

## Occupying the Promised Land

### Joshua

#### *Period of Bible history*

Conquest and Division of Canaan. Following Moses' death, Joshua led the twelve tribes in the conquest and division of Canaan.

#### *Major Events*

Joshua takes command. In chapter 1 Joshua replaces Moses as leader of the people of Israel. Again into the land. Chapter 2 tells us about spies from Israel entering the land, in particular Jericho, to gather information and prepare for the Israelite invasion.

Israel crosses the Jordan. In chapter 3 the people of Israel cross into the promised land.

The fall of Jericho. Israel defeats the powerful city of Jericho in chapter 6.

Israel's defeat by Ai. Soon after their victory the people become proud and rebellious and are subsequently defeated by the army of Ai.

Israel and the Gibeonites. Chapter 9 tells us about the Gibeonites who trick their way into the nation of Israel.

The sun stands still. In chapter 10 the people are fighting to capture Jerusalem. God causes the sun to stand still, prolonging the daylight hours for the battle.

Joshua's charge to Israel. In chapters 23-24 we read the last events of Joshua's life. He encourages the people to live faithful, obedient lives to the Lord.

#### *Important Individuals*

Joshua - listed as the son of Nun, he replaces Moses as leader of the people of Israel. He was one of the original spies to enter the land of Canaan and is one of only two adults to have survived the wandering in the wilderness.

Rahab - A prostitute in Jericho. She hid the spies in Jericho, protecting them from the soldiers of the city. When Jericho fell she was included among the people of Israel.

Achan - After the fall of Jericho, Israel is defeated at Ai. Their defeat is revealed to be due to sin in the community. Achan had kept some of the treasures of Jericho for himself, ignoring God's command that everything be destroyed.

#### *Covenants*

There are a few covenant renewals in Joshua. In chapter 4 when the people cross the Jordan river they stop halfway across and build a memorial with twelve stones. This would remind the people of the Lord's acts. Not exactly a covenant renewal, but a covenant reminder.

Following the fall of Jericho and of Ai, in Joshua 8:30-35 Joshua leads the people in renewing the covenant with God. In Deuteronomy 27:4-6 Moses commanded the people to build an altar to God at Mount Ebal. That command is now fulfilled.

In 24:1-13, before his death Joshua leads the people to renew the covenant.

*Outline of Joshua*

- I. Joshua leads Israel (1)
- II. Once more spying out the land (2)
  - A. Events in Jericho (2:1-21)
  - B. Reporting back to Israel (2:22-24)
- III. Israel crosses into the Promised Land (3-5)
  - A. Israel crosses the Jordan River (3-4)
    1. The people are placed in formation for the crossing (3)
    2. Building a memorial tower (4)
  - B. Circumcising a new generation of God's people (5)
- IV. The invasion of the Promised Land (6-12)
  - A. The fall of Jericho (6)
  - B. Israel defeated by Ai (7:1-9)
  - C. Achan's sin revealed (7:10-26)
  - D. The fall of Ai (8:1-29)
  - E. Covenant renewal (8:30-35)
  - F. Israel and the Gibeonites (9)
  - G. Fighting the army of Jerusalem; the sun stands still (10:1-15)
  - H. Various conquests (10:16-12:24)
- V. Land remaining to be conquered (13:1-7)
- VI. Dividing the land (13:8-22:34)
  - A. Various divisions (14-21)
  - B. Those in the East return home (22)
    1. The Reubenites, Gadites, and half tribe of Manasseh are dismissed (22:1-9)
    2. The altar of remembrance (22:10-34)
- VII. Joshua's final charge and death (23-24)
  - A. Joshua's charge to the leaders (23)
  - B. Covenant renewal (24:1-13)
  - C. Charge to the people (24:14-28)
  - D. Joshua's death (24:29-33)