

TRANSFORMATION

2020 → Year of Transformation

Joshua

Introduction to Joshua

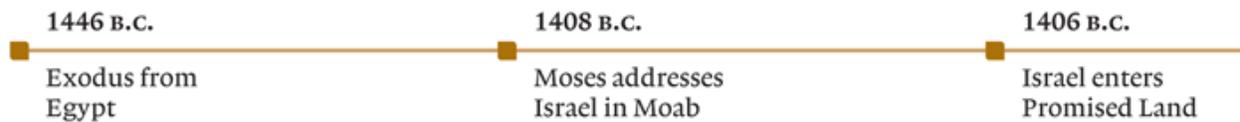
The 12 historical books pick up the story of Israel where it left off at the end of Deuteronomy. These books describe the occupation and settlement of Israel in the Promised Land, the transition from judges to the monarchy, the division and decline of the kingdom, the captivities of the northern and southern kingdom, and the return of the Remnant. Moses has died and Joshua is the new leader of the Israelite nation.

Joshua is the first of the historical books and is considered a Theocratic Book (government or country that is ruled by someone who has religious authority or divine right). It forges a link between the Pentateuch and the remainder of Israel's history.

Through three major military campaigns involving more than 30 enemy armies, the people of Israel learn a crucial lesson under Joshua's capable leadership: victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word, rather than through military might or numerical superiority.

The title of this book is appropriately named after its central figure, Joshua. His original name is *Hoshea*, "salvation"; but Moses evidently changes it to *Yehoshua*, "Yahweh is Salvation." Also called *Yeshua*, which is the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek name for Jesus.

Timeline



Date & Setting:

Joshua divides into three geographical settings:

1. The Jordan River (1-5) – One Month
2. Canaan (6-13) – Seven Years
3. The Twelve Tribes on both sides of the Jordan (13-24) – 18 Years

Theme and Purpose

The book of Joshua seeks to explain God's purpose in the events surrounding Israel's capture of and settlement in Canaan. Those events are seen as the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Such an account would have been relevant to ancient Israel from its earliest arrival in Canaan, and to every generation of God's people to the present day.

Joshua comes immediately after the Pentateuch and in many ways completes its story. The theme of the first five books of the Bible is the progressive fulfillment of the "patriarchal promise," made first to Abraham, and repeated to his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob. The Lord promised Abraham and his descendants that they would be blessed and would become a blessing to others, that they would grow to become a great nation, and that they would be given a land of their own—and that these blessings would be enjoyed within a close covenant relationship with God.

The theme of Joshua is Israel's possession of the Promised Land and the enjoyment of God's blessings through obedient faith. Theologically Joshua teaches that victory and blessing come through obedience and trust in God. Active faith leads to obedience which in turn brings blessings. God required the people to attempt the impossible in submission to his directions before He made it possible for them to succeed.

Outline

- I. Crossing into the Land (1:1-5:15)
- II. Taking the Land (6:1-12:24)
- III. Dividing the Land (13:1-21:45)
- IV. Serving the Lord in the Land (22:1-24:33)

Week 11: “Be Strong & Courageous”

[Joshua 1 & Psalms 111](#)

Teacher notes: This guide is meant to be used as a resource to help you go deeper in your small group discussion. While it is not exhaustive, it is a guide to help you. Think of it as a launching pad to help you facilitate discussion. Please feel free to go deeper, study on your own, pull in other scripture, share your personal story, or bring in other illustrations. It is just a resource to help you take your group on a journey with God.

Introduction:

In his book, AMERICAN CEASER, William Manchester tells of a time during WWI when Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur and Major George Patton were standing together in the heat of battle at Saint-Mihiel, France. They were under fire, but neither took cover. Standing erect each tried to match the other's bravado. Finally, one shell went whistling past so close that Patton flinched. At that point MacArthur said with the slightest trace of a smile: 'Don't worry Major, you never hear the one that gets you.'

We often think of military heroes as examples of strength and courage, for obvious reasons. The Winter of 1776 may have been the gloomiest hour for the American revolutionary cause. The patriot forces seemed unable to win a battle. George Washington's army had been routed out of New York, driven across New Jersey, and lay shivering on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River. More and more men deserted every day. Racked by hunger, cold and disease, those who remained simply waited in misery for their enlistments to expire so they could go home. Washington himself confided in a letter to a relative: 'I think the game is pretty near up.'

Today, we will look at how Joshua commanded the people to be strong and courageous, even in the face of fear. Joshua was one of the 12 spies that believed they could take the land. He never flinched while facing adversity, because he knew that God was with him and promised the Israelites that they would possess the land He was giving them. A good leader instills confidence and hope in the people he leads. Joshua understood that his confidence was in the God who parted the sea, shook the mountains, and drove out the enemy before they ever reached the promise land. Having a proper understanding of who is on our side should help us to be strong and courageous.

[Today, we will look at Joshua 1 & Psalm 111](#)

[Read Joshua 1 & Psalm 111](#)

We will apply the **H.E.A.R** method of Bible study for this series.

- **Highlight:** Read and observe everything in the passage(s).
- **Explain:** Based on your reading, discover what the passage means in its context.

- **Apply:** Understand how the meaning of the passage affects your life.
- **Respond in Prayer:** Pray God's word back to him, asking to believe, share, and put the Bible into practice in your life and relationships.

Discussion Questions

(Leader Insight) In the book of Joshua the phrase Be strong and Courageous appears at least 6 times throughout the book. Most of these references appear in the first chapter. Joshua becomes the leader of God's people when Moses dies. Joshua is charged to lead the Israelites into the promised land that God promised Moses. It has been a 40 year journey in the wilderness to get to this point because the children of Israel did not listen to God. God told Moses that he would not see the promise land, but that Joshua would lead them in. Now Joshua has assumed command and he hears these words from God, "*Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*". Here God is telling Joshua to not be afraid, but to trust him and obey his word. Today, we will look at the difference of Fear and fearing the Lord.

Highlight

Question 1: What is happening in Joshua 1 and Psalm 111? Describe the themes.

Question 2: What are some things you notice from these passages? What is the context in which this is taking place?

Question 3: What words do you notice that are repeated in both passages? (Joshua 1 & Psalm 111)

Explain

Question 4: Why do you the God tells Joshua to not be afraid? What care some things could cause Joshua to have fear?

Question 5: In Joshua 1:2, what promise did God tell Joshua that he would do?

Question 6: In verses 3-4, what is happening? What is God telling Joshua?

Question 7: In Joshua 1:5, what is the key promise of verse 5?

(Leader Insight) God tells Joshua that he has already given them the land and he let's Joshua know that just as he was with Moses, that he (God) would be with Joshua. This is a great promise for us to rest and trust in. God is with us, he will fight for us, the victory has already been won. Moses had seen God do great things, but now he was dead, and many of us can relate to this new fear. The fundamental question for the new leader was, Could I trust God? Would he take care of me like he did Moses? Well the answer is seen in

verse 5. God told Joshua that he would never leave or forsake him. *“Just as he was with Moses, I will be with you.”* This is great news for us today, that God is with us and will not leave us or forsake us.

Question 8: In Joshua 6-8, what is God telling Joshua to do? Why does God say this again?

Question 9: What is the key to being prosperous and successful? (vs 8)

Question 10: In verse 9, God tells Joshua again to not be afraid or be discouraged, what would cause Joshua to be discouraged? (God already told them that they would inherit the land, so why tell him this again?)

Question 11: **Read Psalm 111**, in verses 1-3, what is the author telling us about God?

Question 12: Why is this important for us to understand?

Question 13: How do Psalm 111 and Joshua 1 compliment each other? What are some things you notice from both passages?

Question 14: In Psalm 111:6 we see the power of God on display. How does God show his power to us?

Question 15: Psalm 111:7-9, what are the works of his hands? How can we trust in this?

Question 16: What is the beginning of wisdom? What does this mean?

Apply

Question 15: How do these passages help shape the way you look at God?

Question 16: What did you learn from this week's discussion?

Question 17: Describe some of the parallels that you notice from Joshua 1 and Psalm 111. What sticks out to you from these passages?

Question 18: Why are we told in Joshua 1 to “Not be afraid” and then told in Psalm 111 to “fear the Lord”? Do these 2 passages contradict each other? Why or why not?

Question 19: 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”* How does fear keep us from doing what God wants us to do? How does the devil use the tool of “fear” to distract us or cause us not to move?

Question 20: Describe a time when you knew God was calling you to do something, but fear seized the moment? What happened as a result?

Question 21: What did you learn from Joshua and from Psalm 111 that can help you overcome your fear? What is something God is speaking to you right now?

Question 22: How can you “rekindle” the gift that God gave you? What does God do to get the spirit of fear out of us?

Question 23: What are some action steps you can take to get rid of the fear you have? What can you apply from Joshua 1 to your situation right now? What promise did God speak to you?

Respond in Prayer

Next Steps-

- 1. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.**
- 2. Ask God to help you be strong and courageous in the area that you are afraid.**
- 3. Write down 5 verse to help you have confidence in God and that give you encouragement to be strong.**
- 4. Pray every day for 5 minutes for God to give you wisdom about your situation. Read a Psalm, name your fear in prayer, and move with confidence.**

Pray & Dismiss

1.