

## THE BIG READ (30)

### Jesus in Joshua

#### A. Introduction

1. Every book of the Bible has one dominating theme – Jesus is the Christ.

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”  
(Luke 24:45-47)

Jesus is the Christ who will suffer and die.

Jesus is the Christ who will rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus is the Christ who will forgive the sins of all who repent.

Jesus is the Christ who will be preached to the nations.

2. The Old Testament that Jesus read contained the same 39 books as our English Bibles but was arranged in a different order.

It had three sections – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44)

The Law (of Moses) contains the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

3. The book of Joshua begins the second section, the Prophets, which is divided into two parts:

The Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings) gives us God’s perspective on the history of Israel from the conquest of the Promised Land until their exile from it.

The Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Book of the Twelve) explains why the history of Israel turned out the way it did.

4. Key to understanding the Prophets section is recognising that all the characters and events are evaluated according to the terms of the covenant listed in Deuteronomy.

“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”  
(Joshua 1:8)

“They [the nations that remained in the Promised Land] were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD’s commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses.” (Judges 3:4)

“This happened because they had not obeyed the LORD their God, but had violated his covenant – all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened to the commands nor carried them out.” (2 Kings 18:12)

“I will not again make the feet of the Israelites wander from the land I gave their forefathers, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them and will keep the whole Law that my servant Moses gave them.” (2 Kings 21:8)

#### B. Getting Started with Joshua

1. The book of Joshua picks up where Deuteronomy left off, with the people of Israel ready to enter and conquer the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua.



Chapters 13-21: Occupying the Promised Land

Chapters 22-24: Remaining in the Promised Land

2. In Joshua 1-4 we see the people of Israel enter the Promised Land.

Joshua is told that it is now time for the people of Israel to cross over the Jordan and enter the land.

"After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them – to the Israelites." (Joshua 1:1-2)

Spies are sent to check out the land, but unlike what happened with the previous generation, this time the people of Israel trust God to keep His promise.

"Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." (Joshua 2:1)

"Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us." (Joshua 2:23-24)

God then performs a miracle to get His people into the land – He held back the River Jordan so His people could cross on dry ground.

"The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground." (Joshua 3:17)

3. In Joshua 5-12 we see the people of Israel take the Promised Land as God gave them one victory after another.

The first battle at Jericho is the pattern for all the battles Israel will fight if they are faithful to God.

"When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it – men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys." (Joshua 6:20-21)

This section closes with a list of all the victories that God gave the people of Israel.

"These are the kings of the land that Joshua and the Israelites conquered on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which rises towards Seir." (Joshua 12:7)

4. In Joshua 13-21 we see the people of Israel occupy the Promised Land as the land is divided up amongst the tribes.

"So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there." (Joshua 21:43)

5. In Joshua 22-24 we see the people of Israel instructed by Joshua as to how to remain in the Promised Land.

Joshua addresses first the 2½ tribes who had been allocated land by Moses on the other side of the River Jordan.

"Now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan. But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave

you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul." (Joshua 22:4-5)

Joshua then before he dies, addresses the rest of the tribes.

"Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now." (Joshua 23:6-8)

"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:14)

The book ends with the people of Israel making a commitment to serve the LORD.

"But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:21)

"And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." (Joshua 24:24)

#### **D. Jesus in Joshua**

##### 1. Jesus is the true and better Joshua.

He leads His followers to victory over their enemies.

He gives them rest in the Promised Land.

"For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience." (Hebrews 4:8-11)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus is our Joshua who can give us victory over our enemies and rest in the Promised Land.

Trust Him.

##### 2. Jesus is the commander of the army of the LORD.

Look who Joshua meets.

"Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so." (Joshua 5:13-15)

As Joshua follows the instructions of his commanding officer, he leads the people of Israel to victory, which is why he must meditated on the Book of the Law day and night.

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (Joshua 1:8)

Jesus is our commanding officer and continues to instruct us by His Word.

Obey Him.