594–1665).

When Joshua was a young man he was Moses' personal assistant. "Joshua son of Nun. . . had been Moses' aide since youth" (Numbers 11:28 NIV). Already in the earliest days, just after leaving Egypt, he was in charge of the army of the Israelites (Exodus 17:9). He was one of the twelve men whom Moses sent to spy out Canaan, and only he and Caleb believed that they could conquer the Canaanites (Numbers 14:6–8). He declared, "Do not be

afraid of the people of the land, because. . . their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us" (Numbers 14:9 NIV).

After Moses died, God anointed Joshua to replace him as leader of the Israelites. Besides being a mighty warrior, Joshua was a deeply spiritual man who heard God's instructions clearly. He had the faith to believe what God said, no matter how strange it seemed—such as walking into the flooded Jordan River and expecting the water to part, or marching seven times around Jericho and expecting the walls to fall.

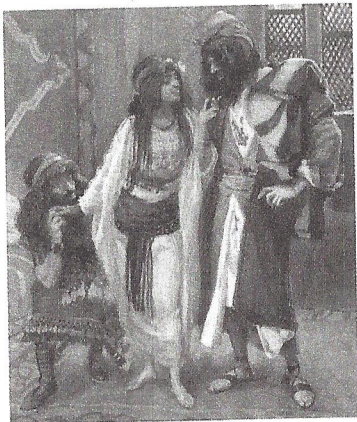
Only one mistake mars Joshua's record: when the Gibeonites (Amorites he should have driven out) came to make a treaty, Joshua failed to pray before agreeing.

READ JOSHUA 9 AND 23.

- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 40. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 36. →

CLOSER LOOK

RAHAB AND JERICHO



Rahab was important in the fall of Jericho and is portrayed in *The Harlot of Jericho and the Two Spies* by James Tissot (1836–1902).

Jericho was a massive, well-fortified city and the gateway to Canaan. After crossing the Jordan River, one immediately faced Jericho. While they were still east of the Jordan, Joshua sent two men to spy out the land, particularly Jericho. However, someone told the king when they saw the spies entering the inn of Rahab the prostitute. But Rahab hid them on her rooftop and helped them escape, in exchange for the promise that the Israelites would spare her and her family when they conquered the city.

When Joshua's armies crossed the river and camped around Jericho, God gave him odd instructions, and following Joshua's lead, the Israelites obeyed implicitly. The priests carried the ark of the covenant—with the army flanking them before and behind—and marched around the city once a day for six days. The priests blew ram's horns the entire time. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times then blew the ram's horns and everyone shouted.

It took tremendous faith to believe such a tactic would work—but Joshua believed. So they obeyed God's instructions to the letter, and the mighty walls of Jericho came crashing down, falling outward, and the Israelite army charged directly into the undefended city, killing everyone. Only Rahab and her family were spared.

We don't know how God did this miracle. He possibly sent an earthquake at the exact second the army shouted. However He did it, the other Canaanites heard of Jericho's fall and were absolutely terrified.

READ JOSHUA 2 AND 6.

● Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 37. →

CLOSER LOOK

SEVEN YEARS OF CONQUEST

Because the Gibeonites had made a treaty with Israel, the armies of five Amorite kings besieged them. The Gibeonites begged Israel to come to their defense, and after an all-night march, the Israelites struck the Amorite armies at dawn. The fighting was fierce and lasted all day. God did mighty miracles to help Joshua, and the Amorites finally fled. After the battle of Gibeon, the Israelites continued attacking enemy cities and rapidly conquered much of south Canaan—all in a single campaign (Joshua 10:28–43).

These stunning victories alarmed the Canaanites in the north, and the king of Hazor quickly assembled a coalition of many kings. Soon a vast horde of fighting men and chariots was marshaled at the waters of Merom. Without hesitation, Joshua marched his entire army north and made a preemptive attack, and the Lord gave Israel a tremendous victory. They completely routed their enemies, fighting until no Canaanite soldier remained alive.



It only took Joshua a few weeks to gain control of most of Canaan—pictured here from Mount Nebo—but Joshua continued to fight for seven years in order to conquer the rest of the land.

In just two huge campaigns, in just a few weeks, the Israelites conquered most of northern and southern Canaan. "So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev. . . the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel." However, the Bible also informs us that "Joshua waged war. . . for a long time" (Joshua 11:16, 18 NIV). These wars lasted about seven years. "So Joshua took the whole land. . . and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war" (Joshua 11:23 NKJV).

READ JOSHUA 10:16–11:23.

● Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 40. →

HIDDEN TREASURE

DEFEAT AT AI

Then the Israelites came to Ai. Now, *Ai* means “ruins,” and it was little more than Canaanites living inside the ruins of a former town. But when the Israelites attacked, the men of Ai charged. The Israelites fled, and thirty-six were killed. God then told Joshua that Israel had disobeyed and had taken “some of the accursed things” (Joshua 7:11 NKJV). He had warned them not to take any plunder from Jericho, but an Israelite named Achan had taken a wedge of gold and some other treasure. Because of this disobedience God had allowed the entire nation to suffer defeat. After they had dealt with Achan, God told Joshua to attack Ai again. This time the Israelites did things God’s way and succeeded.

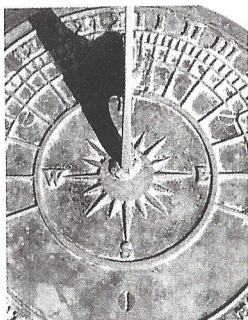
READ JOSHUA 7:1-8:29.

HIDDEN TREASURE

THE SUN STANDS STILL

When Israel fought the armies of five Amorite kings at Gibeon, the combat lasted all day. It continued to rage even as the sun was setting in the west. Joshua needed to finish the battle, so he prayed, “Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the valley of Aijalon.’ So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies” (Joshua 10:12-13 NLT). As the daylight refused to fade, the Amorites finally broke ranks—but the Lord destroyed them with a terrific hailstorm as they ran. The hail killed more men than the Israelites had. These miracles, together with the drying up of the Jordan, demonstrated that God Himself was fighting for Israel (Deuteronomy 1:30).

READ JOSHUA 3 AND 10:1-15.



When Joshua needed to defeat the Amorites, he prayed for the sun to stay still; time didn’t pass until the Israelites secured the victory.

HIDDEN TREASURE

UNCONQUERED LAND

Some years later, after old age had forced Joshua to retire, God told him, “You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over” (Joshua 13:1 NIV). Israel had already conquered vast tracts of land, but there still remained much to be conquered. By this time, however, the twelve tribes had settled into their individual regions, so it was up to them to drive the Canaanites from the remaining territory allotted to them. Joshua therefore commissioned the younger generation to rise to the challenge. They began to do this after his death (Judges 1:1-26). God had helped their fathers gain great victories, but the battles weren’t all finished. There was still some mopping up to do.

READ JOSHUA 13 AND JUDGES 1.

HIDDEN TREASURE

SERVE THE LORD

When Joshua knew that he’d soon die, he assembled the Israelite leaders and gave them final instructions. Then, knowing that they could only be victorious if they obeyed God, he said, “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether . . . the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15 NASB). The people promised to serve God, but Joshua warned them that the same God who had done good for them would fight them if they turned from Him. But the people insisted, “We will serve the LORD our God and we will obey His voice” (Joshua 24:24 NASB).



Joshua reminded the Israelites that God would fight them if they turned from Him and worshipped idols. This statue represents a worshipper of the false god Amurru.

READ JOSHUA 24 AND PSALMS 6 AND 16.

The Virtuous Prostitute

Joshua 2

OVER THE CENTURIES, an amazing variety of colorful characters have played important roles in God's redemptive drama. One of them was a prostitute named Rahab, who provided much-needed help to Joshua and the Israelites on their way into the Promised Land.

Joshua had sent two men to the city of Jericho to gather intelligence. When their reconnaissance mission grew dangerous, the spies hid out at the house of Rahab, who had heard rumors about Israel and Israel's God.

"We are all afraid of you," she told the men, recounting how God had saved the Israelites from Pharaoh and guided their path ever since. "The LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below" (Joshua 2:9-11).

When the king of Jericho sent agents to Rahab's house to find the spies, Rahab hid them on her roof and then lied to the king's men, saying that the two Israelites had left long ago. Then she let the men down through a window in the city wall so they could go out and continue their mission.

Prostitutes with hearts of gold have been a staple of novels and movies for centuries. The reality, of course, is that sex workers are normally a rough bunch. In the face of nightly exploitation and abuse, they develop a hardness of soul.

Rahab, however, showed that her heart was open to God. Unlike others in Jericho, who merely saw the Israelites as military opponents, Rahab perceived a people who had been uniquely chosen by God. She chose to help them at great personal risk.

For this, she was given a place in the ancestry of the Messiah (Matthew 1:5) and a citation in the Faith Hall of Fame (Hebrews 11:31). By faith, Rahab rose above her background and ended up playing a key role in the history of God's people.

My Family Will Serve the Lord

Joshua 24:15

JOSHUA HAD DONE WELL. He had served God and his people, leading the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land God had said they would inhabit.

But now he was getting on in years. Death was at the door. And like many Old Testament patriarchs, he gathered his energy to deliver a final farewell address. The final two chapters of Joshua record his challenging words.

Joshua began by reviewing Israel's history. Time and time again, God had taken care of his people. And time and time again, the people had turned away from God and disobeyed him.

Then the aged leader challenged his listeners to recommit themselves to living the kind of life God demands of them. "Fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly," he said (Joshua 24:14).

But Joshua had been around long enough to know that not everyone who heard him would follow his suggestion.

"Choose today whom you will serve," he said. Then he told the crowd about the choice he and the members of his household would be making: "As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD" (24:15).

Today, many of us wish our entire country would follow God's laws. Wouldn't it be nice if schools taught children to honor God, and our laws directed us to live in a godly manner?

But that's not the way things always turn out. People who follow God often feel that their faithfulness to his commands demands that they stand apart from the crowd. Declaring undying obedience to God often means declaring yourself out of the mainstream.

Despite your best efforts, you may not be able to interest your neighbors in your faith or convince your city council to honor God. But at least you and your family can serve the Lord with all your hearts.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

JOSHUA, THE FIRST OF THE twelve historical books (Joshua-Esther), forges a link between the Pentateuch and the remainder of Israel's history. Through three major military campaigns involving more than thirty enemy armies, the people of Israel learn a crucial lesson under Joshua's capable leadership: victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word, rather than through military might or numerical superiority.

The title of this book is appropriately named after its central figure, Joshua. His original name is *Hoshea*, "Salvation" (Num. 13:8). He is also called *Yeshua*, a shortened form of *Yehoshua*. This is the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek name *Iesous* (Jesus). Thus, the Greek title given to the book in the Septuagint is *Iesous Naus*, "Joshua the Son of Nun." The Latin title is *Liber Josue*, the "Book of Joshua."

Joshua's name is symbolic of the fact that although he is the leader of the Israelite nation during the conquest, the Lord is the Conqueror.

WATCH WORDS

- **be strong** (stand firm and not back down, confident and certain)—1:9
- **Joshua** ("Jehovah saves")—4:14 (also 6:27; 24:31)
- **inheritance** (possession or property)—13:7
- **rest** (be at peace, free from anxiety and conflict)—14:15 (also 11:23)
- **drive out** (expel, displace)—24:18 (also 24:12)

SPOTLIGHT

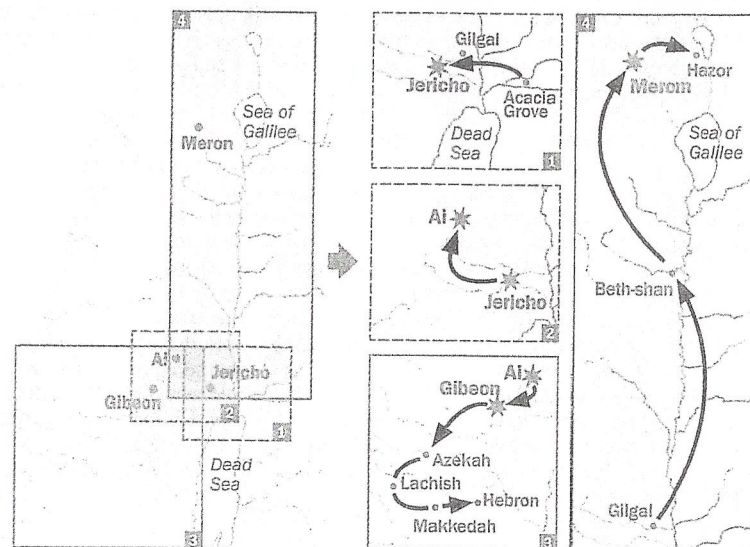
CONQUEST OF CANAAN

First battle of the conquest: The fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

Second battle of the conquest: Achan's sin and Ai's fall (Joshua 7-8)

Third battle of the conquest: Gibeon's deceit and the fall of the southern kings (Joshua 9-10)

Fourth battle of the conquest: The fall of the northern kings (Joshua 11)



AN INTRODUCTION TO

JOSHUA

Joshua was the general of the Israelite army while Moses was alive. When Moses died, General

Joshua took Moses' place as the leader of the people. Then Joshua led Israel's army to victory in Canaan. In great battles, the Israelites defeated the powerful Canaanites and conquered their walled cities. Afterward, Joshua gave each of Israel's 12 tribes its own part of the land God promised to them.

Headlines

SPIES POSE AS FLAX PLANTS

Joshua 2, page 275

PEOPLE CROSS WET RIVER DRY!

Joshua 3, page 276

SHOUT TUMBLES STONE WALLS

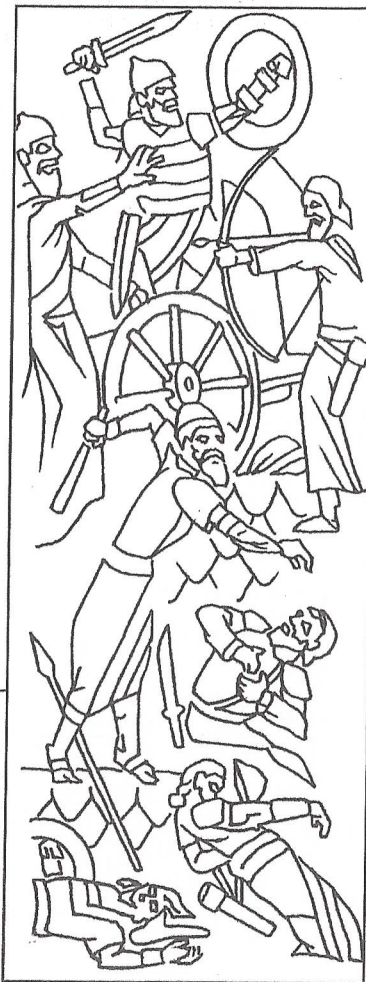
Joshua 6, page 279

HISTORY'S LONGEST DAY!

Joshua 10, page 285

TRIBES' LAND LOTTERY!

Joshua 14, page 291



THE ISRAELITES CONQUERED POWERFUL NATIONS. WHAT WAS THEIR SECRET WEAPON? SEE JOSHUA 10:42.

Why did the Israelites suffer one defeat?

They were Achan to lose. (See Joshua 7.)

What did the soldiers find when they looked for the spies in Jericho?

The flax and nothing but the flax. (See Joshua 2:6.)

Why was Joshua tired at Gibeon?

He'd had a really long day. (See Joshua 10:12-14.)

What's In It For Me?

TRUSTING GOD GIVES ME . . .

THE COURAGE OF JOSHUA.

THE FAITH OF RAHAB.

THE CONFIDENCE OF CALEB.

THE WISDOM TO AVOID ACHAN'S SIN.

VICTORY WHEN I OBEY GOD.

Is War Ever Right?

Just about everybody agrees that war is bad. In war, people are killed and homes are destroyed. So why did God tell the Israelites to go to war against the Canaanites? Why did God tell Joshua to kill all the Canaanites? How could a loving God do such a thing? Wasn't this cruel?

The Canaanites had a very evil religion. Their religion involved prostitution and witchcraft. Some Canaanites even burned their own children alive as sacrifices to their gods. They thought their gods liked the smell of human blood.

God had given the people of Canaan a long time to stop doing evil, but they kept on worshipping their own gods. God knew it was time to punish the sins of the Canaanites. He also had to protect his own people. If the Canaanites remained in the land, they would lead the Israelites to wicked ways (see Deuteronomy 20:16-18).

Actually, not all of the Canaanites were killed, and eventually they did teach the Israelites their immoral ways—just as God had warned. When that happened, God had to punish the Israelites, too.

War is terrible. And God doesn't like war or killing. But when the Israelites entered Canaan, God used war to stop the wicked ways of many evil people.

A Man of Wholehearted Action

HAD CALEB PLAYED FOOTBALL, he would have made a *great* fullback. Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, would have loved him.

And the feeling would have been mutual. When Vince said, "Success demands singleness of purpose," Caleb surely would have applauded. When the coach declared, "There's only one way to succeed at anything, and that is to give it everything," he would have stood up and shouted in agreement.

Scripture repeatedly uses one word to describe Caleb: *wholehearted* (Numbers 32:12; Joshua 14:9, 14). Caleb himself said that he strove to follow the Lord "wholeheartedly" (Joshua 14:8). And it was that single-minded, wholehearted, full-steam-ahead approach that made Caleb succeed when a whole generation of his peers failed.

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Caleb first comes to our attention as a 40-year-old spy. Moses picked Caleb, Joshua, and 10 others—one man for each of Israel's tribes—for a secret reconnaissance mission into Canaan. Their instructions: "See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad?" (Numbers 13:18-19).

Several weeks later the spies returned and described the land as "a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey" (Numbers 13:27). Yet 10 of the spies—all except Caleb and Joshua—balked. They spoke of giant men and fearsome fortresses so deadly that the land would "devour anyone who goes to live there" (Numbers 13:32). Through their toxic influence, "the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night" (Numbers 14:1).

Caleb and Joshua tore their clothes in vigorous protest and pleaded with the people to move forward in faith. But they couldn't turn the tide that day. The people even talked of executing them—until God himself showed up, threatening to wipe out the entire nation because of their lack of faith. When Moses intervened, begging God to spare his people's lives, God rescinded the death penalty. But he promised that not one of the generation of Israelites that had left Egypt would ever set foot in the Promised Land—except Joshua and Caleb. And then he gave his view of Caleb: "But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will possess their full share of that land" (Numbers 14:24).

Forty-five years later, it happened. Caleb said to Joshua, the new leader of the nation, "Today I am eighty-five years old. I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. So give me the hill country that the LORD promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the LORD is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the LORD said" (Joshua 14:10-12).

And that's just what he did—an overpowering fullback bowling over huge linemen like they were daisies. Lombardi would have cheered.

THE POINT: Success comes to those who remain loyal to God.

Caleb

Kings Defeated West of the Jordan

⁷The following is a list of the kings that Joshua and the Israelite armies defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which leads up to Seir. (Joshua gave this land to the tribes of Israel as their possession, ⁸including the hill country, the western foothills,* the Jordan Valley, the mountain slopes, the Judean wilderness, and the Negev. The people who lived in this region were the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.) These are the kings Israel defeated:

- ⁹ The king of Jericho
- The king of Ai, near Bethel
- ¹⁰ The king of Jerusalem
- The king of Hebron
- ¹¹ The king of Jarmuth
- The king of Lachish
- ¹² The king of Eglon
- The king of Gezer
- ¹³ The king of Debir
- The king of Geder
- ¹⁴ The king of Hormah
- The king of Arad
- ¹⁵ The king of Libnah
- The king of Adullam
- ¹⁶ The king of Makkedah
- The king of Bethel
- ¹⁷ The king of Tappuah
- The king of Hepher
- ¹⁸ The king of Aphek
- The king of Lasharon

- ¹⁹ The king of Madon
- The king of Hazor
- ²⁰ The king of Shimron-meron
- The king of Acshaph
- ²¹ The king of Taanach
- The king of Megiddo
- ²² The king of Kedesh
- The king of Jokneam in Carmel
- ²³ The king of Dor in the town of Naphoth-dor*
- The king of Goyim in Gilgal*
- ²⁴ The king of Tirzah.

In all, thirty-one kings were defeated.

1:9 be strong

(Heb. *chazaq*) (Judg. 16:28; Ps. 27:14) H2388: The Lord encouraged Joshua to "be strong," meaning that he was to stand firm and not back down; that he was to not be afraid, but be confident and certain instead. The same word is used to speak of Pharaoh's heart being hardened (Ex. 4:21; 7:13). In the story of Gideon he "retained" (*chazaq*) three hundred men, was "strengthened" (*chazaq*)

Personal Gold

from TONY EVANS

THE STRENGTH OF MEEKNESS

Meekness is not walking around with a sunken chest, head down, and doing everything you're asked to do by those within your sphere of influence. That is not meekness at all. That is, rather, the world's attempt to cage and emasculate a male. It is the enemy's strategy to castrate men's drive and sideline the starters on God's kingdom team. By painting complacency as a virtue and mediocrity as a goal, Satan has lulled the hearts of men asleep.

The true definition of meekness does not negate hunger or dismiss thirst. Neither does it remove pure unadulterated passion. Keep in mind, gentlemen, that passion, in and of itself, is not a bad thing. It simply means desire. Desire becomes bad only when it is wrongfully directed.

However, what Satan has done is contort what God has said in an attempt to twist the truth into a reality that is no longer recognizable, just as he did with Eve in the garden. Distorting the truth is exactly what Satan continues to do with regard to greatness in connection with meekness. Meekness is not weakness, as many have been led to believe. Meekness simply means submitting your power to a higher Control—it means submitting yourself to God's kingdom rule.

Numbers 12:3 tells us that Moses was a meek man. In fact, Moses was the meekest man: "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth" (NASB). Yet Moses, the meekest man during his time, led one of the bravest and greatest flights to freedom. Only the likes of Charlton Heston could play this man on the big screen. Moses was a powerful man potent with both influence and significance.

Because Moses was able to submit himself to divine authority, God was able to do great things in him and through him. God made Moses a great man. Yet Moses was considered meek because he was willing to serve the purposes of God to reflect the glory of God, rather than his own. . . .

Men, God is not opposed to greatness. God is opposed to pride. Big difference. Unfortunately, it is a difference not widely understood or embraced.

Meekness is not weakness, as many have been led to believe.

IN A NUTSHELL

Chapter 24 contains a recap of events from the time God called Abraham and blessed him (24:1-15).

FAMOUS JOSHUA QUOTE

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (24:15).

DID YOU KNOW?

► The book of Joshua chronicles the approximately 20 years of Joshua's leadership of the people after Moses anointed him at the end of Deuteronomy. *The Best Thing Since . . .*

Once the Israelites entered the land and began to eat of its fruit, the daily manna stopped. It had come to them all the years since they left Egypt until this day.

A Significant Burial

The Israelites had promised Joseph they would take his bones to the Promised Land and bury them there (Genesis 50:25; Exodus 13:19). "And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants" (Joshua 24:32).

JOSHUA

What's in a Name?

The name Joshua is a variant of Jesus and means "salvation."

A MAN OF HIS WORD

Even though the Gibeonites deceived Joshua when they met with him to establish a treaty, Joshua kept his vow before God and did not destroy them.

MIRACLES IN JOSHUA AS THE ISRAELITES DEFEATED THEIR ENEMIES

The Jordan parted, and the Israelites crossed on dry ground (3:15-17).

Jericho's wall collapsed (6:20).

The sun stood still for about a full day (10:12-14).

BY THE NUMBERS

24
CHAPTERS
658
VERSES
16,232
WORDS

LIFE LESSONS: Joshua received a title of high praise at his death: "the servant of the Lord" (24:29).

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW JOSHUA?

JOSHUA IN REVIEW

★ MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

1. Whose bones "were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that [his father] bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem"?

- A. Abraham
- B. Isaac
- C. Joseph
- D. Joshua

★ MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

2. Who was buried "in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash"?

- A. Abraham
- B. Isaac
- C. Joseph
- D. Joshua

"?" CRYPTIC PHRASES

3. The Kohathites, Gershonites and Merarites were subdivisions of which tribe?

- A. Gad
- B. Zebulun
- C. Levi
- D. Naphtali

✦ WHO DUNNIT?

4. Who placed the entire nation of Israel in danger of being defeated by its enemies by stealing a robe, gold and silver from the plunders of Jericho?

🕒 WHO SAID IT?

5. "Come up and help me attack Gibeon, because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites."

- A. Hoham, king of Hebron
- B. Piram, king of Jarmuth
- C. Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem
- D. Japhia, king of Lachish

🌍 WHERE IN THE WORLD

6. When the Israelites broke camp to cross the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water stopped flowing and piled up at what town?

- A. Jericho
- B. Gibeon
- C. Adam
- D. Kiriath Jearim

✦ WHO DUNNIT?

7. These people approached the Israelites with dry, moldy bread, cracked wineskins and worn-out clothes, claiming they had come on a long journey. Once the Israelites had made a treaty with them, they discovered it was all a ruse, that they were actually close neighbors. Who are the deceivers?

🌙 WHO SAID IT?

8. "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."

🔥 HOT SEAT

9. We feel so special! Out of all the tribes of Israel, ours is the only one with land on both sides of the Jordan River! Who are we?

🕒 WHO SAID IT?

10. "The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly."

🕒 TIME TRAVELER

11. I helped assign territories to all the tribes of Israel. When I died, I was buried at Gibeon in the hill country of Ephraim. Who am I?

- A. Aaron
- B. Caleb
- C. Eleazar
- D. Elvis

★ MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

12. How many kings did the Israelites defeat on the west side of the Jordan?

ANSWERS:

1. C (24:32) 2. D (24:29-30) 3. C (21:1-7) 4. Achan (7:1-26) 5. C (10:3-4) 6. C (3:14-16) 7. Gibeonites (9:1-27) 8. Joshua (10:12) 9. the tribe of Manasseh (22:7) 10. Moses (14:9) 11. C (19:51; 24:33) 12. 31 kings (12:7-24)