

# Joshua

## *The LORD is Salvation*

### The Historical/Biblical Setting

#### **Books of Law:** Torah, Pentateuch

- Genesis** Book of Beginnings (heaven, earth, Israel, etc). Theme: Election
- Exodus** Deliverance from Bondage. Theme: Redemption by Grace
- Leviticus** Manner of Worship. Theme: Fellowship and Worship
- Numbers** Wilderness Wanderings. Theme: Failure of Unbelief
- Deuteronomy** Second Law. Theme: Obedience/Blessings ↔ Disobedience/Curses

#### **Books of History:** Joshua through Esther

- Joshua** Conquest of the Land. Theme: Victory

### An Introduction to the Book of Commitment, Conquest and Compromise

#### **Joshua, the Person**

He was born in Egypt, the first-born son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim and with the name *Hoshea* (salvation) <sup>Numbers 13:8</sup>, but was later renamed *Yehoshua* by Moses <sup>Numbers 13:16</sup>.

Joshua: English rendering of the Hebrew word *Yehoshua* (LORD/YAHWEH is salvation)

Jesus: English transliteration of the Greek transliteration of *Yehoshua*

There is little agreement on the exact years Joshua was alive. The years range from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C. However, there are several Bible verses that yield key information in the chronology of the life of Joshua: (1) the Exodus occurred 480 years prior to the “fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel” <sup>1 Kings 6:1</sup>, when “he began to build the temple” [most scholars state that Solomon’s rule began in c.970 B.C.; therefore, the Exodus occurred at c.1446 B.C.], (2) Joshua was “Moses’ aide since youth” <sup>Numbers 11:28</sup> [Moses probably returned to Egypt within a year of the Exodus and Joshua may have been close to 20 years old when he became Moses’ youthful aide; therefore, Joshua was about 20 at the time of the Exodus], (3) the wilderness wanderings (from the Exodus to the Jordan River crossing) lasted a total of 40 years <sup>Numbers 14:33-34, 32:13, Deuteronomy 8:2, Hebrews 3:7-9</sup> [therefore, the Jordan River crossing occurred about c.1406 B.C., making Joshua approximately 60 years old at that time] and (4) Joshua died at the age of 110 <sup>Joshua 24:29</sup>. Using that information and the accompanying assumptions, an educated-estimate of Joshua’s life span is: c.1466-1356 B.C.

## Joshua A: Intro

### Joshua's Career Highlights:

- ✧ Commander of the first battle after leaving Egypt (a victory over Amalek <sup>Exodus 17:8-16</sup>)
- ✧ Moses' aide <sup>Exodus 24:13</sup> who accompanied him part way up Mt. Sinai <sup>Exodus 24:13, 32:17</sup>
- ✧ Two years after exiting Egypt, Joshua was one of the twelve "spies" sent by Moses to explore Canaan <sup>Numbers 13:1-17</sup>; however, only he and Caleb came back to Moses with a positive report <sup>Numbers 14:5-9</sup>; consequently, they were the only adults from that time that God allowed to enter the Promised Land <sup>Numbers 14:30</sup>, thirty-eight years later <sup>Deuteronomy 2:14</sup> (which was forty years from the time they left Egypt <sup>Exodus 16:35, Numbers 14:33-34</sup>)

The Israelite "whole assembly" who accepted the negative report prophesied their own demise <sup>Numbers 14:2</sup> and "talked about" stoning Joshua and Caleb <sup>Numbers 14:10</sup>. The ten spies who brought the bad report died immediately of a plague <sup>Numbers 14:37</sup>. Furthermore, when the ten spies died, the Israelites realized their mistake of rejecting the plan for entering the Promised Land, they started north "toward the high hill country" (without Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Caleb and the ark of the covenant), but they were defeated by the "Amalekites and Canaanites" and forced back to the camp of Moses <sup>Numbers 14:39-45</sup>. The Israelites then began the last 38 years of their wanderings <sup>Deuteronomy 2:14</sup>, during which time all of the adults over the age of 20 (except for Joshua and Caleb) died. The deaths included Aaron (who died on Mount Hor <sup>Numbers 20:22-29</sup>) and Moses (who died on Mount Nebo <sup>Deuteronomy 34:1-8</sup>), because they "rebelled against [God's] command at the waters of Meribah" <sup>Numbers 20:2-13, 24</sup>.

- ✧ Appointed by God to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land <sup>Deuteronomy 3:27-28</sup>
- ✧ Filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>Deuteronomy 34:9</sup>
- ✧ Had the confidence, strength and courage to deal with sin in the Israelites' camp <sup>Joshua 7</sup>
- ✧ Joshua died at the age of 110 <sup>Joshua 24:29</sup> (same lifespan as Joseph <sup>Genesis 50:26</sup>)

Joshua was a foreshadowing (type, model), as well as a namesake, of Jesus

Joshua did what Moses could not do ⇔ Jesus did what the law could not do

Joshua led the people to victory ⇔ Jesus leads the people to ultimate victory

Joshua: advocate for the Israelites in defeat ⇔ Jesus: advocate for the church in defeat

Joshua allocated earthly inheritance ⇔ Jesus will allocate heavenly inheritance

## Joshua A: Intro

### Some Notable Attributes of the Book of Joshua:

- ✧ ...a transitional book between the Law (Pentateuch, Torah) and the Books of History
- ✧ ...a transitional book from God having chosen to personally communicate with Moses to His instructions for Joshua to “not let the [His Word] depart from [his] mouth” and to “meditate on it day and night” <sup>Joshua 1:8</sup>
- ✧ ...a call to action <sup>Matthew 7:16, James 2:26, 1 John 3:18</sup>
- ✧ ...a call to remember, because remembering creates assurance <sup>Joshua 4:1-7, Ephesians 2:11-13</sup>
- ✧ ...a primer on victorious Christian living <sup>Romans 8:35-37, 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, 1 John 5:3-5</sup>
- ✧ ...a book not about life after death, but about life after birth <sup>John 3:1-15</sup>
- ✧ ...the crossing of the Jordan to the PL <sup>Joshua 3:14-17</sup> has Christian implications
- ✧ ...included in their conquest was a day when God made the sun stand still <sup>Joshua 10:12-14</sup>
- ✧ ...has direct application to the international political approach of “land for peace”
- ✧ ...an anticipatory model of the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ <sup>Revelation 11:15, 19:6</sup>
- ✧ ...has numerous parallels with the book of Ephesians

	<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>
Chosen People	Israel <sup>Deuteronomy 7:6-8</sup>	Church <sup>Ephesians 1:3-12</sup>
Divinely Appointed Leader	Joshua <sup>Numbers 27:18-23</sup>	Jesus <sup>Ephesians 1:17-23</sup>
Inheritance (Gift of God's Grace)	Earthly	Heavenly
Deliverance		
From:	Man <sup>Exodus 3:7-9, 20:1-2</sup>	Sin <sup>Ephesians 2:1-9</sup>
To:	Promised Land <sup>Deuteronomy 31:23</sup>	Kingdom of God <sup>Ephesians 2:19-20</sup>
Book of War		
Facing Strong Enemies	Human	Spiritual
Call to Obedience	Joshua 1:7	Ephesians 6:1-3,5-6
Encouragement to:		
Be strong in the Lord	Joshua 1:9	Ephesians 6:10
Goal	Victory! <sup>Deuteronomy 20:1-4</sup>	Victory! <sup>Ephesians 6:10-18</sup>

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## Joshua A: Intro

### General Outline of the Book of Joshua

Entering the Promised Land	Chapters 1-5
Conquering the Promised Land	6-12
Distributing the Promised Land	13-22
Retaining the Promised Land	23-24

### The Tribes of Israel Genesis 29:31-30:24, 35:16-18, 41:50-52

(sons/grandsons of Jacob ⇒ Israel Genesis 32:28)

<b>Mother</b>	<b>Son (birth order)</b>	<b>Grandson</b>
Leah	Reuben (1)	
	Simeon (2)	
	Levi (3)	
	Judah (4)	
	Issachar (9)	
Bilhah	Zebulun (10)	
	Dan (5)	
Zilpah	Naphtali (6)	
	Gad (7)	
Rachel	Asher (8)	
	Joseph (11)	Manasseh*
	Benjamin (12)	Ephraim*

\*Egyptian Mother: Asenath