



WHO WAS JOSHUA?

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A man of experience, obedience, courage, and faith

Have I not commanded you, be strong and courageous do not be afraid do not be discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go? Joshua 1:9

Known for: After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of Israel, successfully directing the Israelite army in its conquest of the Promised Land. He also served as an Old Testament type of Christ.

Hometown: Joshua was born in Egypt, probably in the area named Goshen, in the northeast Nile delta. He was born a slave, like his fellow Hebrews.

Occupation: Egyptian slave, personal assistant of Moses, military commander, leader of Israel.

Father: Joshua's father was Nun from the tribe of Ephraim.

Spouse: The Bible makes no mention of Joshua having a wife or children, another indication that Joshua represents a type of Christ.

When God calls – He makes what He calls

- Joshua spent 20 years as slave in Egypt, 40 years in the Wilderness as servant to Moses.
- God used 60 years preparing Joshua to lead God's people into the Promised Land and to possess it. Joshua led the Israelites for 50 years in the Promised Land.

References to Joshua

Exodus 17: 8 - 16. First mention of Joshua when Moses selects Joshua to lead men to fight against Amalek. Prayer gives them favor and Joshua defeats Amalek. Amalek is a type of the flesh. Joshua is an OT "type" of Christ suggesting Christ's victory over the flesh, possession of the Promised Land, through the surrendered obedient life in the Spirit which is victorious over the flesh.

Exodus 17:14 The Lord tells Moses to write down the battle as a MEMORIAL and recount it to Joshua to hear God's promise, to utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek. Jesus has blotted out the memory of our sin in the flesh.

- Moses builds an altar called – **THE LORD IS MY BANNER** – Jehovah Nissi. Because the Lord will have battle with Amalek (the flesh) from generation to generation.
- **1 Samuel 15:3** God instructs Saul to destroy Amalek (our flesh), but he does not **v9**. Saul's disobedience cost him the kingdom.
- **1 Samuel 15:22-23** *Obedience is better than sacrifice. For Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as the iniquity of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you.*
- Saul wanted to protect his flesh, caring more what the people said than God – v 24 & 30.
- **Esther 3:1** Haman the main character in Esther, hated and wanted to kill the Jews. According to Jewish tradition Haman was a direct offspring of Agag, king of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:8).
- The result of Saul compromising and not destroying Amalek as God had told him, meant Amalek was around to torment and try to kill future generations of Israelites.



Exodus 24:12 Moses takes his assistant Joshua go up the mountain to meet God and receive the tablets of stone which *“I have written that you may teach them.”*

Exodus 32:16-17 Joshua is coming down the mountain with Moses who is carrying the Word of God, *“now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.”* He tells Moses he hears the noise of war in the camp. *Moses says – “not the noise of the shout of victory, nor the noise of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing I hear”.*

Exodus 33:11 *The Lord spoke to Moses’ face to face as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.*

Numbers 11:8 Joshua first called Hoshea, the son of Nun, is one of the heads of Israel (v3) chosen to spy out the land. **Hoshea = to save, salvation.**

Numbers 11:16 Moses changes Hoshea’s name to **Joshua = the Lord who saves.**

Numbers 11:27-29 Joshua zealous to let Moses know 2 men of the 70 were prophesying not in the tabernacle but in the camp. Moses’ response points to Mark 9:40 and 1 Corinthians 14:5

Numbers 13:25 They spied out the land for 40 days.

Numbers 13:28-29 We saw the the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land to the south, the Hittites, (Did Joshua remember God’s promise to him about the Amalekites in Exodus 17?)

Numbers 14:6-10 Joshua and Caleb tear their clothes when the 10 other spies give a negative report and stir up the people. *“The land is exceedingly good. If the Lord delights in us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us... Do not fear the people of the land, for they are our bread, their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.”*

The people try to stone them, but the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting. God wants to destroy the people. Moses mediates for them. God pardons them but declares that His glory WILL fill the earth. They have tested Him 10 times and not listened to His voice, so they will not see the land.

Numbers 14:26-30 The people of the complaining generation will die in the wilderness, 20 years and older. Except Joshua and Caleb.

Numbers 14:31-38 The children of those who die, v31 who said their children would be victims, God would lead into the Land. Their children will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years and bear the brunt of the infidelity.

V34 – 40 years in wilderness - 1 year for every day of the unbelief in 40 days spying out the land – to know the Lords Rejection. All the spies who brought a bad report died.

V38 But Joshua and Caleb remained alive.

Numbers 14:39-44 The Israelites get up early and go to the top of the mountain *“to the place the Lord promised for we have sinned”* but God was not with them, and they were attached and driven back by the Amalekites and Canaanites living there. They had tried to go in their own strength.

Numbers 26 A second census is taken. V63-64 None of those named in the first census in Chapter 1 are numbered in the second census. They all died in the wilderness, **except Caleb and Joshua v 65.**

Numbers 27:12-23 Joshua is appointed - God tells Moses he is not going into the Land, v14.

V18 *And the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua, the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him* (In other words, giving him his authority).

Numbers 32 Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh have a lot of land and livestock and don't want to cross to the Land. Moses is angry it's happening in the next gen "*look you have risen in your fathers place, a brood of sinful men*"

Numbers 33:1-49 The Journeys of the Children of Israel. On God's instruction Moses outlines the 40-year wilderness journey, from leaving Egypt to the last camp in the plain of the Jordan across from Jericho, he records in detail every start, camp stop and movement, roughly 42 camps in 40 years.

V 2 *Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the commandment of the Lord.*

The start point was the departure from Egypt. "**Israel went out with great boldness**"

In the record, God does not ask him to record all the rebellion and setbacks in the 40 years. He records only the movement from place to place. We may look back and see only our mistakes, but God sees our spiritual journey as our journey of learning and growing in and with Him. (Read Deut 8:1-5)

Look Ahead - Promises going into the Land

Numbers 33:50-56 – How to possess, inherit, live in the Land. (See chart).

- **Exodus 23** The Promise of the Angel going before them into the Land. Obedience, Idolatry
- **Exodus 23:29-30** – Little by little God will give them the Land. It was 50 years.
- **Judges 2:1-3** *Repeat Numbers 33:50-56 the covenant and promise of thorns and snares of false gods in their disobedience.*

Joshua has seen the land 40 years before. With Caleb, he had encouraged the people to go in, but they were too fearful and rebelled. He had believed God's promise to see it again and take possession of it.

There have now been 40 years of Wanderings in the wilderness. They are on the edge of going in – with a new generation of Israelites. Now he is called to lead the people into the land. We read of God's call and promise to Joshua in **Joshua 1:1-9**

We hear this same promise which Moses gave to "all Israel" in **Deut 31:1-6**. The verses communicate what is important for the people to know as Moses cannot enter the promised land.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear, do not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God he is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

God first gave Joshua this promise through the mouth of Moses in **Deuteronomy 31:8** before inaugurating him.

Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. ⁸ And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:7-8.

Joshua is called to lead the people to inherit the land - *and you shall cause them to inherit it. Deut 31:8*

Then God spoke the promise directly to Joshua in **Deuteronomy 31:23** - *Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you."*



And again, God spoke directly to Joshua in Joshua 1:9.

No wonder Joshua needed this promise! In-between verses 14 and 23, God gave them a prophecy of the rebellion that would take place among the children of Israel once they go into the land, **Deuteronomy 31:16-21**.

Before the prophecy declaring what the people would do in forsaking Him and breaking His covenant, God spoke to the people through Moses what was in His mind for their relationship with Him through His word, when they enter the land **Deut 31:9-13**.

Responsibility was given to the priests and elders, to carry the ark of the covenant with the law in it. They were to **gather the people every 7 years**, men women and children to **read the law, to hear God's word so they will obey it and that their children will hear it and live long in the land over the Jordan Deuteronomy 31:12-13**.

But in the prophetic warning in Deuteronomy 31:14-21 God foretells that Israel will disobey. Israel always suffered the consequences because of their sinful nature. Their snare was that they always wanted to be like the other nations. So they go into the land but they soon want to be like the others.

This shows a contrast between the faithfulness and support of God to Joshua, and the unfaithfulness of the people which God prophesies will happen.

Regarding spiritual leadership it has been said *"It is possible that the people may not value the leading, or get the good of it spiritually, but it is there in divine faithfulness for their good."* To whoever is given any part in spiritual leadership, - the call, the charge and the commandment to Joshua are directly the word of God today.

*It was never more essential that **spiritual leadership** and **spiritual leading** should be marked by strength and courage, by confidence in God and by the assurance that He is with those whose are set in purpose to cause His people to inherit what He has given. It has been said "our present work and duty whatever it may be in the church, hangs from the charge, and is sustained by it, whatever we may know of the result as regards man's unfaithfulness"*
(Jon Courson).

The spiritual leading of which Joshua is a type was seen in the apostles, they were strong and courageous, and God was with them. The public results soon became like Deuteronomy 31:16 to 21. It reminds us of the closing verses in Paul's farewell to the Ephesians elders **Acts 20:17-32**.

Other references to Joshua: Book of Joshua, Judges 1:1-2:23; 1 Samuel 6:14-18; 1 Chronicles 7:27; Nehemiah 8:17; Acts 7:45; Hebrews 4:7-9.