

Joshua

Summary

The book of Joshua gives the historical account of Israel's entry into the Promised Land. Following the Israelite exodus from Egypt, Joshua became Moses' successor to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Author

While the book itself does not identify an author, Joshua is generally accepted as the author of the book that bears his name. Some portions of the book are attributed to Eleazer or Phineas, specifically the account of Joshua's death. Some Old Testament scholars believe that the prophet Samuel may have influenced some of the content in the book, but no one really knows who the editor was.

Date

With the authorship being attributed to Joshua, the writing would have taken place during his lifetime. According to Joshua 24:29, Joshua lived to be 110 years old. Joshua was part of the Exodus from Egypt, and he led Israel into the Promised Land. The book could have been written throughout the entry, conquest, and division of the Promised Land. There is some difference of opinion in regards to the date of writing, however, sometime between 1400 and 1370 B.C. is most likely, which marks the beginning of the monarchy in Israel.

Primary Characters

Joshua (Joshua 1-23)

Rahab (Joshua 2)

Achan (Joshua 7)

Historical Moments

The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

God's Covenant with Israel Renewed (Joshua 8)

Northern Kings Defeated (Joshua 11)

Death of Joshua (Joshua 24)

Major Theological Themes

God Fulfills His Promises - The major event of the book, the possession of the Promised Land, reinforces the idea that God keeps His promises. The land was not just any land, but it was the land that had long been promised to Abraham and his descendants generations earlier. The book of Joshua shows God's faithfulness in His promises, including promises that were not directly about the land. God made several promises to Israel through Moses. The fulfillment of these promises is shown in Joshua 21:43-45, *so the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled.*

God Is a Deliverer - The saving acts of God are clearly demonstrated in Israel's military victories over their enemies. Though there are several victories, the miraculous collapse of the wall of Jericho stands out as a definitive show of God's hand on His people. Rahab's words also show that even the people of Canaan knew God would protect and provide for His people.

Lessons Learned from Joshua

Focus On the Bible Is Essential - God tells Joshua to keep the commands that Moses gave him. Joshua 1:8 reads, *keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

The Need for Obedience - The book of Joshua gives real life lessons that show the impact of an obedient life. When we obey God, He will walk with us, He will protect us, and His peace will overflow in our daily lives. Obedience is the key to God's blessings in our daily lives.

There Is Value in Prayer - Prayer played an important part in the life of Joshua and in the nation of Israel. They sought God before going to battle. Joshua 10 reveals the prayer of Joshua asking God to stop the sun so they can continue to fight a battle. Sometimes we fail to receive the good gifts from God because we do not ask. One of the most important lessons we learn as we read the book of Joshua is that prayer must be central in every aspect of life..