

Purpose

To give the history of Israel's conquest of Canaan

Meaning of Joshua

"Jehovah saves"

Penman

Joshua, except for the ending which may have been written by the High Priest, Phinehas, an eyewitness to the events recounted there.

Date Written

Unsure

Setting

Canaan, the same territory as modern-day Israel

Key People

Joshua, Rahab, Achan, Phinehas, Eleazar

Key Places

Jericho, Ai, Mt. Ebal, Mt. Gerizim, Gibeon, Gilgal, Shiloh, Shechem

Key Verse

"In three days, you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the Lord has given you."

Joshua 1:11

Special Feature

Joshua and Caleb were the only two Israelites who left Egypt and entered Canaan

An Overview (24 Chapters)

- Entering the Promised Land, *1:1-5:12*
- Conquering the Promised Land, *5:13-12:24*
- Dividing the Promised Land, *13:1-24:33*

Major Themes

- *Success*: God gave success to the people when they obeyed His plan, not when they followed their own desires. God's work done God's way will always bring success.
- *Faith*: The Israelites trusted God daily to guide and provide for them. By seeing how God fulfills His promises in the past gives us confidence to trust Him in the present and in the future.
- *Leadership*: Joshua exemplified terrific leadership skills. He was confident in God's strength, courageous in the face of opposition, and willing to seek the Lord's advice.
- *Conquest*: God commanded His people to conquer the Canaanites and take all of their land. Unfortunately, they never finished the job. They were faithful to accomplish their mission at first, but they faltered in the end. To love God means more than being enthusiastic about Him. We must complete all the work that He gives to us, which requires a daily commitment on our behalf.