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2025 ANNUAL THEME: “HOPE IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY”
September Theme: Childlike Faith

BIBLE STUDY
September 2025

The Book of Joshua: Courageous Faith
(Joshua 1:1-9; Joshua 6:1-20; Joshua 24:14-28)

Topics

- Scripture References
- Reflection Questions
- Important Emphasis
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- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and Context
- Exploring The Text
- Check For Understanding
- Life Application

Scripture References:

The Book of Joshua – Introduction
(Joshua 1:1-9)

Reflection Questions

- A. Can a person possess childlike and courageous faith simultaneously? Briefly explain.
- B. What are some qualities of a leader that you would follow?

Important Emphasis

Joshua is the sixth book of the Old Testament or the Hebrew Bible and functions as a canonical hinge.

The Book of Joshua is one of the Bible's greatest testimonies to the mighty acts of God on behalf of Israel. Joshua is classified as the first book of the Former prophets. Joshua's opening emphasis on torah obedience. Establishes the Pentateuch as the primary authority for Israel's life in Canaan.

Joshua is fundamentally concerned with establishing a sense of national identity.

"The book of Joshua recounts the Israelite invasion of the promised land under the leadership of Joshua, the servant of Moses. The book is intended to be the conclusion to the story of the exodus and the wilderness journey."

Interweaving themes

- Land
- Behavior
- Ethnicity- preserving ethnic integrity

Focus in Joshua

Fulfillment of Succession *Joshua 1:1-2*

Faithfulness of a Servant *Exodus 24:13-18*

Fearlessness of a Soldier *Exodus 17:13-16*

"The book is named after Joshua the young apprentice and successor of Moses who was the military commander in the "conquest" of Canaan"

Joshua is a book about boundaries. It opens with an announcement that signals the end of an era, a description of the borders that define the promise land, and a command to cross geographical boundary. *Joshua 1:1-5*

Boundaries defined and demarcated. They include and exclude. In essence , they function to differentiate what is inside from what is outside.

Throughout the story the narrator meticulously documents Israel's obedient faithfulness to God, Joshua, and the law of Moses.

Key Words and Terms

Ai
Ark of the
Covenant
Battle of Jericho
Blessings
Conquest
Consequences
Courage
Courageous
Covenant Renewal
Disobedience
Division of Land
Faith

Family
Follow
Gibeonites
Gilgal
God
God's Faithfulness
God's Guidance
God's Promises
Inheritance
Jericho
Jordan River
Joshua

Joshua's Farewell
Land Allotment
Leadership
Levites
Obedience
Promised Land
Rahab
Rest
Shechem
Sun Stands Still
Tribes of Israel
Trust

Outline

Introduction, Background, and Context

- I. **Conquest and Courage (Joshua 1:1-9)**
 - A. **Promised Possession**
 - B. **Courageous Command**
 - C. **Persistent Pondering on the Word Leads to Prosperity**
- II. Faith and Fulfillment (Joshua 6:1-20)
 - A. Faith's Foundation
 - B. Obedience's Outcome
- III. Legacy and Leadership (Joshua 24:14-28)
 - A. Commitment to Covenant
 - B. Generational Guidance

Introduction - Bible Study Series on the Book of Joshua

The Book of Joshua is a key narrative in the Old Testament, connecting the Pentateuch with Israel's early history. This series explores themes of faith, obedience, and divine help through Joshua's leadership and the Israelites' conquest of Canaan. We will learn the importance of following God's commandments that result in realized promises and blessings; and the consequences of disobedience. This series encourages reflection on faith and obedience, emphasizing leadership, godly principles, and God's commitment to His covenant, inspiring participants to live with courage and integrity.

The narrative begins with God's command to Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan River, emphasizing themes of faith, obedience, and divine assistance. The book details the conquest of Canaan, including the famous battle of Jericho, where the walls fell after the Israelites marched around them for seven days. Through these stories, the text underscores the importance of following God's commandments and the consequences of disobedience.

In addition to recounting military victories, the Book of Joshua also focuses on the distribution of the land among the twelve tribes of Israel, establishing a sense of order and community. The latter chapters highlight the covenant renewal at Shechem, where Joshua reminds the Israelites of their commitment to serve God alone. This moment serves as a pivotal point, reinforcing the central message of loyalty to God as the key to prosperity and peace in the land. Overall, the Book of Joshua is a narrative of transition, conquest, and covenant, illustrating the fulfillment of God's promises to the patriarchs and setting the stage for the subsequent history of Israel.

We begin the series with an overall introduction to the Book of Joshua, its background and context, and the commission and instructions for Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land (**Joshua 1:1-9**).

Background and Context of the Book of Joshua

Authorship and Date Written

The authorship of the Book of Joshua is traditionally attributed to Joshua himself, the successor of Moses and leader of the Israelites. However, modern scholarship often considers it a compilation of texts from various sources, possibly edited by later scribes.

Concerning some aspects of the book's authorship there is significant assurance and agreement:

- 1) The author was an eyewitness of much of the historical account.
- 2) The book was written very early, not long after the events had transpired.
- 3) Joshua is *specifically* identified as the author of some writings.
- 4) Joshua could not have written some small parts.
- 5) The bulk of the book was written by one author.

The important thing to recognize is that the identification of the author is not vital to the study of the book. The book is a historical account of Israel's conquest and division of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua, with **no primary autobiographical purpose** of giving detailed insight into the heart of

the general. If the book were of such an autobiographical purpose, identification of the author would be vital.

Addressees

The primary audience of the Book of Joshua was the Israelites, particularly those living during the time of its final compilation. It served to **remind** them of their history and **God's promises**.

Place in the Bible

In our Bible, Joshua, **the sixth book**, is the first of the historical books. In the Jewish Old Testament, Joshua is the first book of the prophets, probably because its historical record illustrates the basic truths that the prophets preached. The relation of Joshua to the two books preceding it (in the order of our Old Testament) is simple:

Numbers	—————>	Journey to Canaan
Deuteronomy	—————>	Preparation to enter Canaan
Joshua	—————>	Conquest of Canaan

Study the contents of the books that immediately follow Joshua in the Old Testament canon to further confirm its logical placement in the list.

Purpose for Writing

The Book of Joshua provides an interpretive [explanatory] history of Israel's entry and settlement in the promised land, emphasizing God's control over historical events and crediting Him for Israel's victories. It highlights the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham by giving Canaan to Israel, a theme central to the book and the resolution of the Pentateuch's narrative. The distribution of the land is detailed in chapters 6–12 and 13–21, underscoring the significance of the land in every chapter.

1st Century to the 21st Century

The message of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises can profoundly impact 21st-century Christians by reinforcing our trust in God's reliability and encouraging us to remain steadfast in our faith. It serves as a reminder that, despite challenges and uncertainties, God's promises are unwavering. This assurance can inspire Christians to live obediently, knowing that our faithfulness will lead to spiritual blessings and growth. Additionally, it can provide comfort and hope, motivating believers to persevere through trials with the confidence that God is actively working in our lives.

Key Themes

- Conquest and Settlement: The narrative of the Israelites' conquest of Canaan and their settlement in the Promised Land.
- Faith and Obedience: The importance of faith in God and obedience to His laws as prerequisites for success and blessing.
- Divine Faithfulness: God's unwavering commitment to His **covenant** with Israel.
- Leadership: The role of Joshua as a model leader who follows **God's guidance**.

Check for Understanding Questions

1. Who is the author of the Book of Joshua, and what assurances have been put forth by biblical scholars?

2. What does the Book of Joshua highlight about God?

3. What are some of the key themes in the Book of Joshua?

Exploring the Text

I. Conquest and Courage (Joshua 1:1-9)

A. Promised Possession (Joshua 1:1-5)

¹Now 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.

³Every 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.*

⁵ *No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.*

The land promised to the Israelites is confirmed, as seen in Genesis 15:18: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates." Also see Exodus 23:31.

B. Courageous Command (Joshua 1:6-7)

⁶ *Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.* ⁷ *Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.*

Joshua is called to lead with strength and bravery, echoing the call in Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you." Also see **Isaiah 41:10**.

Canaan was theirs by a divine grant; and the renewed confirmation of that grant to Joshua when about to lead the people into it, intimated not only a certain but an easy conquest. It is remarkable, however, that his courage and hope of victory were made to depend (see on [De 17:18](#)) on his firm and inflexible adherence to the law of God, not only that regarding the extirpation [cutting out] of the Canaanites, but the whole divine code.

1st Century to the 21st Century

The passage from Joshua 1:6-7 teaches us the importance of strength, courage, and adherence to godly principles. In today's context, it encourages us to face challenges with bravery and determination, while remaining committed to our Christian values and ethical guidelines. Success is linked not just to courage, but also to a steadfast commitment to doing what is right, as exemplified by Joshua's adherence to the law. This lesson underscores the idea that true leadership and success are achieved through a combination of bravery and integrity.

C. Persistent Pondering on the Word Leads to Prosperity (Joshua 1:8-9)

⁸ This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua is instructed to adhere to the law, similar to Psalm 1:2: "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night." **Also see James 1:25.**

1st Century to the 21st Century

Applying the principles from Joshua 1:8-9 in today's world involves several key actions:

- **Meditation and Reflection:** Regularly engage with God's Word to align your values accordingly. This could be through reading, meditation, or thoughtful reflection, ensuring these principles guide your daily actions.
- **Consistency:** Just as the text emphasizes day and night meditation, strive for consistency in your practices, whether it's personal development, spiritual growth, or professional endeavors.
- **Courage and Strength:** Face challenges with courage and resilience. Trust in your abilities and the support systems around you, much like the assurance given to Joshua that he is not alone.
- **Mindfulness in Action:** Be mindful of your actions and decisions, ensuring they align with your core values and principles, leading to a prosperous and successful path.

Check for Understanding Questions

4. What is the geographic area of the land promised and confirmed to the Israelites? (Joshua 1:4 and Genesis 15:18)

5. What did God repeat to Joshua about how he was to conduct himself in the face of challenges? (Joshua 1:6 & 1:9)

6. What is the key to prosperity and success according to Joshua 1:8?

Life Application

- How does Joshua's response to God and, in turn, the Israelites' response to Joshua motivate you to respond to overwhelming responsibilities in your own life?

- How could you encourage a friend or family member who is feeling burned-out or discouraged?

Resources:

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker, LOGOS Bible Software

Baker's Bible Dictionary

Clarke, Adam Commentary

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