

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA – INTRO.

“Now Joshua the son of Nun **was filled (male / kal pf) with the spirit of wisdom** (chakemah / capacity to apply to human experience compatible with the word of God), for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.” (Deut.34:9)

It was Moses who changed his name from Hoshea to Joshua (Num.13:16). The Hebrew name Joshua means Yahweh is salvation. The Greek form of this name is Jesus (Matt.1:21).

Joshua was a spiritual mature believer when he was appointed successor to Moses over the second generation of Israelites – “So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Take Joshua the son of nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.’” (Num.27:18) He was honored with the royal title, “Servant of the Lord,” at his death (Josh.24:29) (110 yrs).

- He was a great military leader (Ex.17:8-16) [war against Amalek].
- He was a great statesman from the tribe of Ephraim (Num.13:8) [elected as 1 of 12 spies].
- He was only one of two men that came out of Egypt to enter the Promise Land (Num.14:26-30) – “Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.” (Num.14:30)
- Moses mentored him as a shepherd-leader (Ex.24:12-16) [Mt.Sinai] (Num.11:28).

This lesson will study EIGHT points of the Introduction of Joshua.

1. Scholarly tradition declares Joshua to be the writer of the Book.

“And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.” (Joshua 24:26)

Joshua finished the last chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy with a eulogy tribute to Moses (Deut.34:1-8).

The high priest Eleazer finished the last chapter of Book of Joshua with a eulogy tribute to Joshua (Josh. 24:29-32; Judges 2:8-10; Gen.33:19; 50:25; Ex.13:19) [bones of Joseph].

Eleazer’s son, Phinehas also gave eulogy tribute to his father in the same last chapter (Josh.24:33).

2. The dating of the events of Joshua is mostly associated with the Conquest and Occupation of the Promise land.

If we date the Exodus at 1446BC and subtract the 40 years of wilderness wandering, we have the beginning of Joshua’s ministry as 1406BC.

Tradition says the conquest and occupation of the Promise Land took about 40 years (Josh.14:7, 10) [Caleb same generation]. This would put the period of Conquest and Occupation between 1406 and 1366 BC (Ps.105:44-45; 1 Kings 6:1).

3. The historical setting of the book of Joshua begins with Israel camped on the east side of the Jordan River facing two big challenges: crossing the Jordan River and conquering Jericho.

“At the time of Israelite migration into Canaan the superpowers of the ancient Near East were relatively weak such as the Hittites, Babylonians, Egyptians, and Assyrians.” (NIV, Introduction, pg. 289)

Joshua’s 31 war victories on the west side of Jordan are listed in Josh.12:7-24. During the seven years of Conquest, Joshua lost one battle and no wars [Achan’s sin of Josh.7] (Acts 7:11-12).

4. The Book of Joshua deals with the 4th of 12 periods of the history of Israel.

- Patriarch period
- Egyptian bondage
- Exodus and wandering
- **Conquest and Occupation** (Joshua)
- Judges
- Kings
- Fall of North Kingdom to Assyria
- Fall of South Kingdom to Babylon
- First Advent of Christ
- Fall of south Kingdom to Rome; Church age and Rapture
- The Tribulation (last 7 years of Jewish age) and Second Advent of Jesus Christ
- Millennium Kingdom

“Scripture presents historical facts in order to show that history is en route to a goal: that is dynamic movement, and that the earlier leads to a later and a last.” (New International Commentary on OT, Book of Joshua, pg.4) [The redemptive plan of God.]

5. Joshua is the first book in the second division of the Hebrew canon (Masoretic text).

It is the first of eight books of the Nabiim (former prophets; Joshua to Esther). You might be interested in why it is located among the prophet books? It is the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Abrahamic Covenant.

It is the sixth book in the English Bible.

6. The book of Joshua can be divided into at least two different divisions.

The first way to divide the Book of Joshua is to divide it into the following two parts.

- Chapters 1-12 deal with the Conquest.
- Chapters 13-24 deal with the Occupation

The second way to divide the Book is to divide it into the following four parts. Each of these parts has a unique miracle

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| • Crossing of Jordan | chs.1-5 | (3:13-17; 4:7) | [wall of water] |
| • Capture of Jericho | ch.6 | (6:20, 27) | [wall of Jericho] |
| • Capture of Ai and Achan sin | chs.7-8 | (8:18-23) | [wall of smoke] |
| • Conquest and Occupation | chs.9-24 | (10:12-14) | [wall of light and hailstones] |

7. The underlying theme of the Book of Joshua is God's faithfulness to His word and especially to the Abrahamic Covenant [Land section] (Gen.12:1-3; 15:18; Josh.1:2-6, 11; 11:23) (1 Cor.1:9; 10:13).

There are great spiritual lessons to learn from the book of Joshua. Here are four.

- Israel did not win or earn the Promised Land. But it was a **gift** of God's grace. "So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it." (Josh.24:43; Neh.9:22-25) {The 5th cycle of divine discipline also shows God's ownership.}
- The events of the Conquest and Occupation of the Promise Land were written for our instructions: "Now these things were written to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (1 Cor.10:11, 6).
- Faith and obedience conquered the land and must be exercised to occupy it (Heb.11:30-31/ Hall of Faith/ note how it is listed).
- As spiritual leader, Joshua's task was to turn the promises of God into practical reality by means of the faith cycle (Rom.4:21).

8. There is a two-fold purpose in studying the Book of Joshua: historical and doctrinal lessons.

Historically it reminds us that God is in control of human history and the redemptive plan.

Doctrinally it reminds us that God is faithful (1 Cor.1:9; 10:13) to fulfill His promise in perfect timing (Heb.1:1-3; Gal.4:4).

"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
(2 Pet.1:20-21/ Remember that Joshua is the first book of the Nabim.)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim.3:16-17)

FINAL THOUGHT:

**The study of Joshua will prepare DSBC for an exciting spiritual journey over the next 10 years.
It has taken us 32 years to get here and we are ready**

TO MOVE FORWARD!