

JOSHUA: Introduction

Although Joshua is the first of the historical books, it is clearly a continuation of the story of the Pentateuch (Genesis–Deuteronomy). At both the end of Deuteronomy and the beginning of Joshua, God’s people are gathered in the Plains of Moab, ready to finally enter the Promised Land.

While the Pentateuch largely tells the story of God miraculously bringing His people out of slavery, in Joshua, God will finally bring them in to the Promised Land.

But the land of Canaan, which God promised years before to Abraham, is not empty! Before they can settle in the land of promise, they will have to conquer it.

Named for Joshua, who becomes the leader of Israel after Moses’ death, this book can be divided into three parts:

- Joshua 1–5** — Preparing to enter the land
- Joshua 6–12** — Conquering the land
- Joshua 13–24** — Dividing and settling the land

Although most of the action happens in the first half of the book, the extensive lists in the second half give a tangible picture of how God has been faithful to keep His covenant promise to Israel.

Keep these ideas in mind as you read:

- More than being a story about a man or a nation, **Joshua is a story about God**. What do you learn about Him as you read His story here?
- Pay special attention to the **faithfulness and sovereignty of God** as a covenant-keeper.
- The book of Joshua has lots to say about the **presence of God with His people**. Notice how their strength and success are dependent on His presence with them.
- Watch the way Joshua highlights the **unity and shared identity of the people of Israel**.