

Conquest Period: Conquest of the Promised Land *Joshua 1:1-24:33*

With this STEP we now enter into another period in the history of the Old Testament. The period of the patriarchs has passed as well as the sojourn in Egypt. The wilderness wandering also has passed. Moses is dead and Joshua is leading the people. They are going to go in and possess the Promised or Canaan Land. The Conquest Period covers a very short time of only 7 years. (See **STEPS IN TIME I.**)

The book of Joshua is a historic account of the occupation of Canaan Land. It is named after the military leader of Israel. Joshua means "*The Lord (YHWH or Jehovah) saves or delivers*". Joshua is first seen as an army officer (**Ex 17:9**) and then as Moses' minister (**Ex 4:13**). In **Numbers 27:18-23** Moses is instructed to lay hands on Joshua who will be his replacement and will lead Israel into the land. (see **Deut 1:38; 31:2**) Joshua is the author of most of the book that bears his name.

The major characters of this book are Joshua, Caleb and Rahab. There are many interesting events that occur. The events in Joshua unfold before us one after another.

We therefore can divide the book into several natural divisions.

I- The Preparation for Conquest- *Josh 1:1-5:12*

II- Conquest of the Land- *Josh 5:13-12:24*

III- Division of the Land- *Josh 13:1-19:51*

IV- Directions for Use and Joshua's Farewell- *Josh 20:1-24:33*

I- The Preparation for Conquest- *Josh 1:1-5:12*

We begin with the preparation that needed to take place prior to entering the Promised Land.

a- Commissioning of Joshua
Josh 1:1-18

"The Lord spake...arise, go over this Jordan." God commissions Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land. He assures Joshua He will be with him. In **1:10** we see Joshua takes command of the people.

b- Spying out the Land and Rahab. ***Josh 2:1-24***

For the second time in 40 years spies are sent into Canaan. This time only two men go in. These two came to the city of Jericho and to Rahab's house. Rahab hide them from the king of Jericho and told him they had already gone out. For this assistance Rahab was promised that her house and all within it will not be killed. She was told to hang a, ***"scarlet thread in the window."*** **2:18**

c- Crossing of the Jordan River.
Josh 3:1-4:18

The Ark of the Covenant, which had leads them as they journeyed in the wilderness, would also lead them across Jordan. **3:3** When the soles of the priest feet touched the water the Lord would stop the water. **3:13.**

3:10 says this was so they would know ***"that the living God is among you."*** **3:17** tells us it came to pass that ***"all the Israelites passed over on dry ground."***

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In **4:1-18** Joshua is commanded to take twelve stones and build a memorial for future generations to know what happened. **4:6**.

d- Camped at Gilgal **Josh 4:19-5:12**

They camped on the west side of the Jordan at Gilgal. The invasion is on. While at Gilgal they will observe the Passover and circumcise the new generation. They were not circumcised in the 40 years in the wilderness. This renews the sign of the Abrahamic covenant.

Now that they are in the land flowing with milk and honey the manna ceases. **5:12**. They enjoyed the fruit of redemption now.

II- Conquest of the Land- **Josh 5:13-12:24**

a- Captain of the Host of the Lord to fight. **Josh 5:13-15**

Here is a pre- incarnate Christ appearance. He is the Captain of the Lords host. He was come to fight for Joshua. Joshua worships Him.

b- The Central Campaign **Josh 6:1-8:35**

The conquest of Canaan is remarkable from a military standpoint. Joshua divided and conquered. He first splits the land by a central campaign then moved to the south and then to the north.

1- Jericho Falls **Josh 6:1-27**

The best know story of any battle in scripture is of Jericho. They marched around the city each day one time for 6 days. On the seventh day they marched around seven times and shouted and the wall came tumbling down. **6:13-20** Rahab was saved and a curse was put

upon anyone who tried to rebuild the city. The spoils of the city were to come into the treasure of the temple. Nothing was to be taken by any individual.

2- Defeat at Ai because of the Sin of Achan **Josh 7:1-26**

After Jericho fell a small town named Ai was attacked and Israel was soundly defeated. The reason for this was a man named Achan had taken some of the spoils of Jericho and hide them in his tent. He was killed for this and Ai was again attacked.

3- Ai taken **Josh 8:1-29**

In **Joshua 8** Ai is taken in battle because God gave into their hands.

4- Ceremony on Ebal **Josh 8:30-35**

Moses had instructed them to make an altar on the two mountains and it is accomplished here. (see my notes on Deut 27:2-8 STEP 7, page 21.)

c- The Southern Campaign **9:1-10:43**

1- The deception of the Gibeonites. **Josh 9:1-27**

Joshua is deceived by the Gibeonites into making a treaty with them. They were not destroyed but became servants to Israel. **9:16ff**

2- The day the sun stood still. **Josh 10:1-43**

Josh 10 records a total of 12 kings being conquered. One way the Lord fought against these kings was with a hailstorm **10:10**. Five of the kings were hanged. The most notable event here is when the sun stood still for a day so that Joshua and Israel could prevail.

d- The Northern Campaign **Josh 11:1-12:24**

The attention is now turned to the northern section of Canaan. These kings are subdued and the land occupied. **12:7ff** list all the kings that were destroyed.

III- Division of the Land- Josh 13:1-19:51

a- Much Land Remains to be Possessed **13:1-7**

Even though much of the land was taken there were still many pockets of resistance that were not destroyed. Most notable of these was the town of Jebus which David would later buy from the Jebusites and name it Jerusalem. (see **II Sam 5:6**)

b- East of Jordan or Trans-Jordan **Josh 13:8-33**

The two tribes of Reuben (**13:15-23**) and Gad (**13:24-28**) and 1/2 of the tribe of Manasseh (**13:29-33**) were given land on the east side of Jordan.

c- West of Jordan or Canaan **Josh 14:1-19:51**

The other 9 1/2 tribes were given land on the west side of the Jordan. This division of land was by the high-priest Eleazar, Joshua and, "**The heads of the fathers of the tribes.**" (**14:1-2; 18:6,10**) They cast lots to decide which tribe got what land. Each tribe, except for Levi was given an inheritance of land.

The great failure during this time was that they did not destroy the people the way God had told them to do. This will be a problem because they didn't destroy their pagan gods that later influenced Israel greatly.

IV- Directions For Use and Joshua's Farewell- Josh 20:1-24:33

a- The Cities of Refuge **Josh 20:1-9**

Josh 20 records the setting up of cities for the purpose of being safe havens for people guilty of killing someone accidentally. These protected from revenge.

b- The Portion for Levi **Josh 21:1-45**

Levi, as we have stated, did not receive a portion of land. They did however receive 48 cities in various parts of the occupied territory.

c- Return of Trans-Jordan tribes. **Josh 22:1-32**

God gave Israel rest. (see **21:43-45**) Joshua therefore allowed the 2 1/2 tribes to return back across Jordan to their homes.

d- Joshua's farewell address **Josh 23:1-13**

Joshua exhorted the people to be faithful and to obedience. He reminded them of the goodness and faithfulness of God.

e- Recommitment to the Covenant **Josh 24:1-28**

Joshua reminded them of the covenant. He made the well-known statement, "**As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.**" **24:15**. The people recommitted to the keeping the covenant.

f- Death of Joshua **Josh 24:29-33**

At 110 Joshua died and was buried. The bones of Joseph, which were brought out of Egypt, were also

