

The Book of Joshua

- I. THE INVASION OF THE LAND--ISRAEL CLAIMS ITS POSSESSIONS (JOSHUA 1-5).
- A. The preparation (1:1-9).
 - 1. God speaks to Joshua.
 - a. He was to lead Israel across the Jordan into Palestine.
 - b. He was to be strong and courageous.
 - c. He was to observe and meditate upon the Law of God.
 - d. He could then be absolutely confident that, "The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (1:9).
 - 2. Joshua speaks to Israel (1:10-11, 16).
 - B. The penetration (2:1).
 - 1. Two men are sent to spy out Jericho (2:1).
 - 2. The King of Jericho learns of their mission and sends out a search party (2:2-3).
 - 3. The spies are hidden by a newly converted ex-harlot named Rahab, who would later be spared when the city was destroyed (2:4-6, 12-14, 18).
 - C. The passage (3:13).
 - 1. The priests were to lead the way to the Jordan River, carrying the Ark of God (3:6).
 - 2. When the priests put their feet into Jordan, the river immediately stopped flowing, thus allowing Israel to cross on dry ground (3:13-17).
 - D. The pile of stones (4:1, 8-9, 21).
 - 1. Upon crossing, Israel was to construct two memorial piles of twelve stones each. One pyramid was to be placed in the middle of the river and the other on the west side of Jordan (4:8-9).
 - 2. The pyramid on the western bank was there as a silent witness to future generations of God's faithfulness in roiling back Jordan's waters (4:4-7, 20-21; Rom. 8.16).
 - E. The purification of the people (5:3). Upon reaching the western side of Palestine, God ordered the males of Israel to be circumcised. This was done, and the name of the place was called Gilgal, which means, "to roll away" (5:2-5, 9).
 - F. The Passover (5:10).
 - G. The palatable diet (5:11-12).
 - H. The prince from heaven (5:13-15).
 - 1. Joshua receives a heavenly visitor, apparently Jesus himself, on the eve of the battle against Jericho (5:13-15).
 - 2. Joshua is reassured of victory and is told (as once was Moses--Ex. 3:5) to remove his shoes.
- II. THE SUBJECTION OF THE LAND--ISRAEL CONQUERS ITS POSSESSIONS (JOSHUA 6-12).
- A. The central campaign (Josh. 6).
 - 1. Jericho--a city shouted down (6:20). Israel's leaders were to march around Jericho once per day for six days, On the seventh day this was to be done seven times, followed by shouting and the blowing of trumpets. God would then supernaturally cause the walls to fall down. Israel obeyed and God performed all this (6:22-27; 1 Kings 16:34).
 - 2. Ai--arrogance knocked down (7:1-13). After Jericho, an overconfident and arrogant Israel is soundly defeated by a small city named Ai (7:2-6, 10-11).
 - 3. Achan--a sinner sought (7:14--8:29).
 - a. Joshua is told that this defeat was due to sin in the camp. Someone had disobeyed God and stolen some forbidden loot from Jericho (7:11).
 - b. A divinely conducted manhunt begins and eventually points to Achan, from the tribe of Judah (7:16-19).
 - c. He confesses and is executed for this in the Valley of Achor (7:20, 24-26).
 - 4. Gerizim and Ebal--the law handed down (8:30-35). As Moses had previously commanded, the blessings and curses of the law are read from Mt. Gerizim and Ebal.
 - B. The southern campaign (Josh. 9-10).
 - 1. Gibeon--the wool pulled over (9). Joshua is tricked into signing a nonaggression peace treaty with the city of Gibeon (9:3-6, 15-16, 27; Psa. 15.4)
 - 2. Ajalon--the sun shone down (10:1-14). Joshua is forced to do battle with the king of Jerusalem and his allies who had attacked Gibeon for cooperating with Israel during the battle. God (at Joshua's request) supernaturally prolongs the duration of the light from the sun and allows Israel the necessary time to defeat its enemies (10:12-14).
 - 3. Makkedah--five kings cut down (10:15-43). The king of Jerusalem and his four allied kings are captured in a cave called Makkedah. After a victory celebration which featured Israeli soldiers putting their feet upon the necks of the kings, the five were hanged from a tree (10:17-18, 23-27).
 - C. The northern campaign (Josh. 11-12).

1. Merom--the horses slowed down (11:5-9). Here, Joshua hamstringed the horses, thus rendering them useful for farm work but useless for warfare.
2. Hazor--a capital burned down (11:13). Jabin, king of Hazor, organized and led the northern attack against Israel. He was soundly defeated and had his capital burned to the ground.

III. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND--ISRAEL COLONIZES ITS POSSESSIONS (JOSHUA 13-24).

- A. The land divided. The land was now partitioned under the supervision of Joshua, Eleazar, and the key tribal leaders by the casting of lots (14:1-2; 19:51).
 1. The land east of Jordan: Reuben, Gad, and one half tribe of Manasseh (12:1-6).
 2. The land west of Jordan: Judah, Ephraim, one half tribe of Manasseh, Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan (12:7-24; 13:1-13).
 3. The land for Levi: Levi was given no land, as God himself would be its portion (13:33). However, the tribe was given forty-eight special cities from the remaining eleven tribes (21:41).
- B. A warrior excited. Caleb visits with Joshua and gives one of the most thrilling testimonies in all the Bible. Note his challenging words in 14:7-12.
- C. An altar indicted (Josh. 22).
 1. After the land was divided, Israel set up the tabernacle at Shiloh (18:1).
 2. Joshua called together the armies of the two and a half tribes at Shiloh, blessed them, and sent them to their chosen home on the east side of Jordan (22:1-6).
 3. Before crossing the river, these two and a half tribes erected a large monument in the shape of an altar to remind them and their unborn children of their common heritage with the tribes on the west side of Jordan (22:9-10).
 4. This was misinterpreted by the nine and a half tribes as an act of rebellion and an ugly civil war was threatened (22:12).
 5. The misunderstanding was cleared up just in time by an eleven man delegation from the nine and a half tribes led by Aaron's grandson, Phinehas (22:26-30).
- D. A final sermon recited (Josh. 23-24). Joshua's last words to Israel.
 1. He reminds them of God's goodness (23:3).
 2. He warns them concerning disobedience (23:11-13).
 3. He reviews this history (24:1-13).
 4. He challenges them to serve God (24:14-18).
 5. He completes the book that bears his name (24:26).
 6. He dies and departs for heaven (24:29).