

OT-OV

Lesson 70

1. Last week we began a study of the Doctrine of Joshua.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page two.
3. We have effectively covered the first five books of the Bible.
4. Now we are ready for a summary analysis of the book of Joshua.
5. Joshua was written by Joshua and some unknown writer. The anonymous writer may have been Othniel a judge of the tribe of Judah (1370-1330). Othniel himself could have been the anonymous writer.
6. The Book of Joshua is a tale of Moses' death, Joshua as his replacement and the victories (and an occasional defeat) of the enemies in the land. The book was written, in the main, from somewhere in Canaan about 1427 B.C.
7. It is a story of God demanding trust, Israel's need to learn war, their need to follow His rules and fight for their land.
8. The importance of doctrine is stressed as a source of success.

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

The Doctrine of Joshua

1. Joshua was the leader of the Israelites in their conquest of the Promised Land.
2. His full name Jehoshua (Num 13:16) means "Yahweh is salvation," and is the same as the Hellenized form of the name Jesus (Acts 7:45; Heb 4:8).

Num 13:16 These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.

Act 7:45 Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

2.1 His name is spelled "Jeshua" in (Neh 8:17). His original name was Oshea (Num 13:8).

Neh 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

3. After directing the allotment of tribal territories he settled in the highlands of Ephraim, where he was buried. (Jos 19:50; 24:30)

4. Since he was over 40 when he left Egypt and seemed well-qualified to command the Israelite forces who fought off the Amalekites at Rephidim, it is possible that he had been trained in Pharaoh's army.

Exo 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Exo 17:10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Exo 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

5. During the year at Mount Sinai Joshua served as personal attendant to Moses when the latter was receiving the law and whenever he went to the tent of meeting to hear the Lord (Exo 24:13; 32:17; 33:11).

Exo 24:13 And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God ...

Exo 32:17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.

Exo 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

5.1 Even after leaving Sinai, Moses considered Joshua to be "young" and found it necessary to rebuke him for trying to forbid two elders in the camp from prophesying.

Num 11:27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

Num 11:28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

Num 11:29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

5.2 In addition to whatever contacts he may have had before the Exodus with Canaan and its inhabitants as they came to trade in Egypt or as he may have traveled there on an Egyptian military campaign, Joshua gained experience of that land as one of the 12 spies.

6. He was selected as a spy from the tribe of Ephraim. (Num 13:8)

Num 13:8 Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.

7. They scouted Canaan thoroughly.

8. As Joshua and Caleb opposed the majority report and urged the Israelites to enter the "exceedingly good land" instead of rebelling against the Lord, they grew in spiritual stature.

Num 14:7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel saying, "The land, which we passed through to search it is an exceeding good land."

9. The other ten who disparaged the taking of the land died by plague. (Num 14:36-38)

Num 14:36 And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,
Num 14:37 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land died by the plague before the Lord.

Num 14:38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.

9.1 Only Joshua and Caleb of those over 20 at the beginning of the wilderness journey remained alive at the end of the 40 years and were permitted to enter Canaan. (Num 26:65; 32:12; Deu 1:34-40)

Num 26:65 For the LORD had told those Israelites they would surely die in the desert, and not one of them was left except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Num 32:11 'Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years old or more who came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--

Num 32:12 not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.'

Deu 1:34 When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore:

Deu 1:35 "Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers,

Deu 1:36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly."

Deu 1:37 Because of you the LORD became angry with me also and said, "You shall not enter it, either.

Deu 1:38 But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it.

Deu 1:39 And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad-- they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it.

Deu 1:40 But as for you, turn around and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea."

10. The Lord ordered Moses to give Joshua a commission as the new shepherd of His people; Moses would soon die instead of crossing into Canaan. (Num 27:12-23; Deu 3:21-29)

Num 27:18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

Num 27:19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.

Deu 3:21 And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, Thine eyes have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto these two kings: so shall the LORD do unto all the kingdoms whither thou passest.

Deu 3:23 And I besought the LORD at that time, saying,

Deu 3:24 O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

Deu 3:25 I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

Deu 3:26 But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

Deu 3:27 Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Deu 3:28 But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.

Deu 3:29 So we abode in the valley over against Bethpeor - a city 10 miles northeast of the mouth of the Jordan.

11. Moses invested Joshua solemnly with honor and authority before Eleazar the high priest and the entire congregation, and imparted to him a spirit of wisdom as he laid his hands upon him. (Num 27:18, 23; Deu 34:9)

Num 27:18 So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him.

Num 27:23 Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD instructed through Moses.

12. As part of Moses' final arrangements he charged Joshua publicly to be strong and courageous in order to bring Israel to the land of its promised inheritance.
(Deu 31:3, 7-8)

Deu 31:3 The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said ...

Deu 31:7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

Deu 31:8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

13. When Moses and his successor went and stood at the door of the tent of meeting, God directly commissioned Joshua. (Deu 31:14-15, 23)

Deu 31:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Deu 31:15 And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle ...

Deu 31:23 And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swore unto them: and I will be with thee.

13.1 After Moses' death the Lord graciously repeated this charge to Joshua privately, enlarging His promises to encourage him on the eve of the invasion of Canaan.
(Jos 1:1-9).

Jos 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

Jos 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

14. Encamped east of the Jordan, Joshua faced two stupendous problems, how to cross the flooded river and how to overcome the defending Canaanites.

14.1 Would they be waiting with drawn swords on the opposite bank? Let's review The Doctrine of Joshua's spies:

14.1.1 Having some firsthand knowledge of Canaan from his own spying experience thirty-eight years before, Joshua, in executing divine orders, prudently sent spies to Jericho, the key fortress of the entire southern Jordan Valley.

14.1.2 Two immediate difficulties faced him: how to overcome the hostile Canaanites on the western bank; and how to cross the Jordan at flood stage.

14.1.3 The spies must have navigated the swollen river by small boat or perhaps they swam the river.

14.1.4 The mission of Joshua's two spies was carefully concealed, even from the Israelites, lest the circulation of an unfavorable report should dishearten the people. (recall Num 13:28-33 and 14:1-4)

Num 13:28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

Num 13:29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

Num 13:30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

Num 13:31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are."

Num 13:32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

Num 13:33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Num 14:1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.

Num 14:2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!

Num 14:3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

Num 14:4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

14.1.5 They came into an harlot's house, named Rahab. Josephus and many writers since his time have argued that Rahab was an innkeeper.

14.1.6 But the Hebrew word Zona, the Greek Porne in the LXX, and Heb 11:31 and Jam 2:25 all definitely class her as a common harlot (not a Qedesha, a temple- or cult-prostitute).

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Jam 2:25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

14.1.7 Did the spies spot her walking the street toward evening (Pro 7:9-12) and follow her to her house, as detectives today may visit places of ill fame, where they may overhear the secrets of criminals?

Pro 7:7 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.

Pro 7:8 He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house

Pro 7:9 at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.

Pro 7:10 Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.

Pro 7:11 (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home;

Pro 7:12 now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)

14.1.8 Or, guided entirely by the Lord, did they merely "happen upon" the house of this one prepared beforehand by the Spirit?

14.1.9 Her house was probably built against the western city wall, her rear window overlooking the mountain (Jos 2:15, 16); hence her house was some distance from the one city gate of Jericho, which opened upon the fine flowing well just to the east of the city mound.

Jos 2:15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

Jos 2:16 Now she had said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way."

14.1.10 Rahab's calling implied far less deviation from the accepted standard of morality in her environment than it does with us.

14.1.11 Furthermore, she also engaged in the honest occupation of linen weaving and dyeing.

14.1.12 Her harlotry is mentioned to bring into bold relief God's mercy in giving her faith and in sparing her (Mat 21:32; Luk 15:1).

Mat 21:32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Luk 15:1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

14.1.13 Many have conjectured that Salmon the father of Boaz was one of the two spies sent by Joshua; this only because Mat 1:5 tells us his wife was Rahab.

Mat 1:4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Mat 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,

Mat 1:6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

14.1.14 He sent two spies to reconnoiter the bastion of Jericho and commanded them to keep their mission secret lest their report discourage the people as the ten spies had done.

Jos 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy "secretly", saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

14.1.15 God by working many miracles for Israel had filled the inhabitants of the land with terror. Rahab made this known to the spies.

Jos 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

Jos 2:10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye destroyed.

Jos 2:11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

End Lesson