

IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church Containing
Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

*"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
JOSHUA 24:15*

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Lesson 6: BOOK OF JOSHUA

TITLE: Evidently born in Egypt, Joshua (whose name means "Yahweh is salvation") may have served in Pharaoh's army. In any case, he was well qualified to command the Israelites' forces against the Amelekites at Rephidim (*Exodus 17:8-16*). He served as personal attendant to Moses during the year at Mount Sinai (*Exodus 24:13*). As the representative of the tribe of Ephraim, he scouted the land of Canaan with the other eleven spies and, with Caleb, opposed the majority report not to try to conquer the land (*Numbers 14:6-9*). Before Moses' death he was commissioned as successor (*Numbers 27:18-23*) and led the people in their conquest of Canaan. His outstanding qualities were faith, courage, obedience and devotion to the law of God.

AUTHORSHIP: Basically the book was composed by Joshua himself. To be sure, a few sections—such as 15:13-17 (compare Judges 1:9-13) and Joshua 24:29-31—could not have been written by him. These were probably added by Eleazar the priest or by Phinehas, his son. But Joshua is specifically identified as the author of 24:1-26, and clearly the author was an eyewitness of many of the events recorded—see, for example, 5:1 (contains "we" in some manuscripts) and 5:6 ("us"). It is also evident that the book was written not long after the events happened (6:25).

DATE OF JOSHUA: 1400—1370 B.C.

KEY WORDS & THEMES: The book describes the conquest and division of the land of Canaan and is set against the background of the corrupt and brutal features of Canaanite religion, depicted clearly in the Ras Sharma Tablets. Prostitution of both sexes, infant sacrifice, and religious syncretism were some of the evils for which God commanded the Israelites to exterminate the inhabitants of Canaan. Much of the spiritual declension in Israel was due to the fact that the Canaanites were not completely destroyed. As a result, their religion was tolerated and frequently absorbed by the Israelites. The events of Joshua begin where those of Deuteronomy conclude.

KEY VERSES: The book emphasizes (1) the faithfulness of God to give Israel the land of Canaan (compare Gen. 13:15); (2) the importance of the written law of God (Josh. 1:8; 8:32-35; 23:1-16; 24:26-27); and (3) the holiness of God in judging the sins of Canaanites (compare Deut. 7:1-6).

**STRAIGHT FROM THE
PASTOR'S HEART
DR. BENNY M. ABANTE, JR.**

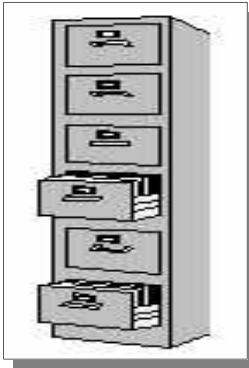
HISTORICAL SETTING: The account of Joshua records two of the most remarkable miracles in history, appropriately signaling God's determination to fulfill His ancient promise to Abraham in giving the land of Canaan to his seed. The heavy walls of Jericho at the entrance to this promised land fell down flat in response to the trumpets of the priests and the shout of the people (Joshua 6:15-20). Then the sun itself "stood still in the midst of heaven" (Joshua 10:13) to enable Joshua's army to rout the confederation of Amorites that otherwise might eventually have turned them back. On the basis of the reference in Hebrews 4:8, Joshua, leading the people of God into the promised land, can even be considered as a type of the greater "Joshua," the Lord Jesus, leading His own people to eternal life in the new Jerusalem.

OUTLINE OF JOSHUA:

A. Entering the Land of Canaan, 1:1-5:15

1. The Commission of God to Joshua, 1:1-9
2. The Command of Joshua to the People, 1:10-18
3. The Canvassing of Jericho: Rahab and the Spies, 2:1-24
4. The Crossing of the Jordan River, 3:1-17
5. The Commemoration of the Crossing, 4:1-24
6. The Circumcision of the People, 5:1-12
7. The Captain of the Lord's Army, 5:13-15





The BMA ARCHIVES

Dr. Benny M. Abante, Jr.'s
PREACHING MATERIALS

OUTLINE OF JOSHUA:

B. Conquering the Land of Canaan, 6:1-12:24

1. Conquest of Central Canaan, 6:1-8:35
 - 1.1 Victory at Jericho, 6:1-27
 - 1.2 Defeat at Ai: Achan's Sin, 7:1-26
 - 1.3 Worship at Ebal, 8:30-35
2. Conquest of Southern Canaan, 9:1-10:43
 - 2.1 Deception of the Gibeonites, 9:1-27
 - 2.2 Destruction of the Amorite coalition, 10:1-43
3. Conquest of Northern Canaan, 11:1-15
4. Summary of the Conquest, 11:16-12:24

C. Dividing the Land of Canaan, 13:1-24:33

1. Instructions to Joshua, 13:1-7
2. Division of Transjordan, 13:8-33
3. Division of Canaan, 14:1-19:51
4. Cities of Refuge, 20:1-9
5. Cities of the Levites, 21:1-45
6. Joshua's Farewell Messages, 22:1-24:28
7. The death of Joshua, 24:29-33

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

Joshua provides a superb example of a leader whose faithfulness prompted God to raise him up. Over the three divisions of his life (40 years in Egypt; 40 years in the wilderness; and 30 years in Canaan), God gradually moved this trustworthy man into leadership. Note the signs of his faithfulness: **Obedience** (Exodus 17:8-16, Numbers 32:10-12); **Servanthood** (Ex. 24:13; Joshua 11:15); **Loyalty** (Ex. 33:11, Numbers 11:24-30); **Courage** (Num. 13:8,16, 25-30); **Promotion** (Numbers 27:15-23); **Responsibility** (Deut. 31:7,8); **Power** (Deut. 34:9); **Credibility** (Deut. 34:9). Joshua's faithfulness challenges us even today to lead as he did:

1. **Live above your contemporaries.** Joshua spied out the same land at the same time as the other ten spies, but he and Caleb returned with a different report. He lived ahead of his time.

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| FEBRUARY 08 | LEVITICUS 7-9 |
| FEBRUARY 09 | LEVITICUS 10-12 |
| FEBRUARY 10 | LEVITICUS 13-15 |
| FEBRUARY 11 | LEVITICUS 16-18 |
| FEBRUARY 12 | LEVITICUS 19-21 |
| FEBRUARY 13 | LEVITICUS 22-24 |
| FEBRUARY 14 | LEVITICUS 25-27 |

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

2. **Live above your circumstances.** Joshua faced several challenges: He followed Moses; he had to conquer mighty Jericho; he had to cross the Jordan with more than one million people. But he did it.
3. **Live deeper than your calamities.** When Israel began to make progress in taking the Promised Land, some disobeyed God and brought defeat on the nation. Joshua overcame it all.
4. **Live beyond your capabilities.** Joshua's dream, his determination, and his ability to develop his leadership skills enabled him to soar beyond his own personal gifts.

-Ryrie Study Bible/The Defender's Study Bible/The Maxwell Leadership Bible/BMA's MESSAGES

02/08/09



We must never think our work for God done, till our life is done. If he lengthen out our days beyond what we expected, like those of Joshua, it is because he has some further service for us to do. He who aims at the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, will glory in bearing the last testimony to his Saviour's goodness, and in telling to all around, the obligations with which the unmerited goodness of God has bound him. The assembly came together in a solemn religious manner. Joshua spake to them in God's name, and as from him. His sermon consists of doctrine and application. The doctrinal part is a history of the great things God had done for his people, and for their fathers before them. The application of this history of God's mercies to them, is an exhortation to fear and serve God, in gratitude for his favour, and that it might be continued.

-Matthew Henry-

