



Lesson 3-1

Joshua & Judges

Entry into the Promised Land

Joshua

Joshua

✦ What is the book of Joshua about?

Israel's conquest of the land of Canaan and its inhabitants, the land God promised to Abraham and his descendants.

✦ The twofold structure of Joshua:

1. The Conquests (1.1-12.24)
 - Preparations for the conquest (1.1-5.12)
 - Conquest Campaigns (5.13-12.24)
2. Allotment of the land (13.1-24.33)
 - The allotment of the conquered land (13.1-21.45)
 - Epilogue to the conquest and allotment (22.1-24.33)

Joshua: Moses 2.0

Moses

1. Leads people out of Egypt (Exo)
2. Leads Israel in miraculous cross of the Red Sea (Exo 14)
3. Sends out spies (Num 13)
4. Allots land to the tribes east of Jordan (Num 32)

Joshua

1. Leads people into Canaan (Jos)
2. Leads Israel in a miraculous crossing of the Jordan River (Jos 3)
3. Sends out spies (Jos 2)
4. Allots land to the tribes west of Jordan (Jos 14)

Joshua

✦ Important themes in the book of Joshua:

- The God who Keeps Promises: the promise of land begins to find fulfillment in the conquest of Canaan
- The Covenant: the relationship between Israel and the Lord is worked out in the conquest of the land.
- Ritual Concerns: proper religious practice is a concern at key points in the narrative.
- Torah: obedience to the law of Moses plays a decisive role in the success or failure of the people.
- Rest: Israel is to rest from the trials of bondage, the wilderness, and war.



Portraits of the Conquest

Joshua

Judges

✦ Emphasizes more ideal or successful views of the conquest

✦ Emphasizes difficulties and failures of the conquest

Conflict in the Promised Land

Judges

Judges

✦ What's in the book of Judges?

- Continues the story of Israel, from the death of Joshua to just prior to the birth of Samuel
- Describes the ongoing process of occupying the land
- Depicts the general failure of the majority of tribes to complete the task of settling territory allotted to them

Judges

✦ Why do we call it “Judges” anyway?

- Term for many major characters who “judged” Israel
- Most do not serve in the judicial sense
- Charismatic leaders with popular support
- Some are primarily military leaders

Judges

✦ Introduction (Jud 1-3)

- Incomplete occupation & failure to overthrow cities
- Deteriorating relationship with the Lord

✦ Literary pattern: “Cycle of Sin” (Jud 3-16)

1. Sin
2. Oppression
3. Repentance/Crying Out
4. Deliverance

✦ Stories of immorality (Jud 17-21)

Judges

✦ The Cycle of Sin in Judges: Othniel

1. Sin: Israelites serve Baals and Asheroth (Jud 3.7)
2. Oppression: God sells the Israelites into the hand king of Mesopotamia for 8 years (Jud 3.8)
3. Crying Out: The Israelites cry out to God (Jud 3.9)
4. Deliverance: God raises up Othniel who leads Israel to a military victory and 40 years of peace (Jud 3.10-11)

Judges

✦ The Cycle of Sin in Judges

- Ehud
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Jephthah
- Samson

*In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

- Judges 21.25

