

# Joshua

## Breakdown

- The book's title comes from the name of the main character. Joshua means "Yahweh saves" which is an appropriate name for the man who, under God's command, led Israel to victory in winning the promised land according to God's covenant with Abraham.
- The book of Joshua is believed to be written by Joshua and covers 25 years' time from 1406 B.C. to 1380 B.C.
- Joshua gives an official historical account of the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel's forefathers to bring their descendants to live in a promised land flowing with milk & honey.

## Main Points

- In our time, wars are most often fought for political reasons, but that is not the case in the book of Joshua. The battles recorded here are a part of God's plan of redemption. Joshua is not an epic story of Israel's heroic new generation conquering their enemies to secure the promised land with the help of their God. Instead, it's the story of how God, with the help of His chosen people, reclaimed His land from pagan nations serving false gods.
- The entire book of Joshua points to Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer. Joshua himself shows us a picture of Jesus who would later come to the earth to save His people by conquering evil, defeating Satan, and establishing His kingdom - the kingdom of God which would rule forevermore.

## Did you know?

- The Israelites were to leave 2000 cubits space between themselves and the ark of the covenant. That equals a little over 8 football fields. Talk about social distancing!
- The first thing the Israelites did after crossing the Jordan River into the promised land was renew the covenant with God. What did they do to renew it and why?
- The second battle for the Israelites was against a city named Ai, but something went terribly wrong. What happened, why did it happen, and how did they fix it?
- The Israelites were instructed by God to drive out all the nations in the promised land, but they 'accidentally' made a covenant with a neighboring nation. How did that happen?
- Israel came to Gibeon's rescue when several cities came together to fight against them. God defended Israel and Gibeon using two miracles of nature. What were they?
- The 2 ½ tribes that settled east of the Jordan River helped their fellow Israelites defeat the nations in the promised land. When they went back home, they did something that made their fellow Israelites want to go to war against them? What did they do?

## Further Thought

- The first city the Israelites defeated was Jericho, but the victory clearly belonged to God. What was different about this first victory than the others and what does that teach us?
- The Israelites were instructed to drive out ALL the nations in the promised land, but they didn't complete the job. What did that mean for Israel and what does it mean for us?
- Joshua renewed the covenant between God and Israel several different times. What can we learn from their multiple covenant renewals?