

# Joshua

THE BOOK of Joshua contains the Divine record of the conquest of Canaan under Joshua, and the subsequent division of the Land among the twelve tribes of Israel.

## The Lord's Servant

Joshua had been a captain of Israel's army (Exodus 17:9,10) and a personal servant to Moses (Exodus 24:13). After the death of Moses, God chose Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land. Now, as God's servant, he was going to face challenges both from his own people and

from the battles they would face. God told him that he must be:

*Strong and of good courage (Joshua 1:6).*

## Preparing the Way

Two spies were sent ahead to the Canaanite fortress of Jericho (pictured below) in chapter 2. Then, by a miracle, the River Jordan – which was in flood – was dried up so that the Israelites could cross over. We find this in chapter 3.

On the western bank of the river, Israel encamped at Gilgal which became a

*Modern-day Jericho*



temporary headquarters during the campaigns which followed. The Passover was kept (chapter 5) and the people prepared for battle.

## Conquests

The overthrow of Jericho by Divine power (chapter 6) was followed by the conquest of Ai (chapter 8), cities in the south (chapter 10) and cities in the north (chapter 11). You can see the campaign routes shown on the map.

After seven years the occupation of the Land was complete. The twelve tribes were given their portions as had been promised to them.

The Levites and Priests did not have areas of land like the other tribes, but they were allotted 48 cities throughout the country. Six “cities of refuge” were appointed to which those who had accidentally committed manslaughter could flee (chapter 20; see also the detail in Numbers 35:9–34).

## Joshua and Jesus

Joshua was a pointer to Jesus. The two names are virtually the same and mean ‘God saves’. As Joshua, with God’s help, conquered the enemy, so Jesus conquered sin, and will ultimately bring God’s people to the Promised Land (the Kingdom of God).

**Norman Owen**

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### Some interesting links with other parts of the Bible

Joshua 1:6 – see Genesis 15:18-21; 26:3.

Joshua 2:1; 6:17-23 – see Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25.

Joshua 18:1 – see Jeremiah 7:12; Acts 7:45.

