

## 1. AUTHOR

**Q.** What do you know about *Joshua* [the same name as Jesus in Greek Bible; means the LORD saves]?

**A.** Seems to be based on the ‘diaries’ of Joshua himself (ca. 1,400 BC), then finished off by others later.

- *Joshua 5:5b ... the land that the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ESV*

Cf. 10:13; 24:29 for evidence of other authors.

## 2. ONE KEY THEME – ‘BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS BECAUSE GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES’ 1:6+21:45

- *Joshua 1:6 Be strong and courageous, for you [Joshua] shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ESV*
- *Joshua 21:43 the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. ESV*

## 3. A KEY VERSE?

- *Joshua 21:45 Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass. ESV*

## 4. KEY GROUPS OF PEOPLE

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joshua (an imperfect ‘type’ of Christ)</li> <li>2. Canaanites (a type of the unrepentant)</li> <li>3. Rahab and family</li> <li>4. Gibeonites (Hivites)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Achan and family</li> <li>6. Thirty-One Canaanite Kings</li> <li>7. The Israelites</li> </ol> |
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## 5. TEXTUAL STRUCTURE OF JOSHUA

The Promised Land			Covenant Faithfulness
Entry	Conquest	Division	
<b>Chapters 1:1-5:12</b>	<b>Chapters 5:13-12:24</b>	<b>13:1-21:42</b>	<b>21:43-24:33</b>
Spies and Rahab; Crossing the Jordan; Circumcision at Gilgal	Walls of Jericho; Defeat at Ai; Achan’s sin; Conquest of the South; Conquest of the North	Unconquered land; East of the Jordan; West of the Jordan; Levites; Cities of Refuge	The Eastern Tribes’ altar; Joshua’s farewell and death; Covenant renewal at Shechem; Death of Joshua



The Twelve Tribal Areas allocated by Joshua

## 6. GREAT EVENTS

- The LORD's exhortation to 'be strong and courageous' (1).
- Spies saved by Rahab (2)
- Crossing the river Jordan (3)
- Mass circumcision at Gilgal (5)
- Walls of Jericho (6)
- Rahab and family saved (6)
- Defeat at Ai and Achan's sin (7)
- Ai destroyed (8); Blessings and curses recited on Mounts Ebal and Gerizim (8:30-35).
- The Gibeonites (Hivite) deception (9)
- Defending the Gibeonites; sun stands still; Five Amorite kings defeated (10)
- Northern and Southern land captured (10-12)
- Division of the land (13-21)
- Eastern tribes return home; the dubious altar at Geliath (22)
- Joshua's farewell warning (23)
- Joshua's 'But as for me and my house' speech (24:15)
- Death and burial of Joshua, Joseph's bones, Eleazar in the promised land. (24:28-33)

## 7. ONE SHAPE – SUCCESS

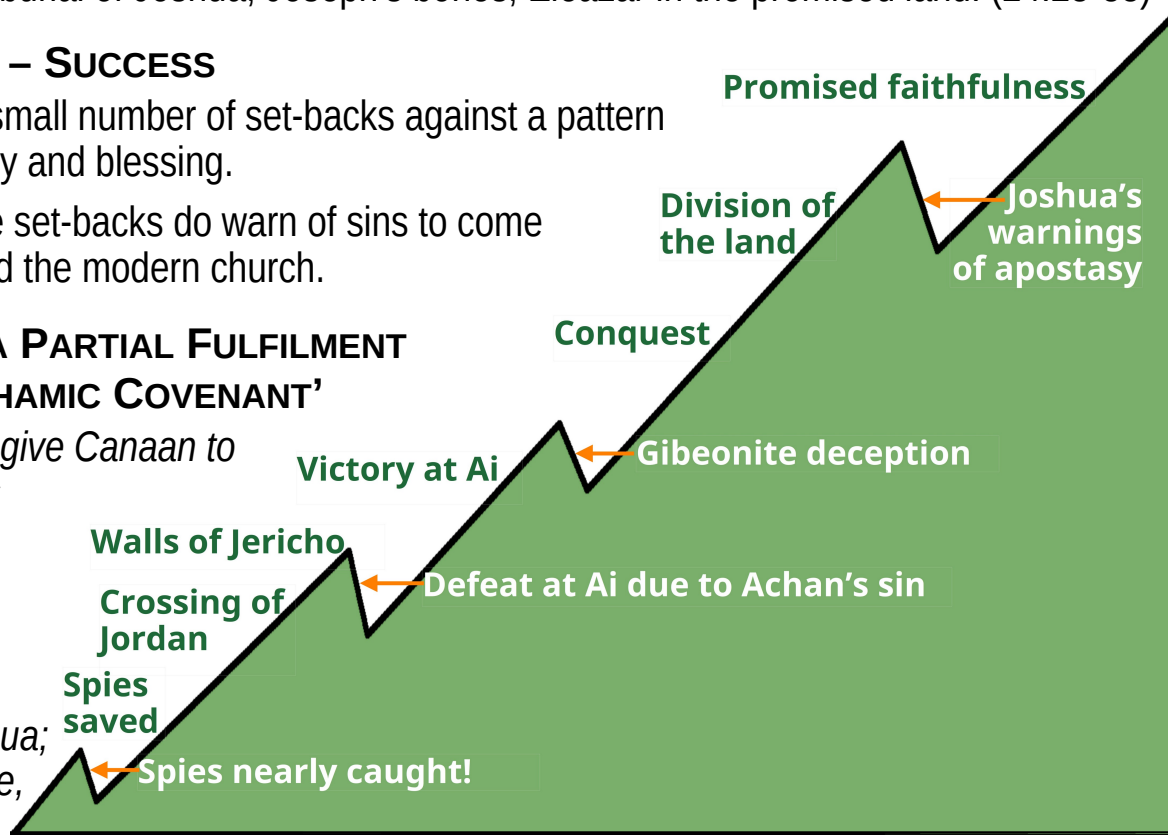
There are just a small number of set-backs against a pattern of success, victory and blessing.

Nevertheless, the set-backs do warn of sins to come for both Israel and the modern church.

## 8. JOSHUA IS A PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE 'ABRAHAMIC COVENANT'

God promised to give Canaan to Israel, Abraham's descendants, but the land was already occupied ...

"I can't read Joshua; it's full of violence, genocide and imperialism!"



Do the following questions and passages help us to understand all the blood-letting in the book of Joshua, and the acquisition of the promised land by force?

**Q1.** For how long had God been patient with the Canaanites?

- *Genesis 15:13-16* Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” ESV [ca. 2,000 BC]

**Q2.** What was God’s problem with the Canaanites? Underline the relevant sins:

- *Deuteronomy 18:9-12* “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. <sup>10</sup> There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practises divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer <sup>11</sup> or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who enquires of the dead, <sup>12</sup> for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. ESV

**Q3.** Does the Lord Jesus, who is Joshua’s fulfilment, ask us to fight with swords etc.:

- *John 18:36* ... “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews ...” ESV

**Q4.** What kind of weapons did the apostle Paul use:

- *2 Corinthians 10:3-5* For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. NIV

**Q5.** Can you think of other relevant passages?

## 9. JESUS IN JOSHUA?

**Q.** Where is Jesus in Joshua? **A.** Everywhere. Some examples:

- Jesus is Joshua (Ἰησοῦς (iēsous) in the Greek Bible; יְהוֹשֻׁעַ (ye.ho.shu.a) in Hebrew).
- Jesus is *ruler of kings on earth* (Revelation 1:5) as modelled by Joshua’s conquest of the 31 Canaanite kings (Joshua 12:9-24).
- Jesus promises *the meek* more than just the promised land of Canaan in Matthew 5:5.
- As in the Pentateuch, the various altars and sacrifices remind us of Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:4).

- The Gibeonites, having allied themselves with Joshua, cry out to him for salvation (10:6), modelling for us the Gentiles crying out to Jesus for salvation.
- *Joshua 11:15 Just as the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses – just as Jesus did (Galatians 4:4).*
- Nevertheless, Joshua was not a perfect type of Jesus, having sinned (9:14-15), but not frequently, in the account.
- Joshua (whose name is the same as Jesus in the Greek Bible) is *filled with the Spirit* (34:9) and leads the people (1:38; Hebrews 12:2).
- Luke 7:9 ... *Jesus ... was amazed at [the Gentile centurion], and ... said, '... I have not found such great faith even in Israel.'* – His faith was also exemplified by Rahab in Joshua 2:8-13. Are Gentiles sometimes more believing than Israelites and Christians?

## 10. AND NOWADAYS?

- *Joshua 1:5b Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.*  
ESV

The LORD's promise to Joshua (1:5b) was basically the same as the Lord Jesus' promise to us in the great commission:

- *Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV*

But Jesus' commission is much greater in at least three ways:

1. (Scope) \_\_\_\_\_
2. (Weapons) \_\_\_\_\_
3. (Time frame) \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. HOMEWORK: READ JOSHUA