

Bible Snapshots



Joshua – Crossing Bridges, Conquering Cities

Author – Joshua (24:26) ca. 1425 BC

Connection with Deuteronomy

- Picks up the where Deuteronomy leaves off – preparing to enter the promised land, God has given the law once more for Joshua to uphold and carry the people into the land.

Facts

- Joshua's original name was Oshea, which means "salvation" (Number 13:8). He is also called Jehoshua and Hoshea (Num. 13:16; Dt. 32:44). Joshua (14:6) means "Jehovah saves. The Greek equivalent of Joshua is Jesus (KJV - Acts 7:45; Heb. 4:8)
- 24 chapters, 658 verses / historical in character / covers a period of about 25 years

Themes

- The book can be divided into three fairly distinct part thematically. First Israel's entrance into the land (1-5). Second, The conquest of the land (6-12), Third, the division of the land (13-24)
- The underlying theme of the book, designed to reach us, is how Jesus will lead us into a place of spiritual blessing and help us overcome the enemy.

Key chapters/verse

- 1 – God's commission of Joshua / verse – 21:44, 45

Key phrase / word / thought

- Possess (1:1-4) – is synonymous with "rest" and "rested"
- God's faithfulness (1:3; 21:45)
- Strong and courageous (1:6-10, 18)

Christ In numbers

- Captain of the Lord's host (5:14)

Types of Christ

- Joshua – salvation through conquest and victory of the adversary
- Rahab's scarlet thread – blood that brings deliverance from judgment (2:12-21; Heb. 9:19-22)

Miracles in Joshua

The Jordan river divided (3:14ff); the falling walls of Jericho (6:1-20); Storm of hailstones to aid Israel in battle (10:11); The sun and moon stood still to assist Israel in battle (10:11-14; Jer. 33:3; James 5:16b)

Proving Deuteronomy

Fall of Jericho – Ruins of this city were excavated in the 1930's by John Garstang. Evidence showed that the walls had fallen flat; massive ash layers also affirm that the city burned (6:24a); there was an inner and outer wall and portions of the inner wall, where people like Rahab would have lived, remained standing.

City of Gibeon – (9:1-21) the men of Gibeon were punished for deceiving Joshua by being made "hewers" of wood and carriers of water (21). It is significant in view of the discovery of an extensive water system in ancient Palestine. Massive tunnels and stairs for water carriers were found (cf. Jer. 41:11, 12) The **Merneptah Tablet**, This Pharaoh ruler in Egypt in about 1224 to 1214 BC and was forced to defend his empire against invaders from the north. In his record he mentions Israel. **The Tel el-Amarna Tablets** – These tablets were discovered near Luxor, Egypt, in 1886 and sheds light on Israel's conquests. Many of these tablets were written by Canaanite and Syrian kings to Egypt's pharaoh for help against the people invading their land. Once such invading group were the "Habiri" or Hebrews, which confirms Israel's entrance into the land. **The Hornets** (24:12) – Israel could gain success in conquest because God sent these before them (ex. 23:28; Dt. 7:20). While Israel was in the last years of bondage in Egypt Thutmose III, whose personal badge was the hornet, waged a great war against Canaan.