

Joshua Outline

Introduction: The book of Joshua tells the story of the Israelites entering into and conquering the land of Canaan, the land they believe God promised to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. Written in two parts, the book of Joshua first describes the conquest, and then in a second section describes the dividing of the land to the tribes and sub-tribes. Joshua was not written at the time the recorded events occurred, however. Part of what is known as the Deuteronomistic history, which includes Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings, Joshua is compiled during the reign of King Josiah in the 7th century BCE. It is important to know this because the book of Joshua reflects its 7th century context as much (or more) than the 11th century events described in the book. Indeed, today scholars rely on archeological data to reconstruct the 11th far more than the account of Joshua.

Section One: The Conquest

- Chapter 1: The call of Joshua
- Chapter 2: Spies going into Jericho- Rahab's story
- Chapter 3: Israel crosses the Jordan
- Chapter 4: 12 stones for the 12 tribes and camping at Gilgal
- Chapter 5: Circumcision and Joshua's vision of the angel
- Chapter 6: Conquering Jericho
- Chapter 7: Achan and his problem keeping *berem*
- Chapter 8: Conquering Ai and the renewal of the covenant
- Chapter 9: Peace and enslavement of the Gibeonites
- Chapter 10: Defense of Gibeon and defeat of five kings in the south
- Chapter 11: Defeat of Canaan in the north
- Chapter 12: List of conquered kings

Section Two: Dividing Up the Land to the Tribes

- Chapter 13: Unconquered land and Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh
- Chapter 14: Distribution west of the Jordan
- Chapter 15: Judah
- Chapter 16: Ephraim
- Chapter 17: Manasseh and Joseph's protest
- Chapter 18: Remaining tribes
- Chapter 19: Remaining tribes cont.
- Chapter 20: Cities of refuge
- Chapter 21: The cities of the Levites
- Chapter 22: Eastern tribes
- Chapter 23: Joshua's farewell address
- Chapter 24: Shechem covenant

Stories to know: The story of Rahab (2:1-24); The "battle" of Jericho (Chapter 6:1-27); Joshua's "As for me and my household" speech (24:14-28)