

Joshua 1

Ch 1: Joshua is the new leader; chosen by God and commissioned by Moses in front of the whole people.

Now God speaks to Joshua : time to go across the Jordan and into the Land. The Land will be divided among all the tribes.

I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage. Repeated three times.

Follow the Law that God gave to Moses. Do not let the Book of the Law depart from you mouth. Do not go to the left or the right. Meditate on it day and night.

Tells the camp they are going in 3 days. Get provisions ready.

Reminds tribes of Reuben and Gad and half-tribe of Manasseh about the agreement with Moses. The men have to leave their wives and children behind and fight with the rest of the tribes.

¹⁶So they answered Joshua, saying, “All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the Lord your God be with you, as He was with Moses. ¹⁸Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage.”

Ch 2: Joshua sends 2 men to spy area around Jericho. First city they will encounter when they cross over. Wants to know what they are up against.

Rahab the harlot. House would be safe.

Word gets back to the king. Wants the men; threat to them.

She hides them on the roof behind stalks of flax and lies to the soldiers that come. They go down the road. She is commended in Hebrews for her faith.

V8-13 Rahab tells them that the people of Canaan are terrified; they knew the stories of the deliverance from Egypt and the victories over the Amorites. She indicates that she knows that the God of the Israelites is God and not a local deity.

Asks them for protection for her and her family since she has done them a kindness. They agree.

She lets them down a rope and tells them to hide in the mountains for 3 days so the pursuers would have returned.

Spies tell her to bring her family to her house and put a **scarlet** rope out the window so they can identify the house. People in the house will not be harmed; those outside will be. Like Passover.

Go back to Joshua after 3 days to report what happened. They tell him that all the inhabitants are afraid of the Israelites. They believe that the LORD has delivered the Land to the people.

Ch 3: Move down to the Jordan. Wait till they see the Ark; stay 2000 cubits behind it. Carried by the Levites. This time not in the center of the formation.

Joshua tells the people to sanctify themselves; ceremonial washing; Ark would pass by uncovered.

V7: LORD says to Joshua He will exalt him in the sight of Israel so they know LORD was with him like He was with Moses. Joshua tells priests to carry Ark into the river and wait there.

V9-13: Joshua tells the people that they will have proof that the **Living God** is among them. When the soles of the priest step into the river, the river will stop and be in a heap. Just like the Red Sea.

This is time of year when the Jordan is at its highest and widest from melting snow in Lebanon. Probably 100 yards wide. Harvest time V 15.

Flow stopped, priests stood on dry land, the people all crossed over on dry land. Opposite Jericho. Area was about 25 miles long.

God had demonstrated ability to fulfill His promises to the people.

Chapter 4 : Monuments: 1 stone from each tribe carried to the place where they lodged. Memorial for the children to understand what the LORD did.

⁶that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones *mean* to you?' ⁷Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

Joshua makes memorial in the Jordan where the priests were standing.

Ark went in first and was last out. When priests left, the Jordan returned to its place and overflowed.

Men from Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh went armed ahead of all; they kept their promise they made to Moses.
40,000 men were ready for war.

Showed that Joshua had the authority; he was a leader like Moses. He was exalted before all of Israel.

Camp was at Gilgal. Joshua built the memorial there.

“When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What *are* these stones?’²² then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’;²³ for the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over,²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it *is* mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”