

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment is unrolled against a dark red background. The parchment has a slightly textured appearance with some faint, irregular stains. The word "Joshua" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the center of the scroll. The scroll is partially unrolled, with the top and bottom edges showing the rolled-up sections.

Joshua

Introduction to Joshua

- Former Prophets:
 - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
- Latter Prophets:
 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Twelve

Introduction to Joshua

- Title
 - Hebrew— “Y(e)hoshua”—The Lord is Salvation
 - LXX (Septuagint)—”Iesous”
- Author—unknown but likely Joshua himself
- Date of events— From the death of Moses (1406 B. C.) to the death of the elders associated with Joshua (1375 B. C.)

Historical and Theological Themes

- The land
 - The land conquered
 - The land remaining
 - Failure to conquer—Josh 15:63
- Possession and Dispossession of the Land—Josh 3:10
- The Law—Josh 1:7
- Obedience and Disobedience of Israel
- God's Faithfulness—illustrated in Joseph
 - Compare Gen 50:24→Ex. 13:19→ Josh 24:32

Purpose of Joshua

YHWH gave the Land of Canaan to Israel through Holy War in accordance with His promise to Abraham and Israel dwelt in part of the Land according to her faithful obedience to YHWH.

Literary Structure

- I. Taking the Land—1:1-12:24
- II. Distributing the Land—13:1-21:45
- III. Retaining the Land—22:1-24:33

Interpretive Issues

Why did God say to kill the Canaanites?

- Radical discontinuity? God of the OT is different than in the NT?
- God's right to do as He pleases in holiness

Interpretive Issues

ISSUES TO CONSIDER—

1. God's ownership of the land
2. Consistent with book of Revelation as well
3. God wages war against sin
4. God is always just
5. God is a warrior
6. Practices of the Canaanites
7. God's mercy on repentant Canaanites
8. The future of Canaanite children
9. God's Sovereign knowledge of the big picture
10. A feminized view of God results in a problem with conquest

Interpretive Issues

The Land Promise of the Abrahamic Covenant

- Completely fulfilled or NOT?—Josh 21:43-45

Interpretive Issues

ISSUE TO CONSIDER—

1. The land promised to Abraham in Gen 15:18-21 is bigger than the conquest
2. From God's perspective the land was already given to Abraham (also Joshua 1:3-4)
3. Historical Reality: Israel fell short of possessing all the land
4. KEY: Immediate possession was conditional (Deut 19:8-9)
5. God WILL eventually give all the promised land to Israel—but not yet

Interpretive Issues

ISSUE TO CONSIDER— (con'd)

6. Israel had demonstrated a lack of faith in YHWH repeatedly
7. Conclusion: Joshua 21:43-45 emphasized the finished deal—God did HIS part and everything in on track so far—from GOD'S perspective, HE WAS FAITHFUL
8. FUTURE: Before Israel will ever possess the land as defined in Abrahamic Covenant—they need something:
 - NEW HEARTS—national Israel must await the New Covenant when as a nation they will embrace as Christ returns (Zech 12:10)

Interpretive Issues

The Lie of Rahab

- Lie is the lesser sin in comparison to the greater sin of rebellion against God?
- Deceit is a part of the ethics of war?
- Rahab's words are not a lie?
- Faith is commended; lie not condoned.

The Long Day

- Figurative?
- Literal
 - Real issue is the inspiration of Scripture