

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

CONQUERING & LIVING IN THE PROMISED LAND

NATURAL HISTORY: Joshua led the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Israel then conquered the peoples there, divided the land, and lived in the areas given to their 12 tribes.

SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT: Jesus wants to lead His people into the promises of God for their lives. We must conquer our enemies and establish the Kingdom of God in our life, family, church, city, and nation. The following chart will help show this to us:

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA		
The PLAN (1 Cor. 15:46)	"First the Natural"	"Then the Spiritual"
The BIBLE	The Old Testament	The New Testament
The LEADER	Joshua	JESUS (these two names are the same in Hebrew)
The PEOPLE	Israel (the natural sons of Abraham)	Christians (spiritual sons of Abraham, Gal.3:29)
The ENEMY	Canaanites	The Army of Satan
The BATTLEGROUND	On the Earth	In the Heavens (Ephesians 6:12)
The INHERITANCE	Land of Israel	Kingdom of God

The Book of Joshua is a natural picture, or type, of what the Lord wants to fulfill in the Spirit for the Body of Christ today. There is still a "promised land" for the people of God to enter in and possess. It is not natural, but spiritual. It is the promises of God, the gifts & ministries, and the eternal position & rewards that God wants us to inherit in His kingdom.

We will have many spiritual battles before we can enter into all the inheritance that God desires to give us in His kingdom. Then we will also need wisdom and consecration to use & keep what God has given to us. These spiritual secrets are taught to us by the book of Joshua.

THE MAIN SECTIONS OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA			
1st Half: Conquering the Land		2nd Half: Living in the Land	
Section 1: Entering the Land Chapters 1-5	Section 2: Conquering Canaan Chapters 6-12	Section 3: Dividing the Land, Chapter 13 to 22:9	Section 4: Keeping the Inheritance Chap.22:10-Chap.24

SECTION 1: ENTERING THE LAND, Chapters 1-5

THE PREPARATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES

When studying the Journey of Israel, it becomes clear that there are many preparations that must take place before God's people are ready to enter into their inheritance:

- 1) They were first saved (by the blood of the lamb) out of Egypt, Ex.12 & 1 Cor.5:7.
- 2) Next they went through the Red Sea, a type of water baptism for a Christian, 1 Cor.10:2.
- 3) Next they came to Mount Sinai, which spiritually speaks of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Then they learned how to become a holy people as they were given the laws of Moses and as they went through the ten trials of the Wilderness, Deut.8:2-5, Heb.12:5-10.
- 5) After this, at Kadesh-Barnea, they were invited to enter the Promised Land, just two years after leaving Egypt. But because of their unbelief and carnality they had to wait another 38 years until Moses finally led them to the edge of the Promised Land, Num.14.

- How long will it take for us to become a holy, obedient, spiritually mature people who are ready to "cross the Jordan" into our own inheritance in God: 2 years, or 40 years?

MANY FAILED TO FULLY ENTER IN, MT.22:14

Joshua led the people of God into the Promised Land , but he also saw millions who failed to enter into the plan of God. In his own generation, all of the Israelites died in the wilderness except for Joshua and Caleb, Num.14:28-30. They had all been saved by the blood of the Passover lamb, and they all crossed the Red Sea. But when the Lord tested them in the wilderness they did not qualify through the trials, Deut.8:2-5, Num.14:22-23.

The New Testament warns that the same judgement of God can fall on us if we do not let the Lord fully prepare us. We can also fail to enter into all of God's plans for our lives, Heb.3:7-4:11, Heb.12:5-17, Heb.6:1-3.

JOSHUA'S PREPARATIONS

- 1) Joshua became a servant, Num.11:28; Mk.10:43-44, Lk.16:10-13.
- 2) Joshua spent much time in the presence of God, Ex.33:11; Ps.27:4; 2 Cor.3:18.
- 3) Joshua became a good soldier, Ex.17:9-10, 2 Tim.2:3, Mt.11:12.
- 4) Joshua had his name (and character) changed, 1 Sam.25:25. In Num.13:8 his name was "Hoshea," meaning "salvation," but in Num.13:16 it was changed to "Yehoshua," meaning "the Lord is salvation." This name "Yehoshua" is often shortened to "Yeshua," which in the Hebrew language is the same as "Jesus" in English.
- 5) Joshua saw the promised land, Num.13:16-17 & 25-27. We need a vision of God's plan for our life & ministry also, Prov. 29:18, Eph.1:17-18, Hab.2:2-3.

ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND: CROSSING THE JORDAN

In Joshua chapters 3 & 4 we read how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River. Two times the Israelites had to cross through water; at the Red Sea & the Jordan river. Crossing the Red Sea speaks of water baptism, where by faith we identify with the death & burial of Christ, Rom.6:3-4. Crossing the Jordan River speaks of when we by experience enter into being crucified with Christ, Gal.2:20.

The Jordan River means "The Descender." It leads down, past Adam (Josh.3:8), to the Dead Sea, where everything is dead. It is symbolic of human life, which, because of the fall of man, leads down to death, Rom.5:12.

Joshua 3:8 -when the Israelites crossed the Jordan, the waters were cut off upstream at a place called Adam. The way that we can cross over into our "promised land"- our inheritance- is when our natural life which flows from Adam is cut off, Gal.2:20, Rom.5:5-6.

The waters of Jordan were cut off at Adam when the ark of the covenant was carried by the priests into the river. The ark is a symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ, who cut off the waters from Adam when He was crucified.

Joshua 3:4 tells us that the ark went about 2000 cubits before the people, to show them the way that they were to go. This is a natural picture of what will soon come to pass in the Spirit for the Church. About 2000 years after Jesus led the way for us through the cross to the throne, the people of God shall follow Him-through the crucified life, into revival; and then into the promised land of the Kingdom of God in the Millennial Age. We are the Joshua Generation!

CIRCUMCISION

Joshua 5:2-9 The next event after they crossed the Jordan was that all the men of Israel were circumcised at Gilgal. In the natural, circumcision is a cutting away of the flesh; and in the spiritual it signifies a heart that is separated from the flesh and consecrated unto God, Phil.3:3, Rom.2:28-29. This was the sign of the covenant that God had made with Abraham, to give his descendants the land of Canaan, Gen.17:7-14.

In a similar way, we today need a circumcised heart to be able to enter the promises of God and possess them. If you try to enter into your ministry and inheritance before you are prepared, the battles and temptations may be too difficult, and you might backslide and become a reproach to the gospel, 1 Tim.3:6, Prov.20:21, Lk.15:12-13.

During their years of conquest the Israelites lived at Gilgal, Josh.5:10, 6:11, 9:6, 10:6, 10:43, and 14:6. This suggests that for us to conquer our own inheritance we need to not only *gain*, but also *abide*, with a circumcised heart.

CHRIST VISITS HIS PEOPLE

After the Israelites were consecrated and prepared, the next event was that the Lord appeared to Joshua and gave him the wisdom and power to conquer the enemy, Josh.5:13-6:5. Our greatest need is to become consecrated and prepared, so that the Lord will be pleased to visit us and lead us into revival.

SECTION # 2- CONQUERING THE LAND, Chapters 6-12

In section # 1 (Joshua chapters 1-5) we enter into victory over our natural adamic nature, or the enemies *inside* us. But to possess our "Promised Land," we must then go on into spiritual warfare in section # 2 where we fight the enemies *outside* of us- a spiritual warfare against principalities and powers, 2 Cor.10:3-4, Eph.6:12. When we first have a full victory inside our life we can successfully defeat Satan and the kingdom of darkness, because there is nothing inside us that he can control or attack, John 14:30.

JOSHUA HAD MANY VICTORIES

In chapter 6, Jericho was defeated- in chapter 10, the 5 kings were defeated and the sun stood still- in chapter 11, the giants in the land were all killed- and chapter 12 lists the 31 kings that Joshua defeated. The meaning in the Hebrew language of the enemy cities that these kings ruled over can reveal to us some of the spiritual enemies we may also need to overcome. These names and some scriptures that help explain these spiritual battles are: A wall (Eph.2:14); A pit (Ps.40:2); Strife (Prov.28:25, Phil.2:3-5); Confederation (Prov.13:20); High (Prov.21:4); Cut off (Ps.31:22); Ruin (Lk.6:49); A young woman (Ecc.7:26); Stronghold (2 Cor.10:4-5); To cast a magic spell or witchcraft (Deut.18:9-12); Obstinate or stiffnecked (Acts 7:51); Shame (Rev.3:18, Rev.16:15); Destruction (Mat.7:13-14).

THREE COSTLY FAILURES:

Along with many successes, there were 3 failures of Joshua and his army:

1) The Israelites were defeated at Ai for two reasons: self-confidence (Josh.7:2-4, Jer.17:5, Prov.16:18) and hidden sin (Josh.7:1, Prov.28:13). We can make excuses and say that our sins are only little or not important, but they are very important if they cause God to withhold his blessing and they bring us defeat.

Joshua was discouraged and fearful and wanted to give up (Josh.7:5-7), but then God showed Joshua the answer, Josh.7:10-12. Deal with sin in the congregation! There were 3 steps needed: sin was exposed (Josh.7:14-18, Lk.12:2-3, Num.32:23), sin was confessed (Josh.7:19-21, Ps.32:5), and then sin was cleansed (Josh.7:24-26, Mat.18:15-17, 1 Cor.5:6-13).

2) The second costly mistake of the conquest was the wrong alliance with the Gibeonites in chapter 9. God wants us to be a holy people (Lev.11:44-45) and compromising and wrong

alliance bring mixture, sin and the judgement of God, Num.33:55-56, Eph.5:5-8. We need spiritual discernment to not join ourselves in wrong alliances, Josh.9:14, Jn.2:24-25.

Some wrong alliances are:

- A) Ps.1:1 The counsel and the friendship of the ungodly.
- B) 2 Cor.6:14 Christians marrying the unsaved.
- C) 2 Kings 1:2-6 Going to Satan for healing instead of going to God.
- D) Prov.13:20, Prov.1:10 Wrong companions.
- E) 2 Chron.20:35-37 Wrong business partners.

3) The greatest mistake that the Israelites made was that they did not destroy all of the Canaanites, Josh.16:10; 17:12-13; Jud.1:28,30,33,& 35. When they were strong and able to destroy their enemies, the people of God instead used them to be their slaves! This was warned against in Ex.23:29-33 and Num.33:55. WE NEED THE ATTITUDE OF DAVID in Ps.18:37-38. Do not be content with a partial victory over sin and the ways of the devil- destroy them completely! Do not try to use them- destroy them!

Saul did not kill all of the Amalekites when God commanded him to, and later an Amalekite boasted that he killed king Saul, 2 Sam.1:8-10. Samson hated and killed the Philistine men, but he loved the beautiful Philistine women and was defeated by them! We must learn to hate ALL sin and corruption. The sin that you keep- but think you can control, and even perhaps use for your benefit- is the sin that may destroy you!

SECTION 3- DIVIDING AND DWELLING IN THE LAND, Chapters 13- 22:10

Conquering the land is not enough. We can all have something, but never use it! After Israel conquered the land, they had to divide it and dwell in it or else their enemies could have returned to infiltrate and reclaim what they had conquered. And if the land had not been divided into the proper order, there would have been confusion and strife. And until they settled in the land and cultivated it, it would have remained useless and unfruitful. Some New Testament examples of this truth are:

- 1) Christ has conquered all sin- but we do not always order our life according to this victory, and we do not always live in it!
- 2) Parents can have a Christian family; but unless they discipline and train their children to be spiritual, when the children become adults they may not even follow the Lord.
- 3) An evangelist can "conquer" a city with a great crusade where many are saved- but if he cannot gather the converts and form a church, then all of his results may soon be lost.
- 4) A pastor can build a successful church- but how much fruit remains if the church falls apart and the flock is scattered after the pastor dies or moves on to a new place or new work?

In chapters 13-21 we see how Joshua divided the land. Great order was given concerning the boundaries of the tribes. This was so that every tribe and family would know what their inheritance and their responsibilities were. In a similar way, Jesus wants to bring discipline and order into our life, family, and church. All the New Testament gifts and ministries need to work together to build and mature the body of Christ into full stature, Eph.4:11-16. This will further cause us to become the salt and light that can guide and transform our communities and nation.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

In Joshua 17:3-4 we read how one family, the daughters of Zelophehad, received their inheritance. In Number chapter 27 we can read why they were first given an inheritance. Then

in Numbers 36:1-6 we read the requirement for their keeping their inheritance: they had to marry within their tribe.

This story teaches us important spiritual lessons. Many women marry a husband with the call of God, and they join in with that calling by supporting their husband's ministry. However, there are times when the Lord gives women their own calling and ministry. To keep it, they must marry "within their tribe." This means they must marry a husband with a similar calling so that they will both work together. If a woman minister marries a man without a similar calling, to follow him she might not be able to also follow God's call. As 2 Corinthians 6:14 tells us, "be not unequally yoked."

SECTION 4- KEEPING THE INHERITANCE, Chapter 22:10- Chapter 24

In chapter 22:10-34 we read how the 2 ½ tribes built an altar. They wanted their future generations to continue to follow the Lord, so they built an enduring witness for them. We need to also be concerned for our children, and build an enduring witness in their hearts. This can be accomplished through times of family worship and prayer- having a "family altar."

In chapters 23 and 24, Joshua called all the people together to speak to them before his death. The burden of his last words, was that he wanted them and the future generations to continue to follow the Lord and dwell in the land, Josh.23:5-8, 24:14-15. We see the fruit of how Joshua was able to influence those who followed him, as Joshua 24:31 says "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."

The heart of a true father desires to train his children to use properly the inheritance that he has prepared for them, Gal.4:1-4, 2 Cor.12:14. We need to desire to give a lasting spiritual inheritance to our natural and spiritual children. King David also had this burden when he was old, as he wrote in Psalm 71:18.

A man with vision will desire to influence more than just his own children, but also many succeeding generations, 2 Tim.2:2. We are told in Proverbs 13:22 that "a good man leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren." May we all seek for the promise of Isaiah 59:21 upon our families and ministries.

The Book of Joshua closes with the burials of three men of God: Joshua, Joseph, and Eleazar the High Priest, Josh.24:29-33. Joshua was buried upon the land of his inheritance at Timnath Serah (which means "Double Portion") after living there for 23 years. Joseph's bones were buried in the Promised Land 400 years after his death, as a testimony of his faith and his permanent inheritance. Their burials spoke of their permanent inheritance in God's kingdom (Eccles.11:3, Dan.12:13) and of their final testimony of faith to all of God's people who would follow on behind them, Heb.11:4, 2 Tim.4:7-8. May our lives- and even our deaths- also point people onwards into God's kingdom, towards the mark of the high call of God in Christ!