

IX. Joshua

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

A. Introduction

1. Title

- a. Hebrew: "Yehoshua" = ["The Lord is Salvation"]
- b. LXX: "Iesous"

2. Date of Events: From the Death of Moses (1406 B. C.) to the Death of the Elders associated with Joshua (1375 B. C.)

¹ Notes prepared with help of The Master's Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

B. Outline of Joshua

1. Conquering God's Promised Land (1-12)
2. Dividing God's Promised Land (13-24)

C. Major Themes

1. The Land (1-15, 17-19, 21, 24 [106x]) [see Woudstra; Hess; Howard]

Joshua 1:1-4 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, ² "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. ³ "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ⁴ "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

- a. The Land Conquered (10:40; 11:16, 23; 21:43-45)

- b. The Land Remaining (13:1-7; 17:17-18; 18:3; 23:4, 5, 13)

- c. The Failure to Conquer (11:22, 13:13, 15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13)

- 2. The Possession (1:11, 15; 12:1; 13:1; 18:3; 19:47; 21:43; 23:5; 24:4, 8) /
Dispossession (3:10; 8:7; 13:6, 12, 13; 14:12; 15:14, 63; 16:10; 17:12, 13, 18; 23:5,
9, 13) of the Land

- 3. The Law (1:7, 8; 8:31, 32, 34; 22:5; 23:6; 24:26)

- 4. The Obedience (1-6, 8, 10-12, 13-14, 20-21) and Disobedience (7, 9, 15, 16, 17,
22-24) of Israel.

5. Moses/Joshua

- ✠ Joshua was like Moses. He had the presence of Yahweh (1:5) and was obeyed like Moses (1:17). He was sanctified before Israel like Moses (3:7; 4:14). Specific examples include:

	<u>Moses</u>	<u>Joshua</u>
1. Encounter with Yahweh	Exodus 3:5	Joshua 5:15
2. Miraculous Water Crossing	Exodus 14	Joshua 3-4
- water in a heap	Exodus 14:22	Joshua 3:16
- dry ground	Exodus 14:22	Joshua 3:17
3. Intercession for Sinning People	Deut. 9:25-29	Joshua 7:7-9
4. Written Law on Stones	Deut. 10:1-2	Joshua 8:32
5. Yahweh Listened to his Voice	Deut. 9:19	Joshua 10:14
6. Enemy's Heart Was Hardened	Exodus 9:12	Joshua 11:20

D. Purpose: Yahweh gave the Land of Canaan to Israel in accordance with His promise to Abraham and Israel dwelt in part of the Land according to her faithful obedience to Yahweh.

E. Bibliography

1. Exegetical: Woudstra, *The Book of Joshua* (NICOT)
2. English Interpretation: Hess, *Joshua* (TOTC).
Howard, Jr., *Joshua* (NAC)
1. Expositional: Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Word*.

F. Selected Interpretive Problems

1. The Nature of Israel's Conquest [KHI, 143-61]

- a. Unified Military Conquest
 - ✝ Biblical position
 - b. Peaceful Infiltration
 - c. Peasants' Revolt
 - d. Agricultural Resettlement
2. The Land Promise of the Abrahamic Covenant (1:4; 13:2-6; cf. Gen. 15:18-21; Num. 34:1-15; Deut. 1:7-8; 19:8-10) [MSB, 329]
- a. Completely Fulfilled (21:43-45)
 - b. Not Completely Fulfilled
 - Yahweh Gave Israel the Land
 - Israel Failed to Completely Possess the Land
3. The Lie of Rahab (Jos 2) [MSB, 306]
- a. Faith Commended; Lie Not Condoned [Hess (?); Howard; BKC]
 - b. Lie (lesser sin) in Response to Rebellion against God (greater sin)
 - c. Deceit a Part of the Ethics of War [EBC]
 - d. Rahab's Words Need Not Be Called a Lie [Woudsta (?)]
 - e. Emphasis of the Narrative Is on Rahab's Testimony, not her Lie [Davis]

4. The Long Day (10:12-14) [MSB, 316; SOTI, 295-6]
 - a. Literal [Woudstra; Hess (?); Davis; BKC]
 - 1) The Earth Stopped Rotation
 - 2) The Sun's Light Lingered
 - 3) The Sun's Light Was Blocked
 - 4) A Special Sign Was Involved
5. Caananite Genocide [see Cowles, Merrill, Gard, & Longman; *Show Them No Mercy: 4 views on God and Canaanite Genocide*] (Josh 6:21)
 - a. Radical Discontinuity
 - b. Moderate Discontinuity
 - b. Eschatological Continuity
 - c. Spiritual Continuity
 - d. Contradiction between OT & NT-liberal (not included in above book)

G. Preaching Joshua