

6. The Conquest

The Nation Begins the Conquest of Canaan

Introduction

- Old Testament Overview
- New testament Overview
- The Beginnings
- The Age of the Patriarchs
- The Exodus out of Egypt
- The Wilderness Wanderings
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 - Journey to the Promised Land
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The Conquest of Canaan

Themes advanced during this period of God's dealings with Israel

- God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promise to give the Land to His covenant people
 - Gen. 12:7
 - Gen. 15:18-21
 - Gen. 17:8
 - Josh. 1:3, 6
 - “... the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying . . . 3 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. . . . 6 “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”
- Israel's actual possession of most of the Land
 - Josh. 11:23
 - 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.”
- Israel's possession of the Land would only come as they trusted in the Lord to grant them victory
 - The commissioning of Joshua (Josh. 1:1-8)
 - The appearance of the Commander of the Lord of Host (Josh. 5:13-15)
 - Success at Jericho (Josh. 6)
 - Failure at Ai (Josh. 7)
- The failure of Israel to fully obey the Lord in possessing the land (Josh. 13:1-8)
 - 13:1 Now Joshua was old and advanced in years when the LORD said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and very much of the land remains to be possessed. 2 “This is the land that remains . . .”

I. The Movement to *Enter* the Promised Land (Joshua 1:1-5:15)

A. God commissions Joshua as the new Leader of Israel (Josh. 1:1-9)

Josh. 1:1 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, 2 “Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.

3 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 “From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory.

5 “No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

6 “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 “Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

B. Joshua issues the command to cross the Jordan River to begin the move to conquer the Land of Canaan (Josh. 1:10-18)

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, to possess it.’”

Josh. 1:12 And to the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, 13 “Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, ‘The LORD your God gives you rest, and will give you this land.’ 14 “Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them, 15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest, as He gives you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to your own land, and possess that which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.” 16 And they answered Joshua, saying, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 “Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. 18 “Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous.”

C. Rahab the Harlot protects the 2 Spies sent in to spy out the land (Josh. 2:1-24)

- Rahab had heard of the mighty power of God in granting Israel victory

2:8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. 10 “For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 “And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

- The two spies express faith that God is indeed going before them. They return and tell Joshua:

2: 24 And they said to Joshua, “Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands, and all the inhabitants of the land, moreover, have melted away before us.”

D. Israel crosses the Jordan River (Josh. 3:1-5:15)

1. The Lord exalts Joshua in the sight of the People as they cross the Jordan River (Josh. 3:1-17- esp. v. 7; 4:14)

Josh. 3:7 Now the LORD said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you. 4:14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; so that they revered him, just as they had revered Moses all the days of his life.

NB: What is the significance of the crossing of the Jordan River?

Answer:

- Verse 7 above (God with Joshua as with Moses)
- 3:9-10 (God *with* the people to grant victory)

3: 9 Then Joshua said to the sons of Israel, “Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God.” 10 And Joshua said, “By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite.

- The similarity with the parting of the Red Sea by Moses
2. The Lord commands Joshua to set up a memorial of the Jordan River crossing (Josh. 4:1-24)
 - 12 stones from riverbed
 3. The Lord commands Joshua to circumcise the 2nd Generation of Israelites preparing to enter the Land (Josh. 5:1-12)

NB: Why this circumcision?

Josh. 5:4-5

5:4 And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way, after they came out of Egypt. 5 For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised.

4. The appearance of the Commander of the Lord of Hosts (Josh. 5:13-15)

Josh. 5:13 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing 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 And he said, “No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” 15 And the captain of the LORD’s host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

II. The Campaigns to *Conquer* the Promised Land (Joshua 6:1-8:35)

A. The Central Campaign (Josh. 6:1-8:35)

1. The destruction of Jericho (Josh. 6)
 - March around the city for 7 days following the Priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant
 - On the 7th day the walls came tumbling down

2. The Failure at Ai (Josh. 7)

The sin of Achan

Note the progression:

7: 21 when I **saw** among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I **coveted** them and **took** them; and behold, they are **concealed** in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.”

3. The Success at Ai (Josh. 8)

4. Joshua renews the Covenant

- The renewal of the covenant follows the nation’s successful Central campaign
- Joshua commands that an altar be built (stones not touched by tools)
- The Nation offered burnt offerings and sacrificed Peace offerings
- The Nation gathers (half on Mt. Gerizim and half on Mt Ebal with the Ark of the Covenant and the Levites in between) and Joshua reads the Law of Moses before the people (include. The Blessings and Cursings)

B. The Southern Campaign (Josh. 9:1-10:43)

1. The foolish Treaty with the Gibeonites (Josh. 9)

- All the Kings of the east side of the Jordan gathered to make war on Israel
- The Gibeonites (city NW of Jerusalem) conspired to trick Israel into making peace with them (because they heard of Israel’s conquest of Jericho and Ai (9:3) and they knew God had commanded Israel to take possession of the Land and to kill the occupants [9:24])

NB: Note the emphasis that Israel “did not seek the counsel of the Lord” (Josh. 9:14)

2. The successful conquest over a coalition of 5 cities in Southern Canaan (5 Amorite kings led by Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem)

- Israel came to the rescue of the Gibeonites because of the treaty and God granted Israel (and the Gibeonites) victory

NB: Note Josh. 10:8, 10

8 And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands; not one of them shall stand before you.” . . . 10 And the LORD confounded them before Israel, and He slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it came about as they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, that the LORD threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

Note also the reference to the Amorites 400 years earlier (Gen. 15:13-16)

13 And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 "And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 "Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

The miracle of the Sun standing still (10:12-15)

The execution of the 5 Amorite Kings hiding in the Cave offered Joshua an opportunity to remind Israel that God would grant them similar victory over all Israel's enemies (10:16-27)

C. The Northern Campaign (Josh. 11:1-15)

- The land near the Sea of Galilee
- Cities north of Sea of Galilee (Hazor, Merom, Sidon)

NB: Note the commentary on Joshua's obedience

11: 15 Just as the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

D. A Summary of the Conquests of the Land (Josh. 11:16-12:24)

NB: Again, note the commentary on Joshua's obedience

11: 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.

III. The Actions to *Divide* the Promised Land (Joshua 13:1-22:34)

A. The Lord Commands Joshua to divide the Land (Josh. 13:1-33)

NB: The 9 1/2 Tribes were to receive their inheritance on the *West* side of the Jordan River. These tribes would receive their Land by lot. The 2 1/2 Tribes already had received their inheritance on the *East* side of the Jordan River as commanded by Moses (Josh. 14:1-5).

B. The land West of the Jordan Divided (Josh. 14:1-19:51)

C. Cities of Refuge (Josh. 20:1-9)

- 6 Cities set up to keep vigilante justice from taking an innocent life

D. Cities of the Levites (Josh. 21:1-45)

- Levites received no inheritance because the Lord was their inheritance
- Joshua set up 48 Cities throughout the Land so that the influence of the Priests would never be far from anyone

NB: Note again the commentary on the faithfulness of the Lord

Josh. 21:43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. 44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. 45 Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

E. The land East of the Jordan (22:1-34)

IV. The Last Remarks of Joshua (Joshua 23:1-24:28)

A. The First Speech of Joshua (Josh. 23:1-16)

Josh. 23:14 “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. 15 “And it shall come about that just as all the good words which the LORD your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you. 16 “When you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods, and bow down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you.”

B. The Second Speech of Joshua (Josh. 24:1-28)

Josh. 24:14 “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 “And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”