

MARCH 13TH 2005: OT OVERVIEW : JOSHUA :
Chapter 1. Courage Brother Do not Stumble

This morning we leave the books written by Moses and come to the first of the historical books, **and as we do so we come to grips** with a Nation under God entering its own land for the very first time.

It is as much a history...of their relationship with God
As it is of their conquest of the land

It is both an interesting.....as we follow the up and down stories of the invasion yet for us living ...21st.....the stories seem at times barbaric.....

What we need to understand.....we are not given all the information:::
The times and the culture were extremely different

***In naming the book Joshua**, the Hebrew Scholars recognized that this book is as much about the man whom God chose to be their leader as it is about the Nation itself.*

Joshua was originally known as Hoshea(Numbers 13:8) which meant “Salvation”

. In Numbers 13: 16 we read that “Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua, which means “the Lord Saves” and is the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek name “JESUS”.

Joshua was about 85 when he became leader
He had known life in Egypt as a slave
Been one of the 12 spies
But esp he had been beside Moses as a trainee leader.....
exp God’s presence with. →tent

By naming him Joshua.....Moses directed attention away....what he could do
To what God would do

The book of Joshua.....divided into two main parts

FOCUS	Conquest of Canaan 1:1—13:7	Settlement in Canaan 13:8—24:33
DIVISIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Israel for Conquest • Conquest of Canaan by Israel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement East of the Jordan • Settlement West of the Jordan • Settlement of Religious Community • Conditions for Continued Settlement
TOPICS	Entering Canaan Preparation	Dividing Canaan
	Conquering Canaan Subjection	Possession
PLACE	Jordan River then Canaan	2 ½ Tribes – East Jordan 9 ½ Tribes – West Jordan
TIME	One month for Preparation Then about 7 yrs conquest	About 18 years

In your reading through this book watch out for the following

1. Joshua's commissioning in Chapter one
2. His sending of two spies to check out Jericho, the story of Rahab, and the battle itself(chapters 2 &6).
3. The miraculous crossing of the River Jordan in flood and the setting up of the 12 stone memorial(chapters 3 & 4).
4. The circumcision and the Passover celebration. Only the second Passover celebration since leaving Egypt and the first in the Promised Land. (Chapter 5).
5. Joshua meets with The Commander of the Lord's Army revealing that it is not God who is on their side but they have been chosen by God to fight for Him and under His command. (Chapter 5:13ff)
6. The defeat of the Israelites at Ai and the sin and judgment of Achan, followed by the victory over Ai and the public renewing of the Covenant. (Chapters 7 & 8)
7. Then in chapters 9 through 11 you can read of the trickery of the Nation of Gibeon and all the battles that then took place as the Israelites continued their conquest.
8. The final chapters are mostly concerned with the division of the lands amongst the tribes and is more about what is still to be completed than what has been achieved. Stand out stories include that of Caleb in chapter 14, his daughters request for land with springs of water(15), the provision of cities of refuge(20), the final renewal of the Covenant(24), and then Joshua's final declaration of his personal commitment to the Lord and his challenge to the people followed by his death(24). Note in 24:32 how the mention of Joseph's bones links Genesis, Exodus, and Joshua together.

The major lessons however, that I want to draw out from this book come from the life of Joshua himself

It is so interesting to note that

despite the fact that Joshua had been Moses right hand man
and that God had set him apart for the leadership (Num 27:22),
and had allowed him to be with Moses in the tabernacle when Moses spoke to God face to face(Ex 32:11);

Despite all this....IT is quite possible ...from what the Bible says...that

Joshua was more than a little nervous about taking on this task.....that God had laid

The reason I say this.....is because.....the repetition in Joshua 1:1- 9
of the personal command....to be strong and very courageous....

In v5 God points out.....as I was with Moses so I will be with you
Then in v6.....v7.....v9.....

Joshua needed this message not once.....but three times....and I am not surprised
For I have felt....in my own experience of ministry.....this same nervousness
This same fear of not being able.....of inadequacy.....

And I'm sure...that most every servant of God...called into a ministry by Him....feels it

That's why the story of Joshua is such an encouragement

For in it God shows us that the way to overcome these inner fears is:-

1. Thro the knowledge that God is always with us.....That it is in His strength we stand
And in fact the Lord appeared to Joshua in a physical way to confirm that

AND 2. Through our awareness of and dependence upon God's Word.....1:8
We take it in.....God's Spirit will bring it to mind....need it most

(story about Geoffrey Bull.....and/or.....young man so full of the Bible)

As I looked at the story of Joshua.....I thought of 2 things.....
could have made him feel nervous...unequal to the challenge
because they are things.....make me feel nervous and unequal

First: Look at who he followed.....

Moses had led the people out of Egypt
He had challenged the great Pharaoh face to face
Struck the Red Sea.....and it had opened
Spoke to God as a friend
Received the ten commandments.....

Joshua must have been tempted at times.....to compare himself with Moses

Perhaps you too have suffered....same temptation
You have found yourself holding back.....some ministry.....others more qualified...

God made it so clear to Joshua....that He had chosen him to take the people on.....
And not Moses

And that the success of Moses.....was not in Moses...but the presence of God with..
That's why..... God says to Joshua....**1:5.....**

If you find yourself feeling that way today....then God says to you
You are the one I have chosen.....
And as I will be with you...for the task...even as..with them.

SECOND: Joshua would have known that the trust God asked of him, put God in complete control.

After being with God's people for so long in the wilderness.....he would have known
How impossible it is to second guess God.....

That trusting...would at times mean.....acting in a way that would seem
crazy...illogical

Yet as leader He was being asked to give that level of trust ::::
And He may have had some anxiety.....concerning what God would ask of him
Or lead him into

*(Missionaries leaving England..19th Century.....belongings packed in a coffin
I tend to think Joshua may have felt that way.....
There was an uncertainty about God's purpose....had to accept)*

It is the same for us.....God doesn't give us all the details.... AND
Our knowledge that God's ways are not our ways.....can sometimes ..anxiety
But He promises His presence

In the end....if Joshua did have any nervousness....He overcame it.....
By allowing God to be God.....and King of His life

It was not always easy for him.....and it won't be for us.....
whatever the task God gives us to do

And like Joshua....we too will learn upon the way
For Joshua made mistakes.....He had his struggles.....his difficult people to deal with
His understanding of God had to develop and grow

But in the end he was a leader through whom God blessed His people
Not because he was perfect.....Nor because he never felt fearful.....inadequate

But because in the end it is God who is the Awesome One
And He is willing to use even you....even me..... to achieve His ends

