

BOOK OF JOSHUA
INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK-PT 1
THE BOOK OF JOSHUA IS A BOOK ABOUT A CONQUEST
JOSHUA 1:1-11

Introduction

I have said it before and because it is true I'll say it again and again! Don't discount the **OLD TESTAMENT**! It is just as much the **WORD OF GOD** as the **NEW TESTAMENT** and there is much we can gain from its study!

1 Corinthians 10:11—"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Romans 15:4—"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

We will see that the **BOOK OF JOSHUA** is filled with many wonderful **EXAMPLES** and **APPLICATIONS** for the **BELIEVER** that wants and is striving to live a **CHRISTIAN** life that is pleasing to the **LORD**!

As we go through and study this **BOOK** and as we consider the many **APPLICATIONS** that we will find, I believe that our lives for **CHRIST** can be greatly strengthened and helped!

As we look at the **BOOK OF JOSHUA**, we need to understand:
THAT JOSHUA IS A BOOK ABOUT A CONQUEST! (Joshua 1:11)

I. THE LAND GOD GAVE THEM WAS GOD'S TO GIVE!

Exodus 20:11—"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is..."

The **PSALMIST DAVID** wrote these words in:

Psalms 24:1—"The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; The world, and they that dwell therein."

The **APOSTLE PAUL** confirmed the same in:

1 Corinthians 10:26—"For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

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Colossians 1:16-17—"16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:** 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

In this **BOOK** we will also observe as the **LORD GOD** proves **HIS FAITHFULNESS** to **ABRAHAM**! The **LORD PROMISED HIS PEOPLE** this particular **LAND**, and **GOD** does not fail to fulfil **HIS PROMISES!** (Cf. *Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17*)

Don't listen to the fake news and the false narratives that try to convince the world that **ISRAEL** is somehow **OCCUPYING LAND** that rightfully belongs to some other group whether that is the so-called **PALESTINIANS** or some other people! That just isn't so!

In the **LORD'S** eyes, the only **OCCUPIED TERRITORIES** are the ones that **GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM** and gave **ISRAEL** that others are now **OCCUPYING!**

Others have talked **ISRAEL** at times into giving up territory that **GOD GAVE** to them for the sake of **PEACE** in the **MIDDLE EAST**! That should not have taken place! **GOD** did not give them the **LAND** for them to give it up to others!

(Sadly, some of who talked ISRAEL into giving up LAND have been those in places of leadership in our own country! And when those "peace talks" have taken place, you will see that our country paid a hefty price for pressuring ISRAEL into giving up LAND!)

We know from our studies that **GOD** had **ISRAEL'S** enemies displace her out of the **LAND** and though **HE** allowed her to go back for a time, **HE** ultimately allowed Jerusalem to be destroyed and scattered them across the world because of their **DISOBEDIENCE!** (70 A.D.) But it has never stopped being **ISRAEL'S LAND in the eyes of the LORD!**

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Hosea 13:9– “O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.”

GOD’S WORD even **PROPHEESIES THE RETURN** of the **JEWS** back to the **LAND GOD GAVE THEM!** (Cf. *Ezekiel 37:1-14*)

This return to the **LAND** began taking place in earnest **May 14, 1948**, when **ISRAEL** was established as a nation again! **ISRAEL** has slowly been returning back to the **LAND GOD GAVE THEM!**

In our study of the **BOOK OF JOSHUA** we will find accounts of some great **BATTLES** as **ISRAEL GOES IN** and initially **POSSESSES** the **LAND GOD** gave them! We will observe some great **VICTORIES** as well as some disappointing **DEFEATS!**

THE LAND GOD GAVE THEM WAS GOD’S TO GIVE!

II. THE LAND GOD GAVE THEM WAS ISRAEL’S TO POSSESS!
Remember that the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** had already failed to obey the **LORD** once in this matter! (Cf. *Numbers 13:17– 14:45*)

Their **FAILURE TO OBEY** at that time showed their **FAILURE TO BELIEVE** the **LORD!** (**TRUE FAITH LEADS TO OBEDIENCE!**)
Hebrews 3:19– “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

Consequently, that lack of **FAITH** on **ISRAEL’S** part brought **40 years of wilderness wanderings** and the **death of all of those who were 20 years of age and over that rebelled against the LORD!** (Of which **JOSHUA** and **CALEB** were the only ones spared!)

In this **BOOK**, the **40 years of wanderings** had come to an end and here we see that the **LORD GOD** commanded **ISRAEL** again to **GO in** and **POSSESS** the land **HE** had **GIVEN** to them! (*Joshua 1:2-4*)

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These would be the children and grandchildren of the ones who died in the wilderness! (They would have been age 59 and under)
The remainder of the **BOOK OF JOSHUA** records **ISRAEL** finally entering into the **LAND OF PROMISE** and the **CONQUESTS** that took place as they **POSSESSED THEIR POSSESSIONS!**

POSSESSING THEIR POSSESSIONS would not and did not come without **CONQUEST!** But the **LORD** was with them in the **CONQUEST** as they **BELIEVED HIM** and **OBEYED HIM!**

III. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION THAT WE SHOULD SEE?
The **LORD** gave the nation of **ISRAEL** a **MATERIAL HERITAGE** (i.e. **Specifically, a LAND flowing with milk and honey!**) But they had to actually enter into the **PROMISED LAND** and **POSSESS THEIR POSSESSIONS!**

As **BELIEVERS**, we have a **SPIRITUAL HERITAGE** in the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, (the **ABUNDANT LIFE in HIM**) that we must also enter into and **POSSESS OUR POSSESSIONS!**

Ephesians 1:3– “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

Now, in our study here we will see that the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** had to **MOVE FORWARD** and **POSSESS THEIR POSSESSIONS**, but understand that it came about through **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE** along with many **BATTLES** and some **TEARS** along the way!

So also we need to understand that, in much the same way, we are **CALLED** to **MOVE FORWARD** in our **CHRISTIAN WALK!** And it is through our **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE** that we walk and there are many **BATTLES** and **TEARS** fought against the **WORLD**, the **FLESH**, and the **DEVIL** that we enter into our **SPIRITUAL POSSESSIONS** and the **ABUNDANT LIFE in CHRIST!**

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See *Ephesians 6:10-18*

(Vs 10 there sounds a lot like the admonition in JOSHUA 1:6 of “Be strong and of a good courage...” and JOSHUA 1:7 “Only be thou strong and very courageous...” to me!)

See also *2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

Philippians 4:13– “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

2 Timothy 2:1, 3-4–“1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus...3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

Nevertheless, as we move forward in **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE**, we are assured of **VICTORY** through **JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR** as we **TRUST AND OBEY!**

(Cf. Romans 7:24-25; 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57-58; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Peter 5:6-10; 2 Peter 1:2-8; 1 John 5:4-5)

Conclusion

So, **UNDERSTAND THAT JOSHUA IS A BOOK ABOUT A CONQUEST!**
God's desire for us is not so much a matter of victory, because the victory is already won. It is already assured!

What God wants from us is a willingness to step up and claim our possessions.
(Joshua 1:3, 5)

Are we ready to possess all that God has given us? *(Joshua 1:2)*

Next week, **LORD** willing, we'll see:
JOSHUA IS A BOOK ABOUT A CHARACTER!