

Key to JOSHUA

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Joshua (24:26); written about 1425 B.C.; time covered about 25 years; type of book, historical; Joshua lived to be 110; key verse 1:8; key thought, possession.

2. THEME:

Joshua is a book of progress, conquest, possession, and systematic division of the land. With a new leader, there were new experiences, new victories, new attainments and new problems. But GOD's guidance, GOD's power, and GOD's encouragement were the same. Joshua is the chief personage.

3. OUTLINE:

Conquest (1-12) Joshua's farewell (23, 24)
Settlement of the land (13-22)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Joshua is a book of action and corresponds to the challenges, victories and thrills of the Christian life.

These events in Joshua demonstrate great principles: the rite of circumcision at Gilgal (chapter 5), the necessity for separation; the memorials (chapter 4), a sign of remembrance of GOD's miracles.

Joshua's dependence upon the books of Moses was demonstrated:

Compare Joshua 14:1-4 with Numbers 34:13,14; Joshua 13:11 with Numbers 32:37; Joshua 21 with Numbers 35.

GOD's man, Moses, was gone, but GOD's work went on under GOD's new leader, Joshua.

Here is a commander, Joshua, who was evidently reared in the brick factories, or iron foundries of Egypt.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The fact that GOD goes before His people is demonstrated in the fear He had put into the hearts of the Canaanites preparatory to the conquest (2:10, 11).

The unbelievable grace of GOD is shown in the inclusion of Rahab, a harlot, into the Messianic line of CHRIST (Matthew 1:5).

While the land had been already "given" to Israel (Genesis 15:18-21), still it was necessary that they go in and possess it. As they did GOD gave the victory.

The slaughter of the Canaanites (6:21; 10:28) was by GOD's direct command. This was absolutely necessary to cleanse the land for the occupation of GOD's chosen people, and entirely justifiable, for GOD had given 400 extra years for their repentance. (Genesis 15:16).

Victory at Jericho was by complete observance of GOD's directions, defeat at Ai due to disobedience, and that of one man.

The Tabernacle was set up at Shiloh for the gathering place of the Tribes to worship the LORD. Later, David made Jerusalem the religious center of the people.

The vindication of the minority report of the spies (Numbers 14:6-10) was amply demonstrated in the complete conquest of the land.

The distribution "by lot" (Numbers 33:54) evidently allowed GOD's hand to be present and recognized in the tribal divisions.

The miracle of the sun standing still, and of the great hailstones in the battle of Gibeon was entirely in keeping with the events which had been happening since Israel left Egypt.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Three campaigns result in seven nations with 31 kings defeated by Israel and Joshua (chapter 12).

Joshua's name appears in the Tel-el-Amarna tablets found in Egypt.

JESUS was baptized 1400 years later, probably near where Joshua crossed the Jordan.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

GOD's people made great advances under the leadership of a man named Joshua. GOD's people today may do the same under our Joshua (Jesus). Take this book literally, but do not fail to apply its spiritual lessons to your own life.

~ end of Joshua ~

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