

Conquest And Courage

I. Slide1 Intro:

- A. Welcome to those **online**. [we get to start a *new book* tonight!]
- B. Joshua is about, *Victorious Christian Living*. (Alan Redpath's commentary's name)
- C. Joshua is about *bravery, rooted in faith ... in Yahweh!*
1. The book of Joshua takes place **just after** the death of Moses, Israel's longtime leader.
 - a) It begins with God commissioning Moses' successor, Joshua, to lead the Israelites **across the Jordan River to take possession of the land** that had long ago been **promised** to their forefather **Abraham**.
 2. In the narrative, the Israelites engage in **a military campaign against the nations** that already **live in** the promised land, **Canaan**.
 3. **Eventually, through God's intervention, they settle the land and allot territories to their 12 tribes** (Joshua 14).
 - a) The narrative does not merely recount the **events** of the **conquest** of Canaan; it also interprets these events **theologically**. At the end of the book, Joshua charges Israel to **choose Yahweh as their God**, **and** the Israelites symbolically renew their covenant with Yahweh.
- D. **Slide2** Let's look at where the **book** of Joshua fits into the **Tanak**, or our OT.
1. The book of Joshua is **the connecting narrative** between **the days of Moses and the days of the judges**. [time period, 1400-1200bc]
- E. **We 1st hear of Joshua in Exodus 17**. Story of a battle of **the Jews/Amalekites**. **Moses** up on the hill praying, **Aaron and Hur** holding up his hands (Mo hands up, prevailed; lowered, Amalek prevailed). **And** it was **Joshua** fighting on the valley floor. *"And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. 14 Then*

the Lord said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”

1. So the story isn't only about **prayer**. **Joshua had to fight!**

a) **Slide3** It takes **Intercession** on the mountain as well as **Intervention** in the valley for God's people to *win the victory*. Warren Wiersbe

2. **Ps:** Jesus' arms never get tired. **He is our Greater Intercessor.**

F. **Joshua** was one of the **2 spies** (w/Caleb) that brought back *a good report*, God's giving them the land (Numb.13). **Listen to his speech in Numb.14:4-10** (read it).

G. **Slide4/5** Now, **the book of Numbers** was really *the book of wanderings* (Far Side pic). Where they took an **11 day journey** and turned it into a **40 year agony**. *They went from a March, to a Meander.*

1. *It was the longest funeral march in history*, just waiting for that generation to die off.

2. **Slide6** Numb.32:10-13 *And the Lord's anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying, 'Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me, 12 none except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord.'*
13 *And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone.* (cuz of the 10 negative spies)

H. **Slide7** Joshua, “*Yahweh saves.*” Joshua is picture of our Lord Jesus (see slide), **who** won the victory over sin and satan, and gives **rest** to those who **trust in Him**.

1. **An imperfect parallel typology.** **Yet** Moses who wrote the Torah/law, can't bring us into the promised land (the law cannot lead us into the promised land). **Yet** Joshua/Jesus is able to.

I. **Outline:** The Lord's Message to Joshua. Joshua Message to The People.

II. Slide8 THE LORD'S MESSAGE TO JOSHUA (1-9)

A. Slide9 CONCERNING ISRAEL'S BORDERS (1-6) *READ*

B. (1) **Moses' assistant** - minister/servant. In the sense of an executive officer.

1. **Joshua not stuck in the past**: He went *from slave, to spy, to soldier, to successor*.

C. They say Joshua's was **70-80 years old** at the time he entered into the promise land.

1. Joshua is no **too old** to be guided by **the law**. Example for us. That we should be *guided, guarded, and governed* by **His book**.

D. (2) **Into the land that I am giving to them** - Yahweh promised Abraham that his descendants would possess the land of Canaan.

E. Slide10a (4) **Map of the Promise Land**, compared to today.

1. Slide10b **David** conquered the most land *see blue elongated circle*.

2. **See red circle for Today's map**.

a) Even at **Israel's Zenith** of power they took only **1/10** of what God was going to provide for them, 30,000 mi.² **Instead of** 300,000 mi.².

3. **Why didn't they occupy?** God told them, *wherever the soul of your foot goes* (3) ... **They didn't go!**

F. The stipulation was to *possess, your possessions*. Same w/us today!

1. Eph. 1:3 tells us, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*. How much have you taken advantage of?

2. When Kel & I started dating at the end of HS ... *I let her know that I had my eye on her for a long while*. I was attracted to her **before** she knew it. I liked her **before** she liked me. **God** says the same to us, in *this letter to the Ephesians*.

3. **Some parents have communicated to their children: You weren't planned. You were an accident. You were a mistake. You'll never amount to**

anything. When you're 18 you're out. But What does God communicate to us in this 1st section of Ephesians?

- a) **Just the opposite:** You were planned from the beginning. You were **purchased** at an expensive price. You will be with Me **forever**.
- b) **And**, each person of the Trinity was involved in these truths ... in these family secrets. We were Planned by the Father. Purchased by the Son. Preserved by the Spirit.

G. **Every spiritual blessing** – made available in Christ.

H. I **can't** fix your **past** if your parents uttered some of these things, **but** I can point you to our **present truth** & our **future Hope**.

1. The great Scottish Bible expositor Alexander MacLaren wrote: *We may have as **much** of God as we will. Christ puts **the key** of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us **take all that we want**. If a man is admitted into the vault of a bank and told to help himself, & comes out with 1 cent, whose fault is it that, he is poor?*

- a) Believers, we are *rich beyond measure* ... **but** we often *live like beggars*. So you are not trying to **get anything from God** ... **because you have it already**.

I. **And these spiritual blessings are where? In the heavenly places** – because that's where *spiritual blessings* are found (as opposed to **earth**).

J. **Slide11 CONCERNING ISRAEL'S BOOK (7-9) READ**

K. Israel must **read** and **heed** *the Book of the Law*.

L. **Slide12 Be strong?** - **not** pumping iron, **not** in your own strength.

1. **But "in the Lord"** (see "I" vs.5,6 - 4x's)

M. **Slide13 But General Joshua** was strong/courageous, from when we 1st met him.

1. **Be strong and courageous! Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (6,7,9) God's 3-fold call to courage!**

2. In these battles it became evident that **God fights for his people** when they are *strong and courageous* and put their **full trust** in **Him**.
 - a) The reason he's told to *be strong & courageous* 4 times is because ... going into this land with all of these gods/idols is going to be *temptations galore*. (they've lived alone in wilderness for 40 years, now step into a *god-forsaken* land)
 3. **But wait, what bookends be strong & courageous in vs.5 & 9?**
 - a) (5b) *Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.* (9) *Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*
 4. **Slide14** See, this is much more than an *admonition*, **for** God's commandments **are** God's enablements.
 5. **Joshua knew: slavery** in Egypt, how to **obey** orders serving under Moses, **courage** to face the enemy, **faith** to believe God for victory.
 - a) *His given name was *Hoshea* (salvation). Moses changed it to *Joshua* (*Jehovah is salvation*) so even his name reminded himself/people, it's not **Joshua's great faith, strength, or courage, but God's**.
- N. This book celebrates **God** as *Commander, Defender, and King*.
1. **God is the ultimate promise-keeper.** And as faithful and present as He was with **Israel**, so **He is with us**.

III. Slide15 **JOSHUA'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE (10-18)**

A. Slide16 JOSHUA'S MESSAGE TO THE LEADERS (10-11) *READ*

1. Joshua tells the leaders to get ready, in **3 days** they are going to move out.
2. **To go in and take possession** - *Inheritance* is use 58 times in Joshua.

B. Slide17 JOSHUA'S MESSAGE TO THE 2 1/2 TRIBES (12-18) *READ*

1. **Slide18 map** These tribes were Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. (12 tribes allotment)

C. Keywords: Jesus, salvation.