

REVIEW, REMEMBER, RENEW!

Joshua gathers all of Israel's leaders – elders, judges, military – to Shechem for a final challenge before he passes into the next life (1).

A. Remembering God's great works on behalf of Israel (2 – 13)

1. God's faithfulness to the patriarchs (2 - 4).
2. God's faithfulness in the escape from Egypt (5 – 7).
3. God's faithfulness in the wilderness (7 – 10).
4. God's faithfulness in the land of Canaan (11 – 13).

B. Choosing to covenant with God (14 – 28)

1. You must serve the Lord exclusively (14).
2. You must choose God or choose your alternative (15).
3. You must respond (16 – 18).
4. You must renew (22 – 28).

C. Concluding the chapter and the book (29 – 31)

1. Joshua's death
2. Israel served God all the days of Joshua.
3. Other deaths and burials

The Character of Joshua – an Admirable Leader

A Brief Character Study

I. Joshua's Preparation

- A. Suffering
 - 1. Egyptian slavery
 - 2. Wilderness wanderings
 - 3. Suffering precedes exaltation, elevation

- B. Submission
 - 1. Obedient to Moses (1:7)
 - 2. Obedient to the Lord

- C. Delay
 - 1. Wilderness trials
 - 2. Vision of future victory

II. Joshua's Leadership

- A. He walked with God.
 - 1. Servant of the Lord (24:29)
 - 2. Obedient
 - 3. Meditated on the Law (1:8)
 - 4. Man of prayer (7:6 – 9)

- B. He displayed courage.
 - 1. Be courageous (1:6 – 7, 9, 18)
 - a. Stand for what you believe.
 - b. Do what you know God wants you to do.
 - 2. Show moral, spiritual courage.

- C. He had a plan and followed it.
 - 1. The conquest of Canaan – well planned and executed.
 - 2. Ask God for His plan and strategy.

- D. He didn't quit.
 - 1. Learned from mistakes (Ai).
 - 2. Turn mistakes into windows to see God.

- E. He enlisted others and commanded their respect.
 - 1. He commanded the respect of his troops.
 - 2. His motives were pure because his life was godly.
 - 3. He is a character above reproach.
 - 4. He had stature.

Real leaders don't use people to build their authority; they use their authority to build people.

Warren Wiersbe in *Be Strong*

- F. He was concerned about the future.
 - 1. His farewell speeches show his true leadership (23, 24).
 - 2. His desire was that his people knew the Lord.
 - 3. His desire was that they would serve Him with their whole heart.
 - 4. Like Joshua, be a seed planter for future fruit.

- G. He glorified God.
 - 1. Crossing the Jordan (3:10)
 - 2. Monuments to the Lord (4:24; 24)
 - 3. Numerous examples – 6:16; 8:1; 10:14; 11:6 – 8; 13:6; 18:3; 21:43 – 45.

III. Joshua's message

- A. God keeps His promises.
- B. God enables His servants to succeed if they trust Him and obey His Word.
- C. Claim your spiritual inheritance NOW, by faith.

IV. Joshua's God

Joshua's God, not Joshua, is the key person in the book.

- A. He is the God of His people, Israel, the God of the Covenant.
- B. He keeps His promises.
- C. He is a Holy God who will not tolerate sin.
- D. He is a forgiving God.
- E. He requires obedience.
- F. He is gracious.
- G. He never fails; he is faithful.

Outline adapted from chapter 13 of *Be Strong* by Warren Wiersbe.

During their sojourn in Canaan, the book of Joshua commemorates nine memorials to encourage the people to remember what God had done and to renew their allegiance and loyalty to Him. **REMEMBER!**

- 1. The stones in the middle of the Jordan (4:9).
- 2. The stones on the western bank of the Jordan at Gilgal (4:20 – 24).
- 3. The stones in the Valley of Achor (7:26).
- 4. The heap of stones at Ai (8:29).
- 5. The altar at Mount Ebal (8:30).
- 6. The stones of the law at Mount Ebal (8:32).
- 7. The stones at the cave at Makkedah (10:27).
- 8. The altar built by the Transjordan tribes (22:10ff).
- 9. Joshua's stone of witness (24:26 – 28).

Joshua – Servant Leader

Like Paul, Joshua could have said at the end of his life, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

Words and phrases describing Joshua throughout the book:

- Warrior 5:13 – 15
- Leader 3:14 – 17
- Strong 1:9
- Courageous 1:9
- Obedient entire book
- Faithful 24:31
- Servant 24:29
- Integrity 9:19 – 20
- Submissive Exodus 17:8 – 16
- Unselfish Entire book; also, last to receive any land
- Chose and acted 24:14 – 15
- Exalted by God 4:14
- Favored by God 4:14
- Dependent on God Entire book
- Followed God’s word 1:7; 8:30 – 35; 23:6
- Gave God the glory 23:3, 10

Joshua as a Type of Christ

What is a type of Christ? The oldest promise in the Bible is that God said someday a man would be born who would defeat Satan and the works of Satan thus bringing blessing to the whole world. That man is Jesus Christ. Several Old Testament characters anticipate Christ in their character and deeds. We refer to them as types of Christ. The most important of these types is Joshua.

Joshua	Jesus
Name: Joshua - “Jehovah is salvation”	Name: Jesus, Yeshua – Savior, deliverer
Gave Israel rest from their wanderings by entering the land of Canaan	He gives rest from unrighteousness to rest in Him; salvation
Largely unblemished record	The perfect man
Subordinate to another – Moses; did the will of the master	Subordinate to His Father and His Father’s Will

Joshua	Jesus
Took an unpopular stand (12 spies)	Was despised and rejected of men.
Thrived on fellowship with God	Left the disciples and crowds to commune with His Father
Servant leader	Served His Father and the people
Brought deliverance from enemies	Brought ultimate deliverance from sin's curse
Began in obscurity and rose to prominence (exalted)	Began in obscurity and rose to prominence (exalted) Philippians 2: 9 - 11
Warrior – conquered Jericho and other cities	Warrior – conquered Satan
Lawgiver; law teacher ...	Lawgiver; law teacher
Joshua crosses the Jordan – dying to self and entering into a spiritual inheritance	Jesus is baptized at the same spot in the Jordan as the crossing – dying to self and beginning his public ministry
Allowed Rahab to live because of the red cord – salvation	Jesus saves us by his red blood, shed for us
Led the people into the Promised Land - Canaan	Leads His people into the Promised Land - Heaven