

Getting to know Joshua

A. Introducing Joshua the man

- He was a soldier who led the armies of Israel – Exodus 17:8-16
- He was the faithful servant of Moses – Exodus 24:13; 33:11
- He was the spy who, along with Caleb, acted in faith – Numbers 13-14
- He was set aside to replace Moses – Numbers 27:12-22; Deuteronomy 3:28; 31:1-8

B. The historical context

- God promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation, give him the land as a possession and bless his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3, 7).
- In Egypt Israel became a great nation (Exodus 1:6-7).
- God acted on this promise (Exodus 2:23-25; 3:5-10) and renewed it through Moses (Exodus 6:6-8).
- God rescued them from the hands of their enemies (Exodus 12:31-40) and promised to give them the land (Exodus 15:13-18).

C. The purpose of Joshua

- **Joshua is a History Book**
 - ⇒ It is part of one continual history of Israel (Joshua-Judges-Samuel-Kings) – 800 years of history from the conquest to the exile.
 - ⇒ It relates historical events not fables or myths.
- **Joshua is a Theology Book**
 - ⇒ God is the true hero of the history books - He acts in natural and supernatural ways to fulfil His purposes.
 - ⇒ He acts according to His word – He keeps His promises and he carries out His threats (Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Joshua 24:14-27).
- **Joshua is a Pastoral Book**
 - ⇒ It was intended to encourage the people of God in the midst of all the disappointments of history – including the exile. God always acts according to His word and we can trust Him.
 - ⇒ It was written for our practical instruction (Romans 15:4).

D. Joshua is a “Type” of Jesus

- *“A type is a real object, event, person or place, which was divinely ordained by God to be a prophetic picture or shadow of the good things which He would bring about in Jesus Christ.”*
- Joshua is the Hebrew form of the name Jesus – “YHWH saves”.
- God often works in two’s - Joshua completed the work of Moses; Elisha (“God saves”) completed the work of Elijah; Jesus perfected the work of John the Baptist.
- Jesus is the captain of the armies of the Lord who conquers God’s enemies and leads his people into the full blessing of God’s salvation.
- **“Land”** is key word - it symbolizes the blessings of rest and prosperity given to God’s people by His grace. Christians are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

Structure

- Entering the land (1-4)
- Taking the land (5-12)
- Possessing the land (13-21)
- Retaining the land (22-24)