

JOSHUA

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- A. Recap basic story - History of Israel entering Canaan.
 - 1. Joshua leader - how it was accomplished
 - 2. Is there more to the book than just this factual accounting? Are there messages for us today?
 - B. INTRO: to the man Joshua.
 - 1. This is not his first appearance.
 - 2. God has been preparing him for forty years for a task that none at the time, knew would be his.
 - 3. He first appears at Rephidim and leads Israel to victory over the Amalekites.
 - 4. He is mentioned as the minister of Moses.
 - 5. He is the spy, who along with Caleb bring a good report.
 - 6. And was on Mount Sinai with Moses.
 - C. PURPOSE:
 - 1. SHOWS HOW God'S promise to Abraham was fulfilled (Gen. 22:17)
 - 2. Summed up in Joshua 21:43-45.
 - D. THEME:
 - 1. The fidelity of God.
 - 2. About 400 years had passed since God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham's decedents.
 - 3. Although the passing time may cast serious doubts in our mind concerning the fulfillment of a promise made by man, it should cast no doubt at all upon the integrity of God.
 - 4. So sure was Joseph that God was a promise-keeping God that at the time of his death he received an oath from the children of Israel that they would carry his bones and bury them in the land promised to his fathers when God visited them to bring them up out of Egypt. (Gen. 50:22-26; Josh. 24:32).
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God Gave The Land

- 1. The book of Joshua is careful to point out that God gave the Israelites the land of promise; they did not conquer of their own strength.
- 2. Israel was destitute of chariots and horses and all the more elaborate equipment of war....without the help of God could not have effected the conquest at all.!
- 3. "Ye have seen all that Jehovah your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for Jehovah your God, he it is that hath fought for you": (Josh. 23:3).
- 4. How fitting it was that Moses changed the name of this man from Hoshea, which means "salvation," to Joshua, which means "Jehovah is salvation"
- 5. **NOTE THE MIRACLES RECORDED IN THE BOOK:** relates to the land.
 - a. Crossing the River Jordan...spring flood. (b) Miracle at Jerico
 - (c) God cast down hailstones on enemy. (d) Sun stayed in its place (10:1-14).

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FAITH IS THE VICTORY

- A. It must be remembered that the spiritual promises of God are conditioned upon man's obedience.
 - 1. Abraham.
 - 2. First approach to the land....10 spies.
 - 3. All who died in the wilderness.
 - B. Thus a victorious faith is a living faith(Heb. 11; James 2;14-26)
 - 1. Consider the capture of the city of Jericho (6:2).
 - 2. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed about For seven day."
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Courage And Confidence

- A. A second lesson based upon the theme of Joshua is the courage and confidence that should be characteristic of God's people.
 - 1. With the knowledge that God is faithful and worthy of our trust then we should possess the courage and confidence of success that results from such a relationship.
 - 2. "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage." 1:5-6.
 - B. Be courageous to observe all the law...1:9.
 - 1, Rom. 8:31-39, Eph. 3:20-21.
 - 2. I Thess. 5:24; II Tim. 2:19; Titus 1:20.
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GOD IS GREATER

- A. GOD Is Greater Than the gods of this world.
 - B. The defeat of the inhabitants who trusted other gods revealed again that God is greater than the gods of this world.
 - 1. From the crossing of the Red Sea to fall of Jericho.
 - 2. As Rahab confessed to the spies; "Jehovah your God, he is God in heaven Above, and on earth beneath." (2:8-11).
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CHOSE YOU THIS DAY

- A. TRULY God has proven time after time that Jehovah is God and that "thee, is none else besides him" (Deut. 4:35).
 - 1. READ..Joshua's farewell speech (24:14-15).
 - 2. What a foolish choice for Israel to have chosen some foreign god in light of what the living God had done.
 - 3. Thus Israel answered, "Jehovah our God we will serve, and unto his voice will we hearken" (Josh. 24:24).

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B. BASED UPON THIS EVIDENCE AND THE EVIDENCE given to us through God's Son, how foolish indeed is the choice of the multitude to serve "the god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4).

1. We must remember that the fidelity and integrity of God is certain in terms of punishment as in rewards of faithful service (23:14-16).
2. The alternatives are well defined and each must choose either "life or death" (Deut. 30:19-20)

JOSHUA AND JESUS

1. Name spelled the same in O.T. Greek text...thus Heb. 4:8 KJV.
1. Joshua lead them into the promised rest....but it was only a type of the rest to come.
2. Jesus is the "author of eternal salvation" of which Joshua's leading of Israel into Canaan was but a type.
3. The promise of God is sure; "There remaineth therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God (Heb. 4:9).
4. "Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, that no man fall after the same example of disobedience (Heb. 4:11).

Book Preserved Because ...

- A. **Sin in the Camp affects the whole body.**
 1. (6:18,19) "...keep yourselves from devoted things.
 2. All the city of Jericho was to be devoted unto God.
- B. Notice carefully that Achan's trespass affected the whole camp of Israel.
 1. The 3000 men sent against Ai were defeated.
 2. Paul "*know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*" (I Cor. 5:6).
 3. The failure to carry out God's plan in dealing with sin leads to a tolerant attitude toward sin among the membership (I Cor. 5:2,6).
- C. TO SHOW THE FIDELITY OF GOD. 400 years from the promise to entering the land. The passing of time may cast doubts concerning the fulfillment of a promise made by man. It should cast no doubt at all in the Integrity of God.
- D. Read Peter's answer when questioned about the end of the world and "the promise of his coming". (**II Peter 3**).
- E. "*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.*" (I Corinthians 15:58).