

Joshua

Authorship: The book itself does not name an author, nor is an author assigned to it anywhere else in Scripture. However, internal and external evidence suggests that Joshua and his contemporaries composed the bulk of the narrative, although some later editorial activity may have taken place. Thus the composition date is probably soon after the completion of the conquest, around 1400 BC.

Date: approximately c. 1400 BC

Joshua died in about 1390 BC, 15 years after the conquest began. Assuming Joshua was the author, most of the book would have been written by then, most likely in Joshua's hometown of Timnath-serah or in one of the spiritual centers where priests would be found, such as Shechem (24:1) or Bethel, where the Ark

Background: After 400 years of bondage in Egypt and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the people of Israel were finally ready to take possession of a land promised to them since the time of Abraham. Joshua, one of the two leaders who had remained faithful during the Kadesh-barnea rebellion (see Numbers 13-14), had been chosen to lead them into Canaan (Numbers 27:15-23). The book bearing Joshua's name records his conquest of Canaan (1-12), his division of the land among the tribes (13-21), and his final exhortations to Israel (22-24).

Message: The chosen nation conquers and divides the Promised Land. As the Israelites obey God, He enables them to conquer the inhabitants of the land. The land is then divided among the twelve tribes. The name *Joshua* means the Lord saves."

Purpose: Joshua teaches that God keeps His promises no matter how unlikely their fulfillment may appear. This is seen in God's *general* promise to give the land of Canaan to Israel, and in His *specific* promises to grant success in particular battles (6:2; 10:8). God's promises did not fail (21:45). The Israelites simply had to obey and step out in faith.

Outline:

- I. **The Land Entered (Chapters 1-12)**
 - A. **Commissioned and Command of Joshua (1)**
 - B. **Contact of Spies with Rahab (2)**
 - C. **Crossing the Jordan (3)**
 - D. **Construction of Two Memorials (4)**
 - E. **Conditioned for Conquest (5)**
 - F. **Center of the Land Attacked "Central Campaign" (6-8)**
 1. Conquest of Jericho (6)
 2. Conquest of Ai (7-8)
 - G. **Campaign in the South "Southern Campaign" (9-10)**
 1. Compact with the Gibeonites (9)
 2. Conquer 5 Kings of Amorites (10)
 - Miracle of Sun
 - H. **Campaign in the North "Northern Campaign" (11)**
 - Conclusion of Joshua's Leadership in War
 - I. **Conquered Kings Listed (12)**
- II. **The Land Divided (Chapters 13-21)**
 - A. **Command of Joshua is Terminated (13)**
 - Confirmation of Land to 2 ½ Tribes
 - B. **Caleb Given Hebron (14)**
 - C. **Consignment of Land to the Tribes of Israel (15-19)**
 - D. **Cities of Refuge (20)**
 - E. **Cities for Levites (21)**
 - F. **Command to 2 ½ Tribes to Return Home (22)**
 - Construction of Altar to "See To"
- III. **The Last Message of Joshua (Chapters 23-24)**
 - A. **Call to Leaders of Israel for Courage and Certainty (23)**
 - B. **Call to All Tribes of Israel for Consecration and Consideration of Covenant with God (24)**
 - Death of Joshua

Three Themes of Joshua

- 1) Transition of Power from Moses to Joshua
- 2) Conquest and Division of Canaan
- 3) God's faithfulness to His promise

Key Places

Jericho, Ai, Mount Ebal, Mount Gerizim, Gibeon, Gilgal, Shiloh, Shechem

Special Feature

Out of over a million people, Joshua and Caleb were the only two who left Egypt and entered the Promised Land.

Key Verses

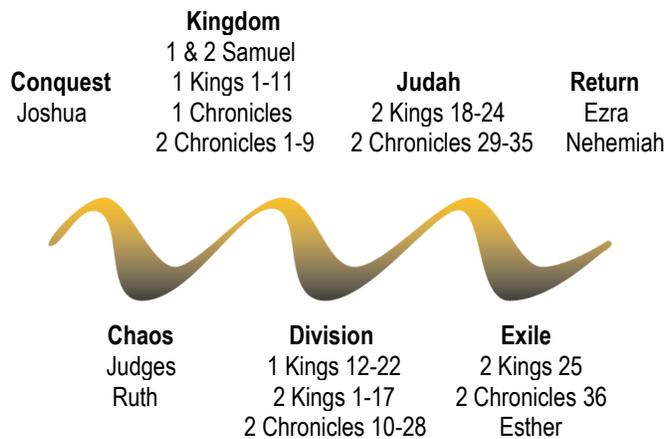
"Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess'"
(Joshua 1:11 ESV)

"And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Joshua 24:15 ESV)

Battles During Joshua's Conquest of Canaan

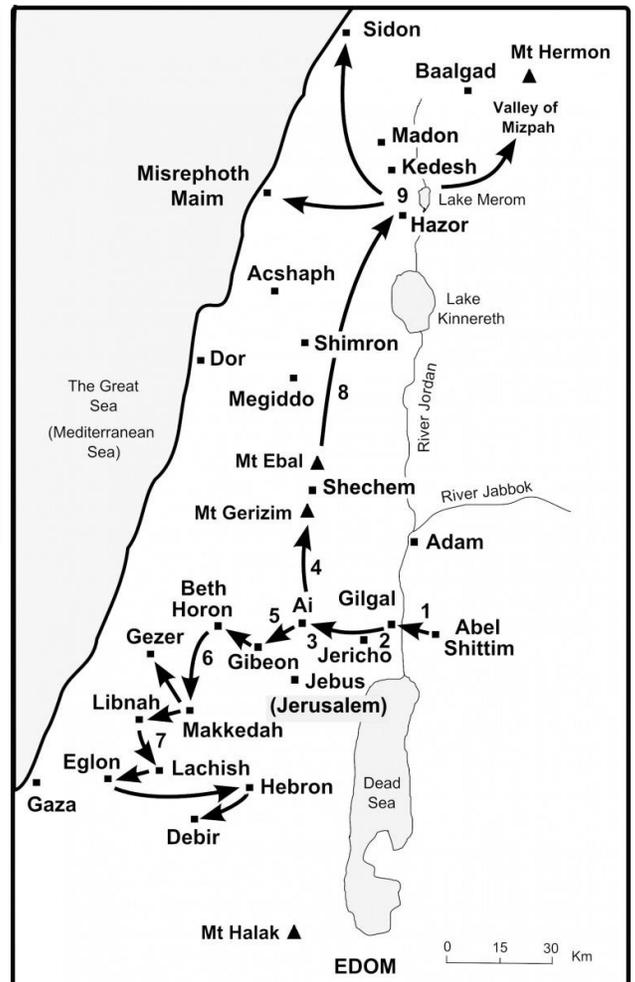
Opponent	Location of Battle	King	Aggressor	Victor	Scripture Reference
Jericho	Jericho		Israel	Israel	Joshua 6:12-27
Ai	Ai		Israel	Ai	Joshua 7:2-6
Ai & Bethel	Ai		Israel	Israel	Joshua 8:1-29
Amorite Confederacy	Met at Gibeon and pursuit went through Beth Horon and the Valley of Aijalon and ended at Azekeh	Adonizedek Hoham Piram Japhia Debir	Amorites	Israel	Joshua 10:1-27
Makkedah	Makkedah		Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:28
Libnah	Libnah		Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:29-30
Lachish	Lachish		Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:31-32
Gezer	Lachish	Horam	Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:33
Eglon	Eglon		Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:34-35
Hebron	Hebron		Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:36-37
Debir	Debir		Israel	Israel	Joshua 10:38-39
Northern Confederation	Waters of Meron		Israel	Israel	Joshua 11:1-9
Hazar	Jabin		Israel	Israel	Joshua 11: 12- 17

Peaks and Valleys of Historical Books



Three Military Campaigns in Joshua

- 1) Central Campaign (Chapters 6-9)
- 2) Southern Campaign (Chapter 10)
- 3) Northern Campaign (Chapter 11:1-15)



Sources:

McGee, J. Vernon. *Briefing the Bible: Outlines to Encourage Reading the Bible...*, Pasadena, CA: Through the Bible Books, 1978.
 Wilmington, Harold L. *Wilmington's Bible Handbook*, Wheaton, Ill: Tyndale, 1997.