

Critical Challenges in Joshua's Life

Joshua:

Joshua ben (son of) Nun was the grandson of Elishama, of the tribe of Ephraim (1 Ch 7:26; Num 13:8; 26:65). He is first introduced in Exodus 17:9 as a military leader and the Scriptures note his devotedness to Moses (Num 11:28). His name originally was Hosea meaning 'he was delivered' or 'salvation', Moses changed this to Joshua which means 'the Lord delivers' or 'the Lord saves' (Num 13:16).

Joshua the Soldier:

As noted above he is first introduced in regard to the conflict with Amalek (Ex 17:9). As a soldier he directed the seven year military campaign of Canaan when the Israelites crossed the river Jordan and entered the promised land.

Joshua the Servant:

He is noted by Scripture as being the 'servant' (Ex 33:9-11) and the 'attendant' (Ex 24:13-16) of Moses. Joshua accompanied Moses up Mount Sinai and witnessed him entering into the cloud of the Lord's presence. He along with Moses saw and heard the noise of the rebellion represented in the golden calf as they returned to the camp.

Joshua the Spy:

Joshua was one of 12 men selected to enter into Canaan to survey the land, prior to the entrance of the Israelites. He along with Caleb, were the only two who gave a true report encouraging the people to enter Canaan, as the Israelites were encamped at its southern border. As a result both men survived the 38 years wandering the wilderness (Num 14:38).

Joshua the Successor of Moses:

Joshua was chosen by God to lead His people (Num 27:18-21); Moses was not permitted to take the people into their inheritance, this task was given to his successor.

Joshua the Scribe:

Joshua fulfils a scribal function as he recorded the words of Moses (Ex 17:14; Dt 32:44); from these passages it has been suggested that he functioned as Moses's amanuensis and scribe.

Joshua and the Saviour:

Joshua's name in Greek is the same as the Lord Jesus. Both men were filled with the Holy Spirit, both appointed 12 men, had power over nature, are noted for their servant character, and were associated with the river Jordan. They both led God's people to their inheritance; and brought salvation to Gentiles; both are noted as commanding the Lord's armies.

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Suggested themes to aid the study of the chapters we will consider.

The Crisis of Conflict (Ex 17:1-16)

The arrival at Rephidim (17:1)
The anger of the people (17:2-3)
The advocacy of Moses (17:4-7)
The appearance of Amalek (17:8)
The actions of Aaron & Hur (17:9-12)
The activity of Joshua (17:13)
The altar of the Lord (17:14-16)

The Crisis of Consecration (Jos 1:1-18)

The circumstances in the chapter (1:1-4)
The communication in the chapter (1:5-6)
The courage in the chapter (1:7)
The charge in the chapter (1:8-9)
The command in the chapter (1:10-15)
The comfort in the chapter (1:16-18)

The Crisis of the Crossing (Jos 3:1-4:24):

The moment of the crossing (3:1-6)
The motivation for crossing (3:7-8)
The manner of the crossing (3:9-17)
The memorials of the crossing (4:1-8)
The magnification of the crossing (4:14)
The meaning of the crossing (4:20-24)

The Crisis of Circumcision (Jos 5:1-15):

The inhabitants of the land (5:1)

The instructions from the Lord (5:2)
The importance of circumcision (5:3-7)
The impact of the rite (5:8-9)
The intent of the Lord (5:10-12)
The intervention of the Lord (5:13-15)

The Crisis of Conquest (Jos 6:1-27)

Compassing the city (6:1-3)
Carrying the ark (6:4-16)
Cry of the people (6:16)
Command of the Lord (6:17)
Confirmation to Rahab (6:22-25)
Curse of Joshua (6:26-27)

The Crisis of Challenge (Jos 14:1-15)

The details of the land (14:1)
The demarcation by lots (14:2-4)
The direction of the Lord (14:5)
The details of a life (14:6-11)
The desired location (14:12-14)
The documented legacy (14:15)

The Crisis of Choice (Jos 24:1-33)

The assembling of the tribes (24:1)
The activity of the Lord (24:2-13)
The appeal of Joshua (24:14-15)
The answer of the people (24:16-18)
The agreement reached (24:19-25)
The anticipation of the future (24:26-28)
The account of Joshua's death (24:29-33)