

Faithfulness: God's and Ours A Summary of Joshua

A Summary of Joshua: Introduction

- Joshua is a pivotal book.
- It completes the story from the Books of Moses.
- It provides the foundation for all that follows.

- In Joshua, Israel transitions from an assembly of captives and wilderness wanderers into a nation possessing a land with physical borders, a decisive role on the world stage and an essential place in world history.

- It also contains vital lessons for us as believers.
- These lessons pertain to faithfulness, both God's and ours.
 - God is faithful to his promises.
 - His promises are obtained by faith.
 - Our faith needs to prompt us to faithful action.

- *The contents of this book and the lessons which they are designed to teach us are greatly needed by our own generation. ... in making known the blessed fact—so little apprehended by Christians today—that it is both their privilege and birthright to enter into a present possession and enjoyment of their Inheritance.*

– Arthur W. Pink (1886 – 1952)

- *As I have studied Joshua I have become convinced that this is a message very much needed in our time. We have many professing Christians ... but we do not have many Joshuas. We do not have many who ... determine to obey ... God ... throughout a lifetime of faithful service.*

– James Montgomery Boice (1938 – 2000)

Keys to Joshua:

Keys to Joshua: Key Words

- The word “land” appears over 85 times in the book.
- The words “Inheritance” or “inherit” over 60 times, emphasizing Israel's possession of the Promised Land.
- Finally, some form of the word “promise” appears 7 times.

Keys to Joshua: Key Events

- Before we list these events, we should note the interplay of God's faithfulness and human faithfulness throughout the book.
- Once again, our main lessons:
 - God is faithful to his promises.
 - His promises are obtained by faith.
 - Our faith needs to prompt us to faithful action.

- Joshua's Mission Joshua 1
- The Faith of Rahab Joshua 2
- Crossing the Jordan Joshua 3
- The Battle for Jericho Joshua 6

- Sin at Ai Joshua 7
- The Gibeonite Deception Joshua 9
- Joshua's Farewell Joshua 23-24

Keys to Joshua: Key Verses

- Joshua 1:1-9
- Joshua 5:13-15
- Joshua 11:23
- Joshua 21:43-45
- Joshua 24:14-15
- Focus on Joshua 21:43-45
 - Verse 43 emphasizes the covenant relationship God had with his people Israel.
 - Verse 44 reminds us that the victory was only obtained by God's power, despite the fact that Israel had to fight.
 - Verse 45 points out that God is faithful to his promises.

Joshua Points Us to Christ.

- *As the people of God, we can claim these assurances by faith. God's covenant with us is not going to fail; God's power and wisdom can give us victory over every foe; and God's promises can be trusted, no matter what the circumstances may be. The covenant of God, the power of God, the promises of God—these are the spiritual resources we can depend on as we claim our inheritance in Jesus Christ.*

– Warren Wiersbe (1929 –)

- Christ is the object of our faith today.
- He is the ultimate fulfillment of God's word.
- He is absolutely reliable – absolutely faithful.
- See Matthew 24:35.

- *Joshua saves God's people from the Canaanites; our Lord Jesus saves them from their sins. Christ, as Joshua, is the captain of our salvation, a leader and commander of the people, to tread Satan under their feet, to put them in possession of the heavenly Canaan, and to give them rest, which Joshua did not.*

– Matthew Henry (1662 – 1714)

- When we put our faith completely in Christ his power becomes effective on our behalf.
- See Hebrews 4:8-9, 14-16

- *We are ever too apt to think too much of our visible weapons and leaders, and to forget our unseen Commander, from whom comes all our power.*

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

Faithfulness: God's and Ours

- Once again, our main lessons:
 - God is faithful to his promises.
 - His promises are obtained by faith.
 - Our faith needs to prompt us to faithful action.
- *We can do all things when Christ is in us in unthwarted power. The only limit lies in our faith and capacity, or, in other words, in our absolute submission to His indwelling ...Weaklings may do exploits when the Mighty Conqueror ... makes them the vehicle of His progress.*
 - F. B. Meyer (1847 – 1929)
- Christ brings us victory over the challenges of this life.
- The challenges don't always go away, but he gives us incentive, power, and support as we fight the battles.
- We need not be overcome, but can be overcomers, because God has already won the victory.
- We saw the fear of the majority of Israelites as they saw fortified cities, large armies and giants that were long established in the land.
- Facing the reality of their circumstances took faith – which the first generation didn't have.
- The next generation of Israelites were victorious by God's power – not their own.
- Our circumstances may seem equally unmanageable.
- We are victorious through our own Joshua, Jesus Christ.

God Is Faithful

- The Book of Joshua ends with three funerals.
- These funerals silently proclaim the faithfulness of God.
- Let's read the final verses of the book, Joshua 24:29-33
- All three of these men, Joshua, Joseph and Eleazar, experienced captivity in Egypt.
- All three were buried in Canaan.
- Israel had entered their inheritance thanks to the faithfulness of God.
- For the last time, our main lessons:
 - God is faithful to his promises.
 - His promises are obtained by faith.
 - Our faith needs to prompt us to faithful action.
- Let's close with Romans 8:31-39.