

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 2 | LESSON 1




OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY – The Promise Preserved Through Failed Leadership

God is a PROMISE Protecting God

God 1) **PROVIDES** “shadow | type” rulers who 2) fail to **RESCUE** His people 3) **DEFEAT** His enemies and 4) **KEEP** them in the Land 5) so that His people would be with Him for their **JOY**. 6) God, however, shall **FULFILL** all of His promises in **JESUS**.

“I Have Given It To You” Joshua 21:43 [Cf. 1:1-9]

Joshua 21:⁴³ Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how God is faithful to His promises even when His people are unfaithful to Him. Q – Why do you think God is faithful even when you are unfaithful?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose to listen to the Word of God even while the world around you says something else. Q – What are some falsehoods the world teaches that the Bible says are not true?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will obey all that God has said even when everyone else does otherwise. Q – What are some ways you can remember God in your daily activities?</p>

EMPHASIS

“The purpose of the Book of Joshua is to give an official account of the historical fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to the patriarchs to give Israel the land of Canaan by holy war. A “holy war” was a conflict with religious overtones rather than one with a political motivation of defense or expansion. This can be seen in both the opening charge (1:2-6) and the concluding summary (21:43).”¹

- Joshua 1:² “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

- Joshua 21:⁴³ Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there.

“The book of Joshua shows **us God's faithfulness to his covenant with the Israelites to bring them into the land he promised to Abraham**. This book points to the importance of covenant obedience before, during, and after God fulfills his promises.”²

To understand the Story of Joshua is to understand the expansion of the SEED PROMISE in the ABRAHAMIC COVENANT. To understand the SEED PROMISE of Genesis 3:15, God gave three descriptions. First, a land. Second, a seed, and finally, a blessing. Through the seed of Abraham, all the nations of the world will be blessed. In the fulfillment of this SEED PROMISE, the nations of the world shall enjoy a place [land] where they will encounter God for their joy [blessing].

Way back in Genesis 15:1-3 (@2090 BC) God promised Abraham 1) a blessing, 2) a seed, and 3) a land. Now 685 years later (1405 BC) God is making good on His promises. The book of Joshua provides for us a detailed account of the battles and lays the backdrop for Judges and the Davidic Monarchy.

Understanding the Initial Promise

1st THINGS 1st

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to **the land** that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a **great nation**, and I will bless you and make your name great, **so that** you will be a **blessing**. ³ I will **bless** those who **bless** you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Understanding the Initial Fulfillment

LAND
[THE BOOK OF JOSHUA]
SEED
[Numbers 1:17-46 {*46}| Josh. 24:3]
BLESSING
[RAHAB {2} | GIBEONITES {9}]

The Story of Joshua shows God making good, in shadow form, on His promise to Abraham.

LITERARY CONTEXT

"Joshua is the first of 12 historical books, Joshua provides the **link** between the Pentateuch and the rest of Israel's history. It picks up the story of Israel where Deuteronomy left off, and follows the nation from the wilderness into the Promised Land."³

See further below: Structure

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Book of Joshua covers a 25-40-year period of time. Thus, from the passing of Moses to the passing of Joshua is approximately 30 some years.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

“Crossing the Jordan River was a key event in Israel’s history. Just as crossing the Red Sea changed Israel’s standing from slavery to freedom, passing through the Jordan into the Promised Land, transformed Israel from a wandering horde into an established nation. To the people, the river seemed like an insurmountable obstacle. But to God, it represented a decisive turning point.”⁴

MOSES | JOSHUA

1. Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt. Joshua leads them into Canaan (Josh. 1:8, 9, 17; 4:14).
2. Moses leads Israelites miraculously across Red Sea. Joshua leads them miraculously across the Jordan River.
3. Moses sends out spies into Canaan. Joshua sends out two spies to Jericho.
4. Moses removed his sandals when God spoke to him through the burning bush (Exod. 3:5). Joshua removed his sandals before God’s presence (Josh. 5:10, 11).
5. Moses allocates land on the east side of the Jordan. Joshua allocates land on the west side of the Jordan.
6. And finally, Moses gives a prolonged address before dying, as does Joshua.

STRUCTURE

Although it is quite lengthy, if we read through the provided verses, we can see how the emphasis in the book is on THE LAND.

LAND IN JOSHUA

- Jos 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.
- Jos 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.
- Jos 1:13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.
- Jos 1:15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.
- Jos 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

- Jos 2:14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.
- Jos 2:24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.
- Jos 9:24 And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing.
- Jos 10:42 And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.
- Jos 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.
- Jos 23:15 Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.
- Jos 23:16 When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.
- Jos 24:13 And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. 15 ¶ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. 17 For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: 18 And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Based on the emphasis on THE LAND, the following outline follows the movement of the book.

A. Entering the Land_(1-5)

1. “Be Courageous and Obey God’s Word (Chapter 1:1-9, 16-18)
2. No Courage / A Covenant Made (Chapter 2:12-21)
3. The Crossing of The Jordan River (Chapters 3:10,14f; 4:19-24)

Just as the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, so also will the children of Israel cross the Jordan River.

4. The Rite of Circumcision Carried Out (Chapter 5:11,12)

B. Overcoming the Land (6-12)

1. Central Campaign: Jericho And Ai (6-8)
 - a. Jericho Falls (Chapter 6)

- b. Achan And Ai (Chapter 7)
 - c. Ai Falls (Chapter 8)
 - 2. Southern Campaign: (9,10)
 - a. The Gibeonites Deception (Chapter 9)
 - b. The Southern Campaign War (Chapter 10)
 - 3. Northern Campaign: (11)
 - 4. Catalogue of Defeated Kings (12)
- C. Occupying the Land (13-24)

Nine and ½ tribes lived on the west side of the Jordan (Canaan) river and two and ½ tribes dwelt on the east side of the Jordan (Transjordan) river (Reuben, Gad, and ½ of Manasseh).

- 1. Portions For 5 Tribes (13-17)
- 2. Portions For 7 Tribes (18-21)
 - a. The Six Cities of Refuge
 - b. The Forty-Eight Levitical Cities
- 3. Joshua's Last Words (22-24)
 - a. The Altar Called "Ed" (Chapter 22)
 - b. Joshua's Farewell Speech (Chapters 23,24)

JESUS IN THE TEXT

- Just as Joshua replaces Moses, so also Jesus replaces Joshua.
- Jesus is the faithful leader who will take us into **the** Promised Land.
- Jesus, THE SECOND JOSHUA

"Paul taught that the events of the Exodus and Conquest are meaningful for Christians in that those events possess significance as types (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-11). The Greek form of the name "Joshua" ("Yahweh saves" or "Yahweh is salvation") is "Jesus." As Joshua led Israel to victory over her enemies and into possession of the Promised Land, and as he interceded for the nation after it had sinned and been defeated, **so does Jesus**. He brings the people of God into a promised rest (Heb. 4:8-9); intercedes for His own continually (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25); and enables them to defeat their enemies (Rom. 8:37; Heb. 2:14-15)."⁵

APPLICATION

- God is faithful to keep His promise to the Serpent (Gen. 3:15) and to Abraham (Gen. 12:1ff).
- This promise is a **ROYAL GIFT COVENANT**.
- Although the Nation is unfaithful, God will prove Himself to the covenant.

VISUALS

MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 21:43

Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there.

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ <https://www.olivetree.com/blog/jesus-book-joshua/>

² The Bible Project on Joshua.

³ [The Navigators](#)

⁴ <https://www.learnreligions.com/crossing-the-jordan-river-bible-story-700081>

⁵ <https://www.olivetree.com/blog/jesus-book-joshua/>