

The Life and Times of Joshua

Notes by Albert Fairweather

His name means – ‘Jehovah’s Salvation’

This is the same as 'Jesus' in the Greek- Mat.1:21

Joshua, a young man:

First mention: – Ex. 17:8-10: He fought while Moses prayed, and defeated Amalek (Esau’s grandson), a type of the flesh –Gal.4:29.

The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation - (Saul, 1 Sam.Ch.15).

It is only through the Spirit that we overcome in this warfare – Rom.8:2-4; Gal.5:16-26

1. His devotion: He went with Moses to Mt. Sinai – Ex. 24:13; 32:17

2. His communion: He sought God’s company: God had first place in his life – Ex. 33:11

3. His faith: He with Caleb brought a good report of the land – Num. 14:6-10

4. His calling: He was God’s appointed leader, not self appointed – Num. 27:15-23

Overview of the Book of Joshua

All that follows are 'Types' or 'Examples' – written for our ‘admonition’ - 1 Cor. 10:11.

1. Chapters 1 to 12 - Entrance into the Land.

2. Chapters 13 to 22 - Its division among the Tribes.

3. Chapters 23-24 – Joshua challenges Israel.

Note: The Land was given by 'Promise' to Abraham – Gen. 15:18-21

But possessed by 'Law' under Joshua (Ch 1:4) – but not to the promised extent.

4. Moses (Law giver) brought to Jordan. The ‘law’ a tutor that brings to Christ – Gal. 3:24.

5. Joshua possessed the Land. By ‘grace’ we are brought to our inheritance, to salvation in Jesus Christ – Eph.1:3; 1 Pet.1:3-5.

Israel have not yet possessed the land to the fullest extent – they will when Christ reigns.

.....
.....

Chapter 1

God's Challenge & Encouragement to Joshua

Josh.1:1-2. God speaks: “*Moses My servant is dead*” - his memorial! The land a gift.

Josh.1:3-4. God’s charge: “*Every place...your foot will tread upon*” – as promised to Abram.

Josh.1 5-6. God’s promise & challenge: “*I will be with you...be strong & of good courage*”.

Josh.1:7-8. God’s Word: “*This Book of the Law*” to be meditated on and “*all that is written*” to be obeyed.

Josh.1:9. God’s presence: “*the Lord your God is with you*’.

Preparations to Possess the Land

Josh.1:10-11. Walk & warfare requires preparation: Provision for food and travel.

Note: In three days (Josh. 3:1-3); Moses (Ex. 5:3; 8:27); Our Lord (Luke 13:32-33). We must walk today & tomorrow and be perfected when we see Him!

Josh.1:12-18. The tribes east of Jordan promise to help.

Canaan pictures our present spiritual inheritance – the place of spiritual warfare - ours to enjoy by:

a. Obeying the Word – John 14:21-24

b. Claiming the promises - 1 Peter 1:3-5

c. Overcoming by faith – 1 John 5:4

.....
.....

Chapter 2

The Spies, Jericho and Rahab - Heb. 11:30-31

“*Go, view the land...*” – a military strategy!

Josh.2:1-11. The faith and confession of Rahab in the God of Israel – Heb.11:30-31.

Josh.1:12-18. The assurance of her and her family's salvation – “*give me a true token*”.

“*We have redemption through His blood*” – Eph. 1:7.

Josh.1:21. The scarlet cord – the evidence of her faith. Later she married Salmon, they are among the ancestors of Christ.

Josh.1:23-24. The spies faithful report – “*Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands..*”

.....
.....

Chapter 3

The Red Sea & the Jordan Crossed

The Red Sea – *what they were delivered from* – Pharaoh and Egypt. We are delivered from Satan and this world system.

The Jordan – *what they were being brought into* – the Land of Canaan. This answers to our spiritual possessions in Christ in the heavenly places.

There will be spiritual conflict – Eph. 6.10-20

Israel crosses the Jordan

Josh.3:1-2. Entering the Land in three days.

Josh.3:3-4;8;11. The priests carry the Ark, His presence, protection & provision – Heb.13:5-6.

Josh.3:7. Joshua magnified - Christ, the Captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:9-10; 6:19-20).

Josh.3:8-10. God's power is supreme over all enemies.

Josh.3:11-17. The priests and the Ark in the Jordan till all cross over, Christ in death for us.

.....

Chapter 4

Israel Crosses the Jordan

Josh.4:1-9; 19-20. **The 12 stones:**

Taken from Jordan to Gilgal; the 12 stones in Jordan: – *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me"* (Gal. 2:20).

Josh.4:10, 21-24. Everything was '*finished*' – Christ said *"It is finished"*! (John 19:30).

We are identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection – Rom. 6:1-14.

Our inheritance is also secured!

.....

Chapter 5

Lessons in the Land

1. Josh.5:1-2. The enemy afraid. 1- 2. In obedience and trust there is victory.

2. Josh.5:2-9. The sharp knives. Applying God's word in self judgement (1 Cor. 11:31; Phil.3:3; Rom. 2:28-29).

3. Josh.5:10. The Passover kept. Redemption in Christ our Passover (1 Cor. 5:6-8).

4. Josh.5:11. The produce of the Land. Rejoicing in the ascended Christ, our true spiritual food (1 Thess. 5:16).

5. Josh.5:12. The manna ceased. Christ no longer known after the flesh (2. Cor. 5:16).

No need for images or icons of Christ! We worship and serve a risen Saviour.

Chapter 6

Jericho defeated - Trusting in God and obeying His word.

Chapter 7-8

Israel has sinned!

Defeat at Ai – the sin of Achan. Disobedience through coveting. He caused all Israel to sin.

Chapter 9

The treaty with the Gibeonites. Self-confidence – God not consulted.

Chapters 10 to 21

The Land possessed

Records the conquest of the land. *"Not a word failed of any good which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass"* (Josh 21:45).

Israel were spread throughout the Land – yet pockets of the Canaanites remained (Josh.23:4-9; Judges 1:1).

Some they drove out, others they could not drive out, and some they spared.

Have we driven out the passions of the flesh?

Chapter 23

The final days of Joshua

This chapter is Joshua's farewell address to Israel. He encourages and challenges them to keep the Law and possess the Land.

Chapter 24

Joshua reminds Israel of their origins in idolatry. He calls on them to make a choice between serving idols and serving the Lord.

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

The death of Joshua

He died aged 110 (Josh.24:29-30).

His name means – '**Jehovah's Salvation**'

He had wrought a great salvation for Israel.

He possessed his inheritance, and was buried there.

His fitting tribute

*“Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua,
and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua,
who had known all the works of the LORD which
He had done for Israel”*

(Josh 24:31).