

Joshua

Original Historical Setting

Author: Joshua (or possibly Samuel or another priest)

Date: Possibly around 1380 B.C.

Audience: Israelites who settled in Canaan before they had a king.

Occasion: If Joshua is author: the continuation (after Moses) of recording the mighty works of God accomplished under his leadership. If Samuel (or other) is author: a permanent record of the conquest of Canaan.

Timeline:

- ~1405 B.C. – Israel enters the Promised Land
- ~1405-1400 B.C. – Jericho and other cities defeated
- ~1398 B.C. – Promised Land divided among the tribes
- ~1380 B.C. – Joshua dies

World Events that occur simultaneously

~1380 B.C. – Nefertiti is queen of Egypt

Genre/Literary style

Historical narrative composed in Hebrew

Features and Structure

- Joshua can be divided into three main parts:
 - 1) **Ch 1-5** Israel finally obeys and enters the land
 - 2) **Ch 6-12** Israel conquers the land
 - 3) **Ch 13-24** Israel settles the land
- An interesting feature of Joshua is the very real presentation of Joshua's military strategy of "divide-and-conquer." After defeating Jericho the Israelite army drove west and eventually destroyed Ai and neutralized Gibeon, breaking the backbone of the opposition. Then they conquered the southern and then the northern cities.

Key text(s)

1:6-9 – Be strong and courageous

6:20 – The walls come tumbling down

24:15 – My house will serve the LORD

What to look for

- See if you can see any parallels between the blessings promised to the Israelites as they entered into their earthly inheritance of Canaan and the spiritual blessings of inheritance promised to believers in the book of Eph.
- Notice how Joshua and subsequently the Israelites exhibit strength and courage in the LORD as they obediently move into the Promised Land.

Interesting facts

- Moses changed Hoshea's name (meaning *salvation*) to Joshua (meaning *Yahveh saves*). The Greek equivalent to Joshua is Jesus.
- The Hebrew term *cherem*, translated "accursed" in the NKJV, carries the idea of "religious taboo" or "ban." *Cherem* referred to people or things that were so consecrated to God that they were totally given up to Him, even to the extent of destroying them (so that they could not be used in ordinary life). Note Josh. 6:17-18; 7:11-15. And refer back to Lev. 27:26-29.
- Although I believe the sun really did stand still as the Bible says. And although there really is a Mr. Harold Hill from Curtis Engine Company who consulted with NASA. And although there is an email circulating that he along with NASA "proved" the sun standing still story...this did not happen...so don't pass this email on!
- Pastor Scot named his son Caleb because of his desire that Caleb grow up to be a man who will stand against the majority when the majority goes against God and that he would "wholly follow the LORD his God."

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:8