

Joshua 1

Day 1

Joshua Becomes Israel's Leader. Read Joshua 1:1–6

1. Where and when did Joshua's leadership of Israel begin (1:1,2)? See Deuteronomy 34:8–9.
2. What titles are given to Joshua at the beginning (1:1) and the end (24:29) of the book of Joshua?
3. How had Joshua received his commission? Numbers 27:15–23. (See also Deuteronomy 31:7,8,14,23)

Digging Deeper
How did God speak to Joshua compared to how He spoke to Moses? Exodus 33:11a; Numbers 12:8

4. What experiences had prepared Joshua for this task? What would he have learned through each of them?
 - Exodus 17:8–13
 - Exodus 24:12–14
 - Exodus 33:9–11
 - Numbers 13:8,16 (For other examples of names being changed see Genesis 17:5,15; 32:28.).

Digging Deeper
Read Psalm 105 for a recounting of the events God had performed for the nation of Israel.

5. How had Joshua (and Caleb) previously shown strength and courage concerning the land (Numbers 14:5–9; 30)?
 - What was Joshua known for (Numbers 32:12)?

Digging Deeper
See 1 Chronicles 7:20–27 for Joshua's family tree. Which tribe was Joshua descended from? See Genesis 41:51–52.

6. What was the first command the Lord gave Joshua (1:2)? (For Moses' death see Deuteronomy 34.)

- How daunting would it have been to take this first step? (See also 3:15.) What grief and misgivings would Joshua have been struggling with? How might the people have responded to this command?

7. Write out the phrases in the following verses that describe God's gift of the land.

- 1:2 *"the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel"* NAS
- 1:3 *"I have given it to you just as I spoke to Moses"* NAS
- 1:6
- 1:11
- 1:13
- 1:15
- Why do you think this idea was repeated so often?

8. What promises connected with "I have", "I will" and "I swore" did the Lord give Joshua?

- 1:3
- 1:5

FYI: No man will be able to stand against you "This statement does not deny the reality of opposition, but it does promise ineffective and failing attempts of the enemy to overthrow Israel and its new leader...As long as Joshua and Israel are obedient to the ways and will of God then they will experience incessant and uninterrupted victory." – Robert Smith Jr. (21)

"God had **been with Moses** when he withstood the mightiest monarch with the mightiest armies on earth, and Moses defeated him again and again. God was with Moses when he prevailed over nature and called forth water from the rock, cured his sisters' leprosy, and brought down bread from heaven. What a testimony Moses's life was to the presence and power of God."

– Kent Hughes (27)

9. How large was the territory God promised Israel (1:4)? See Deuteronomy 11:22–25.

FYI: "It is a matter of record that...Israel did not...expand to the greater territory promised. They fell short because, despite their great victories, the people had notable lapses of faith and accepted compromises. Only in the time of Israel's great territorial expansion under David and Solomon did the nation nearly fill the boundaries God set...If the people of Israel, through greater faith and fight, had walked further, more land would have been theirs." – R. Kent Hughes (26)

10. What does God promise us? How do we claim these things?

- Matthew 28:20
- Hebrews 13:5b–6
- Romans 8:28
- Ephesians 3:20

11. What second command did the Lord repeat three times in 1:6a,7a, 9a? Why do you think He did this?

12. What assurances were attached to the command to be “strong and courageous”?

- 1:6
- 1:7b–8
- 1:9b (cf. Deuteronomy 31:23)

FYI: Courageous OT:553 *amats*; to be alert, physically (on foot) or mentally (in courage): KJV – confirm, be courageous (of good courage, steadfastly minded, strong, stronger)

☞ **Applying the Word:** Think of a responsibility you have (at home, church, work...). What experiences from your past helped to prepare you for this responsibility? Where do you see God’s calling you to be strong and courageous?

Day 2

Background: The Land

13. According to Genesis 12:1–2, whom did God first promise possession of the land? With whom did God renew this promise (Exodus 6:2–8)?

- How long did the promise last (Genesis 17:8)? (See also Psalm 105:8–11)

14. Underline the reasons God gave the land of Canaan to the Israelites.

- Deuteronomy 7:7–9 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. NIV
- Deuteronomy 9:4 It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

15. For how wicked the Canaanites had become:

- See a description of the sexual sins of the Canaanites in Leviticus chapters 18 and 20. What did the Lord say about these in 18:27 and 20:23?
- For a list of their occult practices, see Deuteronomy 18:9–13. What adjective did He use twice to describe them (18:9.12)

Article: “Why did God command the genocide of the Canaanites?”
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Canaanites-extirmination.html>

16. How long did God wait before giving the land to Israel? See Exodus 12:40–41.

- Why did God wait so long (Genesis 15:16)? What does the description “complete/full measure” say about this wickedness?

17. In Deuteronomy 7:1–6, what directions had God given about the people of Canaan and why?

- How did the Lord state the reasons for this in Leviticus 18:24–25?

FYI: Iniquity/ OT:5771 *ʾavon*; perversity, i.e. (moral) evil: KJV – fault, iniquity, mischief, sin.

“A basic knowledge of Canaanite culture reveals its inherent moral wickedness. The Canaanites were a brutal, aggressive people who engaged in bestiality, incest, and even child sacrifice. Deviant sexual acts were the norm. The Canaanites’ sin was so repellent that God said, “The land vomited out its inhabitants” (Leviticus 18:25). Even so, the destruction was directed more at the Canaanite religion (Deuteronomy 7:3–5; 12:2–3) than at the Canaanite people per se. The judgment was not ethnically motivated. Individual Canaanites, like Rahab in Jericho, could still find that mercy follows repentance (Joshua 2). God’s desire is that the wicked turn from their sin rather than die (Ezekiel 18:31–32; 33:11).” – “Why did God condone such terrible violence in the Old Testament?” <https://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-violence.html>

18. How did God describe the land in Deuteronomy 11:9–12?

19. What had God promised about the land and people if they were faithful (Deut. 28:1–12)?

20. Over time, how unfaithful did Israel become? See 2 Kings 17:7–8,16–20; 21:9)

21. Even in captivity, what did the Lord promise he would do for the nation?

- Jeremiah 23:3
- Jeremiah 24:4–7
- Jeremiah 29:10–14

∞ **Applying the Word:** What events from your past remind you of God’s faithfulness? In what ways does that give you hope for the future?

Day 3

Commands about the Law. Read Joshua 1:7–9

22. List the ways that Joshua was to respect the law.

- 1:7
- 1:8 (See Psalm 1:2.) What do the words “mouth/lips”, “meditate” and “do” convey?

Digging Deeper

What did God say to the prophet Ezekiel about the seriousness of conveying His Word to the people in Ezekiel 2:6–8; 3:1,10,11,18

FYI: “**Meditate** is a word that suggest pondering, internalizing, and contemplating...The word of God is not to be an emergency ration for a crisis moment. It is to be a constant source of nutrition of one’s mind: ‘Give us today our daily bread’.” – Robert Smith Jr. (24)

successful/prosper OT:7919 *saka*; to be (causatively, make or act) circumspect and hence, intelligent:

“To act with insights, to be prudent”

–The Complete Word Study Dictionary OT

“In the religious and ethical sense, it means someone who lets himself and his life be guided by God. Joshua had this kind of success and prosperity. He experienced hardship. Sometimes he failed. But his way was prudent and wise – thus successful.” – R. Kent Hughes (31)

23. Since these commands about the law are given in the context of being strong and courageous, what does that indicate about the work of passing on God's truth on to the people? What does it say about what was key to their success?

FYI: "The reason why God is forming this group of people into a nation is so that they can corporately live out the kind of life which testifies to...the way life is supposed to be lived in a community that loves God, people and their calling on the earth. ...It is particularly this idea of mission that is highlighted in [Deut.] 19:6 when God says, 'you will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' ...this is a call to serve as a testimony to the world and especially a mediating nation that lives out and channels God's ways to the rest of the world. In particular they will be the channel for the Seed and bless the world with news about him." – Chris Miller; Notes on Deut.

24. How faithfully did Joshua pass on the word of the Lord? See Joshua 8:34–35.

- Compare the command given to Israel's Kings in Deuteronomy 17:18–20.

25. What happens if we follow our own ideas instead of God's?

- Proverbs 1:29–30
- Proverbs 14:12
- Jeremiahs 4:22
- Romans 1:21–22, 28–32

26. From the following verses, underline the words that describes the benefits of studying and knowing Scripture.

- Proverbs 6:23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, NIV
- Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. NIV
- Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. NIV
- 2 Timothy 3:15–17 And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

27. What additional commands are added to being “strong and courageous” in 1:9?

FYI: tremble/afraid OT:6206 *`arats*; to awe or (intransitive) to dread; hence, to harass: KJV – be affrighted (afraid, dread, feared, terrified), break, dread, fear, oppress, prevail, shake terribly.

dismayed/discouraged OT:2865 *chathath*; to prostrate; hence, to break down, either (literally) by violence, or (figuratively) by confusion and fear: KJV – abolish, affright, be (make) afraid, amaze, beat down, discourage, (cause to) dismay, go down, scare, terrify.

28. Joshua is believed to have been 80–85 years old at this time. He had served under Moses for 40 years. Since Moses and his leadership was gone, what comfort and encouragement do you think these words brought?

☞ **Applying the Word:** Can you think of a time when God used His Word to comfort or guide you in a difficult situation? What effect did it have on you?

J. W. Tozer said “Nothing of God dies when a man of God dies.” Have you lost someone that was a spiritual mentor, companion or example to you? How do you think God wants to assure you?

Day 4

Preparing to Cross. Joshua 1:10–18

29. What command did Joshua give to the officers (1:10,11)? What does this show about Joshua’s confidence in God?

30. Why did Joshua address three tribes separately (1:12)? See Numbers 32:16–18. (Numbers 32 gives a full account of the land given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, the provisions made for their families, and the promises they made to Moses.)

31. What reminder did Joshua give to these tribes about helping to conquer the land west of the Jordan river (1:13–14)? Why do you think the Lord reminds Joshua about Moses so often?

- When were they permitted to return (1:15)?

32. What principles about believers working together do the following verses give?

- Philippians 1:27–28

- Philippians 2:1–4

33. To what did the people agree?

1:16	
1:17a	
1:18a	

34. What hopes did they express for Joshua's leadership (1:17b,18b)?

35. How had the previous generation of people responded to the command to enter the land?
See Numbers 13:31–14:4.

- Why do you think this next generation responded so differently?

36. What are some ways the past and present generation of Israelites had failed to obey God's commands?

- Exodus 32:7–8

- Numbers 25:1–4

37. Even with all these warnings and promises, what had been foretold through Moses about the future in Deuteronomy 31:27–29? What does that tell you about God's grace in dealing with people?

☞ **Applying the Word:** What problems and worries in life often pull you away from your resolve to follow God wholeheartedly? Do you see any principles from this chapter that can help you walk closer to Him?

Videos:

“Old Testament Literature” –Dr. Chris Miller: Joshua

https://www.cedarville.edu/media/video/bibleminorclasses/uvuV4_pcl0WtTzr6lup99Q (46:17)



Bible Project Book Overview:

Joshua <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/joshua/> (8:47)

