

# JOSHUA

## Entering the Land

### I. PREPARING TO STUDY

#### A. Authorship

Neither the Book of Joshua nor any other Scripture identify the individual whom God inspired to write this history of the conquest of the Promised Land. It does tell us some things about the human author, however. First, the author had to be \_\_\_\_\_ at the crossing of the Jordan River (“we” in Josh. 5:1). Second, the author lived while \_\_\_\_\_ was still alive (Josh. 6:25).

The Jews and early Christians generally believed that \_\_\_\_\_ penned the book. This view is strongly supported although not demanded by Josh. 1:1ff, Josh. 24:26, and 1 Kings 16:34. Other people who have been suggested as possible authors are Eleazar, the son of \_\_\_\_\_, or Phinehas, Aaron’s grandson.

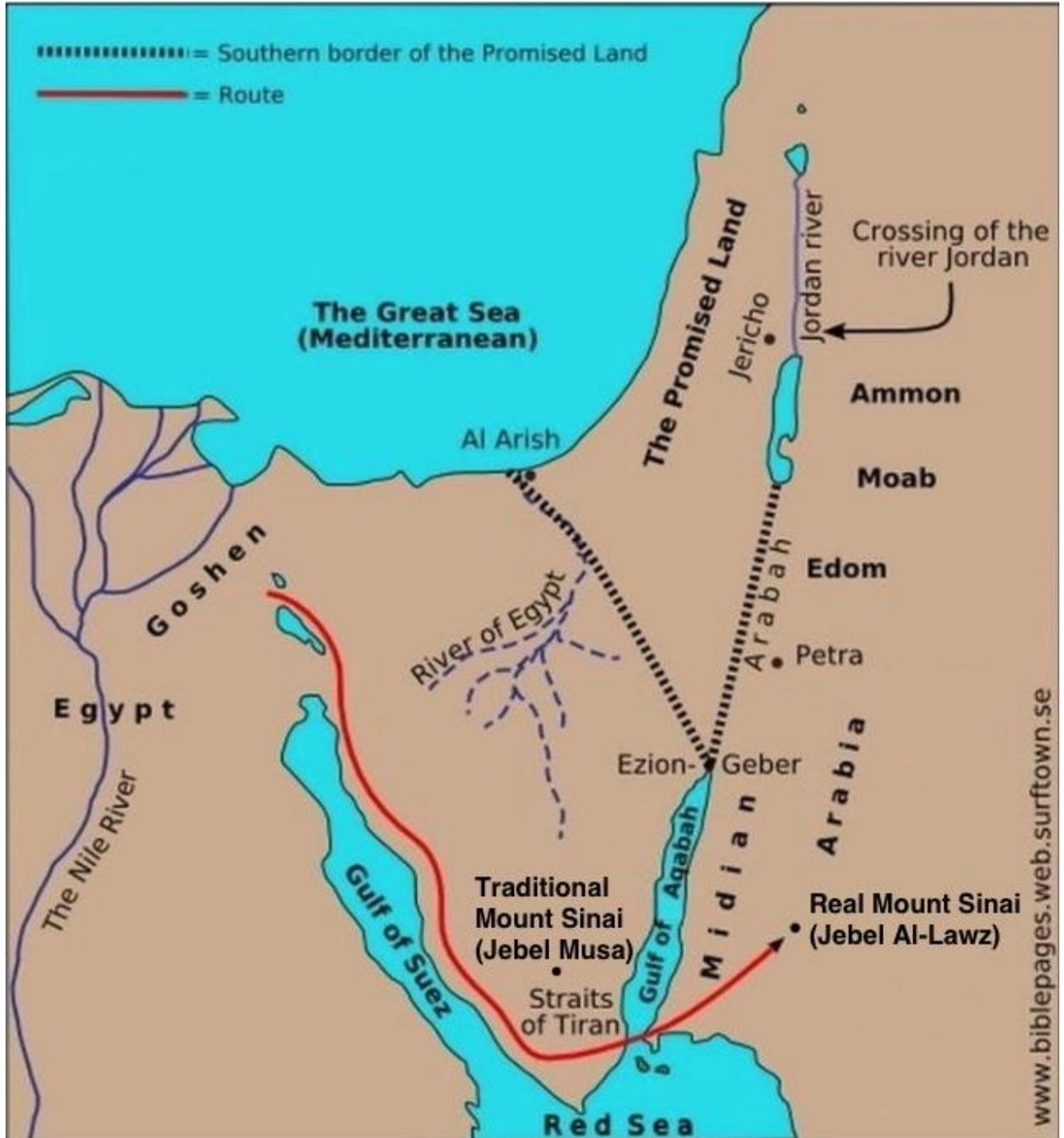
Although there is no reason to challenge the traditional view of Joshua’s authorship of the book, we should follow the biblical example. When the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ about authorship, so should we be. When it is not, neither should we be.

#### B. Relationship to the Other Books of the Bible

Since Genesis 12, the promise that the family of \_\_\_\_\_ would become a mighty nation and inhabit the land that the Lord would give to them has loomed before us.

- At the end of Exodus, the Israelites remain encamped at Sinai, preparing for their journey to the Promised Land.
- Leviticus provides detail of the law, especially concerning the offerings.
- It is not until the Book of Numbers that Israel begins to move. This book takes us to the border of the Promised Land, but the people disobey God and refuse to go in out of fear of giants and armies. All who are 20 years old and older are condemned to die in the wilderness (except Joshua and Caleb). As they wander about the dessert, God will prepare a people to believe His promise and enter the land.

In the book of Joshua, the promise becomes a reality. The importance of the fulfillment of this promise is seen in the fact that God performed mighty miracles to accomplish it. The first was the fall of the fortress walls of \_\_\_\_\_ at the obedient shout of God’s people (Josh.6:15-20). The second was God’s causing the \_\_\_\_\_ to stand still to allow Joshua to complete the defeat of the Amorites in Josh. 10:13.



The name Joshua means “Yhwh (Jehovah) is \_\_\_\_\_.” “Joshua” (pronounced Yeshua) is the Hebrew equivalent of the name “\_\_\_\_\_.”

This O.T. book is of importance to the Christian because the Promised Land is a type of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer. As such we can see principles of how to have the victory of faith and dwell in land of abundant life. It also shows us what causes our peace to flee and what threatens to remove us from the land of abundant life.

## II. EXAMINING THE TEXT

The account of Joshua begins immediately after the death of \_\_\_\_\_ recorded at the close of Deuteronomy. Joshua begins

Joshua 1:1–5 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

## III. CROSSING THE JORDAN (1-5)

### A. The principles for success (1)

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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.

1. (v. 8) \_\_\_\_\_ on the Book of the Law— "chew the cud"
2. Observe to do - practice
3. (v. 16) the decision to obey Joshua 1:16 So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.
4. (v. 17) scary words to Joshua Joshua 1:17 Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

### B. The faith of Rahab (2)

1. Although a \_\_\_\_\_, she believed God (vs. 9-11).

Heb. 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

### C. The waters roll back again. (3-4)

1. As the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant enter the Jordan river, the water piles up in a heap upstream at Adam (3:14-17).
2. Two \_\_\_\_\_ were erected of 12 stones each: one in the midst of the Jordan River and the other at Gilgal (4:3, 9).

### D. The new generation is circumcised as a seal of the covenant. (5)

### E. The Commander in Chief of Israel's army appears. (5:13-15)

Joshua 5:13–15 13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” 14 So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?” 15 Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Many students believe this to be a pre-incarnate appearance of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### IV. CONQUEST OF CANAAN (6-12)

##### A. The destruction of Jericho (6)

Jericho was a heavily fortified city with walls so thick that they contained \_\_\_\_\_ within them. God did not want His people to think they were strong enough to destroy the walls or skillful enough to scale the walls and defeat the enemy. So God gave them a plan that forced them to trust Him or fail in defeating Jericho. He told them to march about the city for 7 days, and on the last day they were to blow the trumpets and \_\_\_\_\_. Then God would take down the wall, and they would be able to march \_\_\_\_\_ over the rubble and take the city.

This event illustrates the truth of Is. 55:8-9.

Isaiah 55:8–9 8 “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Israel obeyed, and God did what He said. When they shouted as instructed, the walls came tumbling down. Centuries later, in a dig at the site, the archaeologist Garstang discovered that the walls of Jericho fell \_\_\_\_\_, enabling the Israelites to march straight ahead into the city. This was a most unusual archeological find, because almost without exception, when fortress walls fall, they fall \_\_\_\_\_. But Jericho’s walls fell outward enabling the advancing Israelites to enter just as He said.

##### B. The defeat at Ai shows the result of \_\_\_\_\_ in the camp. (7)

##### C. The Military campaign

1. A wedge through the \_\_\_\_\_ (8-10).

Joshua uses the military strategy of dividing and conquering. Joshua’s first campaign deploys from Shittim and drives directly ahead across the Jordan River into Jericho and as far as east Ai and Bethel. Joshua then moves slightly north from Bethel to Shechem. This is considered the Central Campaign and it effectively cuts Israel in half dividing Northern Canaan from Southern Canaan so that the two cannot act as co-belligerents. (See yellow line in following map.)

- a. The fall at Ai (8)
- b. The \_\_\_\_\_ with the Gibeonites (9:14). – Israel used their human wisdom rather than seeking God’s guidance.
- c. The \_\_\_\_\_ stands still (10).



(Map above from *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*)

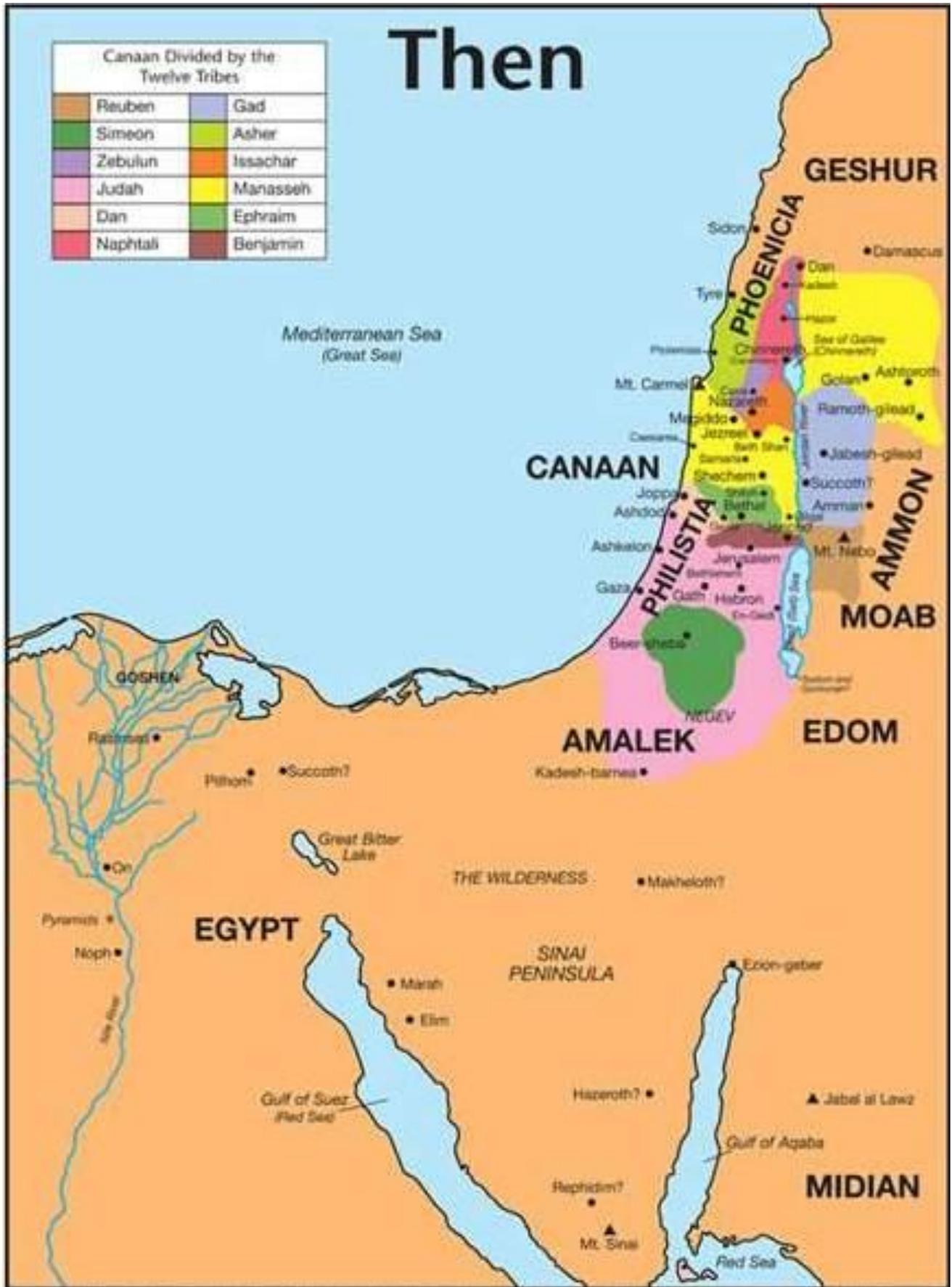
2. Conquest of the \_\_\_\_\_ (10:28-43)

Joshua then mounts a Southern Campaign based out of Gilgal. He proceeds south in a broad zig-zag loop around Jerusalem and systematically takes cities/settlements in order geographically. The cities incapacitated after the death of the five kings in order appear to be: Gibeon, Beth-Horon, Ajalon Valley, Azekah, Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron and Debir. They then return to Gilgal. (The Southern Campaign appears in red on the map above.)

3. Conquest of the \_\_\_\_\_ (11)



The Northern Campaign then begins and Joshua heads directly to Hazor, one of the largest cities in Canaan. Hazor was located in the Upper Galilee region approximately 10 miles north of the Sea of Galilee or the very northern extent of modern day Israel just below the \_\_\_\_\_ border. (Map above from *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*)





4. Summary of the conquest
  - a. Joshua and Israel conquered the major armies and stronghold cities (11:11-12, 16-18, 23), but they did not conquer \_\_\_\_\_ city nor destroy \_\_\_\_\_ of the inhabitants.
  - b. Their failure to completely \_\_\_\_\_ the command of the Lord was the act that gave the devil opportunity to lead Israel into idolatry. Idolatry led to God having to drive His own people from the Promised Land.
  - c. Israel may have reasoned that they were being merciful in not applying God's law so rigidly. They were in fact dealing a \_\_\_\_\_ sentence to their own descendants.

## V. CLAIMING THE INHERITANCE (13-24)

- A. The land is divided among the tribes. (13-22)
- B. The warning of Joshua before his death: if you allow the pagans to remain, they will cause your fall. (23)
- C. Joshua recounts the history of God's chosen people. (24)

Joshua 24:2–13 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, *including* Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. 4 To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagues Egypt, according to what I did among them. Afterward I brought you out. 6 'Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 So they cried out to the LORD; and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, brought the sea upon them, and covered them. And your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. Then you dwelt in the wilderness a long time. 8 And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. 10 But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. So I delivered you out of his hand. 11 Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you—*also* the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand. 12 I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, *also* the two kings of the Amorites, *but* not with your sword or with your bow. 13 I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build,

and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

**D. Joshua makes the choice clear.**

Joshua 24:14–15 14 “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”