

# Joshua

Taking the Land



# The Historical Books of the Old Testament

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6. Joshua – Taking the Land

7. Judges

8. Ruth

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9 & 10. 1 & 2 Samuel

10 & 11. 1 & 2 Kings

12 & 13. 1 & 2 Chronicles

14, 15 & 16. Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther

# Joshua Taking the Land

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- The book of Joshua continues the narrative of the **Torah**.
- Moses brought the people to the edge of Canaan.
- Joshua led them into the Land.

# Joshua Taking the Land

- Disobedience and rebellion caused a whole generation of Israelites to die in the wilderness.
- Those who were **over 20** when the spies were sent out all died off during the next **40 years**.
- **Joshua and Caleb**, now **each about 80**, are in charge of a nation in which the oldest people left are **no more than 60**.

# Joshua Taking the Land



*God ... picked Moses' assistant, Joshua, to lead God's people as they realized a dream that they had clung to for hundreds of years. The book of Joshua attests to the fact that God's promises never fail, that God's word is utterly dependable ...*

*– David Oginde, Chancellor  
Pan Africa Christian University,  
Nairobi*

# Joshua Taking the Land



*So, even when everything seems to indicate otherwise, be not afraid! ... In this book, we see God as the promise-giver who revealed himself to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and also as the promise-keeper who revealed himself to Joshua.*

*– David Oginde, Chancellor  
Pan Africa Christian University,  
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# Joshua Taking the Land

- Aside from setting the boundaries for Israel's tribes, the book of Joshua is mostly a book of battles.
- When God points us in the direction of his promises, we can be sure that battles and opposition are likely to come.
- Faith sometimes looks like a willingness to stay in the fight.

# Joshua    Some Key Passages

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- The Commissioning of Joshua    Joshua 1:1-9
- The Request of Caleb    Joshua 14:6-15
- The Renewal of the Covenant    Joshua 24

# The Commissioning of Joshua

Joshua 1:1-9

# The Commissioning of Joshua

## Joshua 1:1-9

- Highlight **Joshua 1:8-9**.

<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

# The Commissioning of Joshua

## Joshua 1:1-9

- Come back to this passage whenever you are afraid or discouraged.
- Remind yourself that God has a plan that you need to fulfill.
- He will be with you all along the way.
- Stay saturated with and obedient to God's word.

# The Request of Caleb

Joshua 14:6-15

# The Request of Caleb

## Joshua 14:6-15

- Several years into the process of taking the land, Caleb is still looking at Hebron.
- He went there as a spy for Moses and still wants to battle some giants – the Anakim.
- God gave him his wish.

# The Request of Caleb

## Joshua 14:6-15

- See also **20:7** and **21:9-13**.
- For Caleb, it wasn't so much about winning a possession as about defeating giants.
- Hebron became a city of refuge.
- The sons of Aaron then took possession of it.

# The Request of Caleb

## Joshua 14:6-15

- Caleb didn't get to fight his best battles until he turned 85.
- Turn back to this passage whenever you feel your days of serving the Lord must be over.
- The biggest moment God has prepared you for may not yet have arrived.

# The Renewal of the Covenant

## Joshua 24

# The Renewal of the Covenant

## Joshua 24

*The exodus was not a movement from slavery to freedom, but from slavery to covenant. Redemption was for relationship with the redeemer, to serve his interests and his purposes in the world.*

*– Christopher J. H. Wright,  
Langham Partnership*



# The Renewal of the Covenant

## Joshua 24

- God has saved us from bondage to sin, but he has brought us into a covenant relationship with himself.
- We must remain committed to him to walk in his ways if we are to be both blessed and a blessing to others.
- **Joshua 24:24** And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”

# The Renewal of the Covenant

## Joshua 24

- Come back to this chapter whenever you feel that you need to renew your commitment to Christ.

Joshua    Conclusions

# Joshua Conclusions

- So what happened later?
- **Joshua 24:31** Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.
- After that, it all goes down a pretty steep hill.

# Joshua Conclusions



*God had warned the Israelites that if they departed from his ways, 'the Lord's anger will burn against you; and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you' (23:16). Israel did depart from God, and they were accordingly completely removed from the land ...*

*– David Oginde, Chancellor  
Pan Africa Christian University, Nairobi*

# Joshua    Conclusions



*Even today, the restored nation of Israel does not enjoy the full extent of the land promised to and conquered by Joshua. But God, who is rich in grace and mercy, has promised that one day he will fully bring Israel back to its own land and will establish a new Jerusalem for all who have lived according to the conditions of the promise.*

*– David Oginde, Chancellor  
Pan Africa Christian University, Nairobi*

# Joshua    Conclusions

- God will be faithful to his promises.
- We need to be faithful to ours.

# Joshua Conclusions

- The Commissioning of Joshua Joshua 1:1-9
- Read this passage whenever you are afraid or discouraged.

# Joshua Conclusions

- **The Request of Caleb** **Joshua 14:6-15**
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- The Renewal of the Covenant Joshua 24
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