

# Joshua

**Joshua was grandson of Elishama, chief of Ephraim, [1 Chronicles 7:26-27].**

**At the time of the exodus Joshua was a young man, [Exodus 33:11].**

**Moses chose Joshua as a personal assistant and gave him command of a detachment from the yet-unorganised tribes to repel the raiding Amalekites, [Exodus 17:9-14].**

**Joshua [called by his family name Hoshea] was representative of the tribe of Ephraim on the reconnaissance of Canaan [Numbers 13:8] and he supported Caleb's recommendation to go ahead with the invasion, [Numbers 14:6-9].**

**Joshua was the only person to accompany Moses part of the way up the mountain when Moses received the law, [Exodus 24:13; Exodus 32:17].**

**Numbers 27:18-23** [New King James] *“And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him, all the congregation.’ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.”*

**God instructed Moses to commission Joshua as his successor.**

One of the greatest challenges facing leaders is to replace themselves, training others to become leaders. In fact, one of the best tests of our leadership is our willingness and ability to train another for our position.

**Moses made an excellent decision when he chose Joshua as his personal assistant.**

Living with Moses, experiencing first-hand what it meant to lead God's people, was modelling at its best.

Joshua was a brilliant military leader and a strong spiritual influence as a result of his submission to God.

**When God spoke, Joshua listened and obeyed and this obedience served as a model to Israel, resulting in their faithfulness to God throughout Joshua's lifetime.**

The life of Joshua and all that God did through him is recorded in the Book of Joshua, divided into three major parts:

## **1) Entering the Promised Land –**

Joshua continually demonstrated his faith in God as he took up the challenge to lead the nation of Israel, [Joshua chapters 1 to chapter 5 verse 12].

**In many ways as we live the Christian life, we need to cross over from our old life to a new life, put off our selfish desires and press on to possess all God has planned for us.**

**Romans 6:1-13** [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”*

Like Joshua and Israel we need courageous faith to live this new life of a true Christian.

## **2) Conquering the Promised Land –**

Joshua and his army moved from city to city, cleansing the land of its wickedness by destroying every trace of idol worship, [**Joshua 5:13 – Joshua 12:24**].

Our conflict with evil is inevitable. For Satan has at this time rule over the world’s society, [**1 John 5:19; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9-10**]. Satan’s whole rebellious aim is to destroy us and any opportunity we have of being part of the new world, ruled by Jesus Christ, in which he will have no part, [**Revelation 20:1-2**].

**We need to be as merciless as Joshua and Israel in destroying the sin in our lives that are the result of our worshipping the idols of wealth, prestige and sensual living, that the world around us offers to us.**

## **3) Dividing the Promised Land –**

[**Joshua 13:1 – Joshua 21:45**]. The tribes received their land and special cities set up, cities for Levites and cities of refuge.

**Throughout his long life Joshua urged the Israelites to continue to follow the One Creator God and worship Him alone.**

The people had all experienced how God had delivered them from many enemies and miraculously provided for their needs but they were still prone to wander away from worshipping the One True God.

As Christians we also must continually renew our personal commitment to obey God above every other authority, including rejecting the influence that this godless society has on our day-to-day lives.

**God has given us instructions, as He did Israel, for every aspect of our lives, through His Word, the Christian Bible.**

Through daily study and meditation on His Word, we can receive all we need to know to live a sin-free life, empowered by the active indwelling Holy Spirit, which the Creator God is more than willing to give to us if we ask Him, [**Luke 11:13**] then be willing to be led by Him, [**Romans 8:14**] and allow the God-like character to develop in us, the “*fruits*” of our constant journey through life with the Holy Spirit who is God and is also the “*Spirit*” of Jesus Christ at work in us.

**Galatians 5:16-25** [New King James] *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are*

*contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

**Israel was faithful in accomplishing their mission at first but their commitment faltered. To love our Creator God is more than being enthusiastic about Him, we must complete the work that he gives us to do through the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, that are completely surrendered to Him, [Romans 12:1].**

The work of the Holy Spirit in us is three-fold, and listed in:

**John 16:7-8** [New King James] *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"*

- 1) Convict us of sin, that will lead us to repent and seek God's forgiveness.
- 2) Show us that true righteousness is the product of our faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**].
- 3) Remind us of a judgement that every human being will face, [**2 Corinthians 5:10-12**].

**We can read and meditate on the final words of Joshua the faithful servant of God in Joshua 23:2 – Joshua 24:15.**

**Such a study will help us to make a fresh commitment to obey the Creator God today. Decide to follow Him as our Lord and Master wherever He leads us and at whatever it costs.**