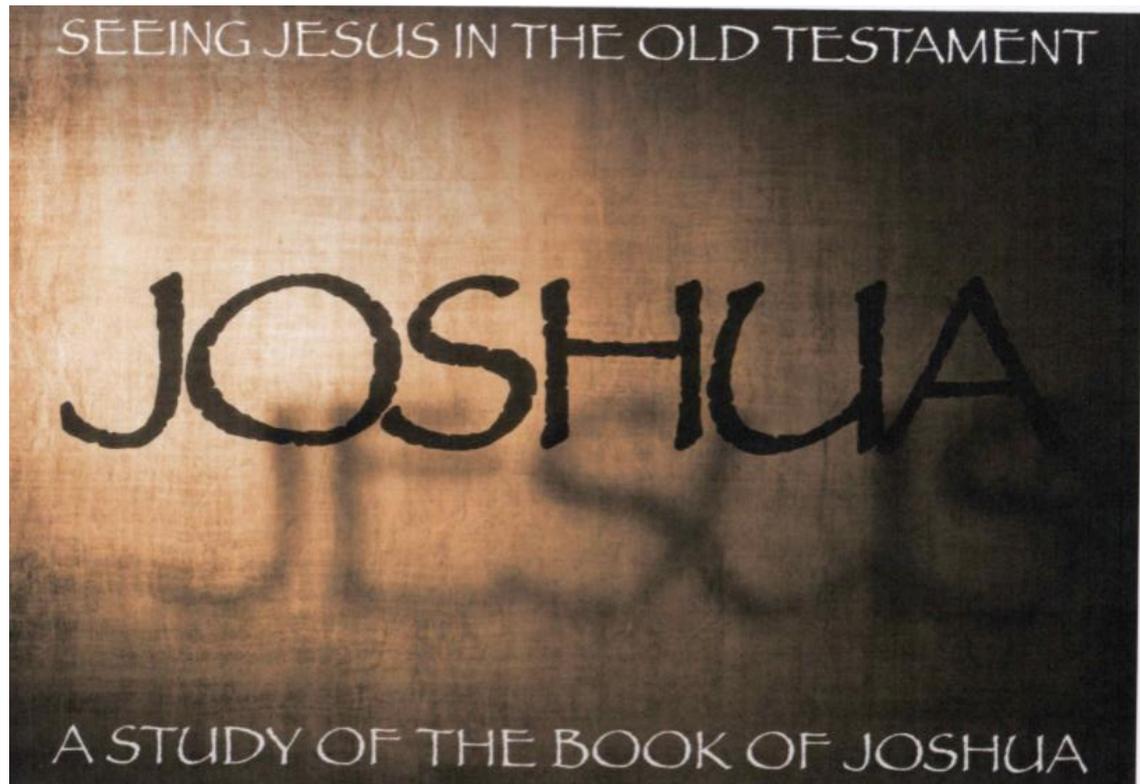


AN INTRODUCTION TO BOOK OF JOSHUA: the 6th Book

Yoshua - Yeshua : Joshua - Jesus



JOSHUA

Variant Spellings in Hebrew

יהושוע
יהושע
ישוע

Deuteronomy 3:21, Judges 2:7

Yehoshua

Exodus 17:14, Joshua 1:1, Judges 2:7

Yehoshua

Nehemiah 8:17

Yeshua

Christ as seen in the book of Joshua

- Though there are no overt Messianic prophecies of Christ, there are a number of types which point to the Savior. Joshua is a type of Christ in two very important ways.
- First, his name, *Yeshua*, a contracted form of *Yehoshua*, meaning, "Yahweh is salvation," is the Greek equivalent of the name *Jesus*. Joshua is actually called by the name *Jesus* (Iêsous) in Acts 7:45 and Heb 4:8.
- Second, Joshua is seen as a type of Christ in his work of leading Israel triumphantly into the rest of their promised possession, the land of Canaan (cf. Josh 11:23 & Heb. 4:8). This is but a foretaste of the rest we enter by faith in Christ (Mat 11:28).

- (1) Here we meet the first 'Jesus figure' in the Bible – one who was completely dedicated to doing God's Will and to obeying God's Word in God's Covenant.
- (2) It is Joshua who shows us how to conquer and possess the Land (K.O.G.) – we only possess that part of our inheritance which
 - a) we have accepted from God as our inheritance
 - when b) we are prepared **to face** the **obstacles** in our way to that possession,
 - and c) we are ready **to fight** in spiritual warfare and overcome the demons:
world / flesh / devil / self-will
- (3) Joshua shows us how to be **conquerors**: Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26
Rev 3:5, 12, 22
"we are more than conquerors": Rom 8:37 when we operate in Divine Will
- (4) Book of Joshua deals with the V.I.P. stage in Israel's history where she came into possession of the Promised Land in the face of **enormous obstacles**:
 - both from her own sinfulness and weaknesses
 - and from external opposition from paganism
- (5) If **this** Book wasn't written - the 5 Books before it would make no sense.
The **first 5 Books** are called **Pentateuch** [5-part work] which have Moses as the general author.
 - Joshua is the first **History Book** which relates the story of Israel's arrival in Canaan to begin her battle to co-operate with God in founding the Kingdom of God on Earth.
- (6) So, the book of Joshua represents:
 - (i) The **END** of their wandering in the wilderness.
 - (ii) The Beginning of their **New Life** in the land.As we truly enter into the Divine Will, we too, leave our 'wandering in the world' to begin a new life where the Word of God / Will of God must reign.
- (7) It is generally accepted among scholars that the "Promised Land" is a symbol or type of Heaven - so we must look at the **layers** in the text.

Q. If this is Heaven – why all the battles?

A. It is about reaching Union with God **ON EARTH** so that you will pass over successfully into the **FATHER'S HOUSE** eternally.

- (8) The Kingdom of God **ON EARTH** is the difficult question that the Bible deals with -

Only
in END
times

(ie) how to let God **REIGN ON EARTH** as He reigns in Heaven. We see that after many failed attempts, the K.O.G. is only finally achieved **AFTER** the **Great Tribulation** in the Book of Revelation, when Humanity has been severely **cleansed** so that it **becomes** possible for God to finally reign among us (Rev 20-22).

- (9) Yet, before that event God comes to dwell among us **as much** as **He can**:

Examples:

- a) The Cloud / Fire of the Mishkan: Tabernacle in the Wilderness when the People of God were raw recruits to **God's Reign** among them.
- b) **The Temple** in Jerusalem – first and second Temple, where God dwelt invisibly in the Holy of Holies.
- c) **The Eucharist** – where Jesus reigns, veiled in Eucharistic Prodigy.
- d) **THE HEARTS** of all true Believers where the Blessed Trinity reign invisibly making **us living Hosts**.
- e) **In the Church**: Body of Christ "where 2 or 3 are gathered, I am in the midst of you" **Mt 18:20**.
- this is the quorum of the Church.

(10) There are two reasons why we have **to fight** for our inheritance:

- (i) We are sinful and weak – so we must conquer ourselves to make **room** for God to reign in us.
- (ii) Satan is determined to block you all the way
 - ... he tries to get you to **FORGET** the issues
 - ... he tries **TO BLIND** you to God's Word
 - ... he makes life difficult for you
 - ... he sets up opposition to you from other people, etc
 - ... he interferes

... so as soon as you show any determination to walk closely with God:
: you find formidable obstacles to be overcome...
: you find protracted spiritual warfare has to be engaged...
: you find fierce foes to be overcome

Each of us must face the **GIANTS** that we don't **want** to face... and we must overcome them
- this **must** happen if we want to experience the ecstasy of **God's Love**

(11) **(NB)** It is **only** when we engage in this battle **seriously** that we will:

- discover the **Powerful Grace of God** flowing in and through us
- discover the awesome **Mercy of God** towards **us** as individuals...
- discover the magnificence of **God's Generosity** to us poor nothings...

But if you **avoid** the warfare, the teaching is just **THEORY** and you lose faith.

if you avoid the warfare, Satan will "pull the wool over your eyes" with great glee – for he has won!

(12) **So** the Book of Joshua gets us to become **WARRIORS FOR GOD**:

- (i) to conquer ourselves
- (ii) to conquer the earth for God

Look at Rom 6:23 Eternal Life is a **a Gift** of God to us and **Rev 2:10** says it is the **crown** given to us for **FAITHFULNESS**

- Our Christian Inheritance is **not only** won for us by **Blood of Lamb** but it is also **a reward** for those who serve Jesus: **Col 3:24**

So in Book of Joshua we will see the Sovereign Grace of God on the one hand to the faithfulness of Joshua and the obedience of the People **also**. cf Rev 14:13

(13) **THINGS TO NOTE**

- (i) It was a **NEW** generation that entered Promised Land – the old generation died in Wilderness
- (ii) They have a **NEW** Leader. The old leaders: Moses & Aaron died in Wilderness
- (iii) They enter into **a new** way of life, completely different from the wilderness
"Come to Me; I will give you rest" (for your soul): Mt 11:28

Notice "all you **who labour** and are burdened" - **Wilderness Wandering**
"I will give you rest" = Union with God – then Heaven

Notice labour (spiritual warfare), "fighting the good fight" **and** "finishing the race" while "keeping the faith" are **all** necessary: Jn 6:27 2 Cor 5:9

Heb 4:11 tells us "**to labour** and **therefore** enter into rest"

2 Tim 4:7, 8 says you will **then** receive the "crown of righteousness"

Joshua, the man, was modelled on Moses

The training of a Warrior for God:

- 1) Born in Egypt and participated in the Exodus - we know nothing about his parents or family.
- 2) We meet him for the first time in a public role in Ex 17:9. Moses **chose** Joshua to lead God's Army against **Amalek** at Rephidim – not far from Sinai
 - So, Moses already appreciated Joshua's worth, and his success in this skirmish put him on the list of important men for Israel.
 - As Joshua fought, Moses interceded for him on the mountain and a beautiful discipleship opened up for Joshua.
- 3) So, the very first time we meet Joshua we see him as a successful Warrior for God – this was his life's mission, as we see in the book of Joshua.
 - It was significant that Moses ordered that this incident be written down: **Ex 17:14** as a memorial **FOR JOSHUA**, so that he would realise what his mission was.
 - Moses built an altar for God at this place and gave God a new title: **THE LORD IS MY BANNER:** (Yahweh Nissi) Ex 17:15
- 4) We meet Joshua again in Ex 24:13 when Moses ascended the mountain "with **his servant** Joshua". Joshua is now being apprenticed to Moses and becomes very obedient to him.
 - We have the same pattern with the 12 Apostles. They become Jesus' companions (Mk ch 4) then His Disciples (John ch 1)... He trained them for ministry... and they took the leadership after His D/R.
- 5) In Exodus we have Moses taking Israel **out** of Egypt, but Joshua will take them **into** the Promised Land. Josh 1:1
 - In Josh 1:7 he was told by God to live **under the Law** of Moses, obeying it exactly.
 - Jesus also lived under the Law of Moses: Gal 4:4
- 6) **Ex 24:18** Moses ascended the mount fully. Joshua waited patiently for him for 40 days – without **food!**
 - this was a **very real** test of Faith, patience and perseverance, which says that Joshua **KNEW** who Moses **REALLY** was – unlike the crowd, who treated Moses badly.
- 7) **(NB)** Joshua **waited** patiently for the return of his Master. Jesus told His Church to **WAIT** patiently for His Return also: Lk 12:35-38.
 - the crowds disobeyed – then and now in 2022 - so they end up in apostasy and immorality!: Ex 32
 - only a remnant remained faithful.Joshua was like the "Wise Virgin" who was "ready for the Bridegroom when he came" Mt 25:1-13
- 8) Dialogue between Moses & Joshua descending the mountain: Ex 32:17-19
Dialogue between Jesus & Apostles descending Mt Tabor: Lk 9:37-43 - both found problems at the foot of the mountain.
 - Joshua stood by Moses as he punished the sinners – Ex 33
- 9) **(NB)** **Ex 33:11** Joshua "took up residence" in the Tabernacle. Moses had to go up Mt Sinai a number of times but Joshua **stayed with the Presence of the Lord in the Camp.**
 - **adoration** is the instinct of the true lovers of God.
 - (e.g.)** while Jesus had to get on with His Work of Redemption on the Cross, His true lovers **never left His side.** Our Blessed Mother, Joseph and Shepherds and Kings adored the Incarnation, while Mary, John & Mary of Magdala were the first adorers of the Redeemer.

10) In Numbers ch 11, Moses chose 70 elders to share his spirit and authority with them. Joshua reported that 2 more had got the same blessing – hence 72: **Num 11:28**

11) In **Num 13** Moses decided to send 12 spies into Canaan

- vs 16 says Joshua was one of them – a **trusted Representative**
- Joshua & Caleb were the only 2 spies who said they could take the land **because God** would be with them.

Num 14:7-9 they begged the people **NOT** to rebel against the Lord – but **TO TRUST** Him
(trust is the sign of a real relationship) cf Proverbs 3:5-6

Num 14:37,38 Joshua & Caleb were the **ONLY** two of **THAT WHOLE** generation who entered the Promised Land.

– **and** it was Joshua’s privilege to take them there.

12) **Num 27:15-23** Joshua was chosen and appointed the New Leader who would become a **New Moses** for them: Deut 1:38. Moses encouraged Joshua in his new role after his victories over Sihon, King of Amorites and Og, King of Bashan: Deut 3:21 / 31:7-8.

→ “The Lord will not fail you or forsake you”
– this was to be **the rock** Joshua could stand on.

Deut 34:9 “Joshua was full of the spirit of **Wisdom** for Moses had laid his hands on him”.
The People accepted Joshua as their leader and **obeyed** him.

Notice that Joshua was **chosen by God** – not by the people.

Joshua was **trained by Moses**

Joshua was a **man** of **Faith**, prayer and obedience to God’s Word and Covenant.

* God’s order was in him, so God could **use** him mightily to set up the first phase of the Kingdom of God on Earth.