

1. The Book of Joshua

- a. "The Old Man is gone, and Joshua is in charge!" Joshua 1:2 paraphrase
- a. **Purpose:** To recount Israel's capture and settlement of the land of Canaan with emphasis on God's faithfulness.
 - i. War, Slaughter, Conquest
 - ii. New beginnings for the people of God
- b. **Historical Context:** Moses led the Israelites to the Promised Land and now Joshua will take them into it.
 - i. In **Genesis**, Israel was born as a nation in the call and promises of God to Abraham (*Election* of the nation). In **Exodus**, the nation was delivered out of bondage in Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and was given God's Holy Law (*Redemption* of the nation). In **Leviticus**, the nation was taught how to worship in view of God's holiness (*Sanctification* of the nation). In **Numbers**, they were tested and numbered as a nation (*Direction and Wandering* of the nation). In **Deuteronomy**, the law was reviewed and reiterated and closed with the assurance that Israel would possess the land (*Instruction* of the nation). In **Joshua**, the nation crossed over Jordan and took possession of the land (*Possession* by the nation). If Moses is the symbol of deliverance, then Joshua is the symbol of victory. Joshua teaches us that faith "is the victory that overcomes the world" ([1 John 5:4](#)).
 - ii. Egypt: bondage, death
 - iii. Wilderness: unbelief and disobedience, not conquerors
 - iv. Book of Joshua: Conquerors, Conflict & Victory
- c. Deuteronomy 34 (READ ALOUD)
 - i. 34:1-4, Moses shown the Promised Land from Mount Nebo
 - ii. 34:9, Joshua now in charge
- d. It tells how God commissioned his people to serve as his army under the leadership of his servant Joshua, to take Canaan in his name out of the hands of the idolatrous and immoral Canaanites (whose measure of sin was now full; see Ge 15:16 and note). It further tells how he aided them in the enterprise and gave them conditional tenancy in his land in fulfillment of the ancient pledge he had made to Israel's ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

2. Land (MAP)

- a. Word found 87 times in Joshua (200 times in Deuteronomy, "possess" over 50)
- b. Promised Land (Israel-Deuteronomy 8:7-10, "good land")
 - i. "Land of plenty"
- c. "Center" of the world (Ezekiel 5:5, 38:12)
 - i. Literally meaning navel
 - ii. In a central position to be a blessing and example of blessing to the world.
 - iii. God's redemption story on center stage!

3. Themes

- a. Under Moses, God redeemed His people out of slavery in Egypt and declared His love for His people at Mount Sinai.

- b. Under Joshua, the Lord would show He is a divine warrior and deliver His people into the promised land.
 - c. **Primary:** To show God's faithfulness to His promises.
 - d. **Secondary:** Victory must come through faith in the power of God
 - i. Courageous Faith!
4. **Who was Joshua?**-“servant of the Lord” (24:29), symbol of victory, name means “Lord is my salvation”
- a. Introduced in Exodus 17:9-13 (READ ALOUD)
 - i. Warrior, under Moses' leadership fighting the enemies of God
 - 1. You get in fights with people who say wrestling is fake. You clothesline people in the supermarket for no reason. You elbow-smash your dog and turn him over for the three count. Instead of reading a bedtime story to your kids, you just put them in a sleeper hold. Your king-sized bed has ropes and turn-buckles surrounding it. You hit your co-worker in the head with a chair while your manager is distracting him. You walk down the aisle at church giving high-fives as the people hold up signs and chant your name.
 - ii. Worshipper, Exodus 33
 - 1. “warriors who are surrendered to God, warriors who know that their authority comes because they are under authority, warriors willing to wait even when everyone else is rushing ahead, or [warriors willing to] act decisively...in obedience” to their commanding officer”
 - b. 6 things about Joshua
 - i. Slave-as a youth he lived through the bitter realities of slavery in Egypt, witnessed the supernatural plagues and Israel's escape at the Red Sea.
 - ii. Soldier-Exodus 17:9-13 (mentioned above), led the troops of Israel to victory over the Amalekites.
 - iii. Servant-Exodus 24:13 “minister” (Moses' servant), allowed to accompany Moses up the Holy mountain where the tablets of the law were received. Stood watch at the temporary tent of meeting before the tabernacle was built (Exodus 33:11)
 - iv. Submissive: to Moses (see above), to God (Joshua 1:8, 5:13-15) He was known for his deep trust in God and as “a man in whom is the spirit” (Nu 27:18).
 - v. Spy- Joshua was elected to represent his own tribe of Ephraim when the 12 spies were sent into Canaan to look over the land. Only Joshua and Caleb, representing the tribe of Judah, were ready to follow God's will and take immediate possession of the land (Numbers 13-14). The rest of the Israelites of that generation were condemned to die in the desert. Even Moses died short of the goal and was told to turn everything over to Joshua. However, circumstances didn't rob his faith in God, he was patient.
 - 1. What deodorant was put undercover? Old SPY-ce.
 - 2. What kind of shoes did Joshua wear when spying? Sneakers
 - 3. 2 Butchers spying on each other...a steak out.

- vi. Successor- Deuteronomy 3:28, “But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.”

5. Difficulty

a. War

- i. Why Canaanites?
 - 1. Moral Corruption (Lev 18)
 - 2. Child Sacrifice (Deut 12:29-31)
- ii. Did God encourage Genocide?
 - 1. No, “Totally destroyed” was not meant literally (Deut 7)
 - 2. Joshua 10 & 15 mention Canaanites, so they weren’t wiped out.
- iii. Wars were limited to the Canaanite people
 - 1. God encouraged pursuing peace with other nations in Deut 20

b. Faith

- i. Your personal faith will be challenged due to the war and killing. It will also be challenged as you will be encouraged to live it out in a courageous way.

6. Answer to Difficulty

- a. Psalm 84:11, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”
 - i. God is Good
- b. Daniel 4:35, “all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”
 - i. God is Sovereign
 - 1. He Governs
 - 2. He has TOTAL rights and ownership
 - 3. He has complete freedom to do as He pleases
 - 4. He gives & takes away
 - 5. He owes us nothing!
 - 6. He gives us grace (every breath is His grace)
 - ii. Psalm 119:89-90, “Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.”
 - 1. God is Faithful
 - iii. Romans 11:33, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”
 - 1. God is Wise
 - iv. 1 John 4:8, “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
 - 1. God is love
 - v. Psalm 97:2, “Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.”
 - 1. God is Just

vi. Psalm 18:30, “This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.”

1. God is perfect

7. Courageous Faith

- a. Although Joshua knew the outcome, He had to rely on the God above to provide, protect, and persevere. Knowledge is nothing without application and action. Joshua was a man of application and action and we are excited to discover how we too can have courageous faith as we live our lives for Him!