

An Overview of the book of Joshua

Life Course 5/12/2024



North Suburban
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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Part # 1: The Actions of the People

Part # 2: God Acts



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Part # 1: The Actions of the People

- 1.) The people conquer (Joshua 1-12)
- 2.) The people divide The Land (Joshua 13-22)
- 3.) The people obey God
- 4.) The people sin against God



The Actions of the People: The People Conquer

- First 5 Chapters: The people scout out Jericho, consecrate themselves for the Lord, and prepare for battle against Jericho
- Chapter 6: The people circle Jericho it with shouts and trumpet blasts for seven days and then watch its walls topple by God's might.
- Chapters 7–8, a military thrust is made into the geographic center of the land, and, after a setback, Ai is taken.
- Chapters 9–10 describe the next military campaign, in which the people defeat key cities in the southern part of Canaan.
- In chapter 11, “Joshua waged war with all these kings for a long time. No city made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites who inhabited Gibeon; all of them were taken in battle. So Joshua took the entire land” (11:18-19, 23a).



The Actions of the People: The People Conquer

- “They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword— every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.” (Joshua 6:21)
- “After this, the land had rest from war.” (Joshua 11:23)



The Actions of the People: The People Divide the Land

East of the Jordan River:

- Chapter 13: Designated the land to the east of the Jordan to half of the tribe of Manasseh, the Reubenites, and Gadites
- Chapter 13:33: "...The Lord, the God of Israel, was their [the Levite's] inheritance, just as He had promised them."

West, North, & South of the Jordan River:

- Chapter 14: Caleb's allotment in the west
- Chapter 15: Judah's Allotment in the south
- Chapter 16-17: The son's of Jospeh's allotment in the North
- Chapter 18-19: The remaining tribes
- Chapter 20: A cities of refuge for those who accidentally kill someone
- Chapter 21: The specific towns for the Levites were established



The Actions of the People: The People Obey God

“Therefore, fear the Lord and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the Lord. But if it doesn’t please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.”

The people replied, “We will certainly not abandon the Lord to worship other gods! For the Lord our God brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, and performed these great signs before our eyes. He also protected us all along the way we went and among all the peoples whose lands we traveled through. The Lord drove out before us all the peoples, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will worship the Lord, because he is our God.”

But Joshua told the people, “You will not be able to worship the Lord, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions and sins. If you abandon the Lord and worship foreign gods, he will turn against you, harm you, and completely destroy you, after he has been good to you.”

“No!” the people answered Joshua. “We will worship the Lord.” Joshua then told the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you yourselves have chosen to worship the Lord.” “We are witnesses,” they said.

“Then get rid of the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

So the people said to Joshua, “We will worship the Lord our God and obey him.” – Joshua 24:14-24

The Actions of the People: The People Obey God

- Chapter 1: The people promised to obey Joshua, the Lord's chosen leader of and spokesmen to the people.
- Chapter 2: Spies return from investigating the land of Jericho. They reported back favorably, the people obey God's command to conquer
- Chapter 5: The people observed the practice of circumcision, and they observed the Passover.
- Chapter 8: The people of Israel stood and listened to Joshua as he reread the entire law of Moses.
- Chapter 22: The western tribe's altar scare



The Actions of the People: The People Sin

- Chapter 7 – The People of Israel are defeated at Ai, Achan’s sin is exposed.
- Chapter 9 – The elders of Israel agree to a peace treaty with the Hivites of Gibeon without praying about the decision
 - “Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions, but did not seek the Lord’s decision. So Joshua established peace with them and made a treaty to let them live, and the leaders of the community swore an oath to them.” – Joshua 9:14-15



The Actions of the People: The People Sin

- Chapters 15-19 – The people of Israel cut corners in dividing up the land exactly as the Lord had required.
 - “So Joshua asked the Israelites, “How long will you delay going out to take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, gave you?” (Joshua 18:3)



Uncommon Favor?



Uncommon Favor?



dawnstaley  
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To God be the Glory!! Thank you to all of our prayer warriors who call on the main line to help get us to another final four. I am not ashamed to praise him for what he continues to do for me and mine. If you're a nonbeliever it wasn't for you-wish you well with your beliefs 🙏

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Uncommon Favor?



Part # 2: God Acts

- 1.) God Fights for Israel
- 2.) God is Merciful & Just
- 3.) God Keeps His Promises
- 4.) God is for God



God Acts: God Fights for Israel

- Chapter 3: “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” God makes the river Jordan stop so the nation could walk across
- Chapter 5: An angel appears to Joshua, with a drawn sword in his hand, and tells Joshua that he has come as “Commander of the army of the Lord.”
- Chapter 6: God makes the fortified walls of Jericho fall.
- Chapter 10: God hurled down large hailstones on the opposing armies, while he made the sun stand still so the armies of Israel could complete their victory.
- Chapter 10:42: “All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.”
- Chapter 23: Joshua says, “You yourselves have seen everything the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake, it was the Lord your God who fought for you.”



God Acts: God Fights for Israel

“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. But **I took** your father Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River, led him throughout the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants. **I gave** him Isaac, and to Isaac **I gave** Jacob and Esau. **I gave** the hill country of Seir to Esau as a possession.

‘Jacob and his sons, however, went down to Egypt. **I sent** Moses and Aaron, and **I defeated** Egypt by what **I did** within it, and afterward **I brought** you out. ⁶ When **I brought** your ancestors out of Egypt and you reached the Red Sea, the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen as far as the sea. Your ancestors cried out to the Lord, so **he put** darkness between you and the Egyptians, and **brought** the sea over them, engulfing them. Your own eyes saw what **I did** to Egypt. After that, you lived in the wilderness a long time.

‘Later, **I brought** you to the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan. They fought against you, but **I handed them over** to you. You possessed their land, and **I annihilated** them before you. Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent for Balaam son of Beor to curse you, but **I would not listen** to Balaam. Instead, he repeatedly blessed you, and **I rescued** you from him.

‘You then crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. Jericho’s citizens—as well as the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hethites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites—fought against you, but **I handed them over** to you. **I sent** hornets ahead of you, and they drove out the two Amorite kings before you. **It was not by your sword or bow. I gave you a land you did not labor for, and cities you did not build, though you live in them; you are eating from vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.**’ (24:2-13).



God Acts: God is Merciful & Just

Joshua 20:1-3: “Then the Lord spoke to Joshua, “Tell the Israelites: Select your cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that a person who kills someone unintentionally or accidentally may flee there. These will be your refuge from the avenger of blood.”

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Joshua 6:21: “They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword—every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.”



God Acts: God Keeps His Promises

- Genesis 17:8: “...to you and your future offspring I will give the land where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as a permanent possession, and I will be their God.”
- Genesis 12:1-3: “the Lord said to Abram: “Go from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and **all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**”



God Acts: God is for God

- Joshua 3:7: God said to Joshua “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so they will know that I will be with you just as I was with Moses.”
- Joshua 4:14: “On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him throughout his life, as they had revered Moses.”
- Joshua 4:22-24: “...You should tell your children, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the Lord your God dried up the water of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, just as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up before us until we had crossed over. **This is so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord’s hand is strong, and so that you may always fear the Lord your God.**”



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