

Joshua

Lesson #1, Overview of the Book

Before we begin studying the details of the book of Joshua, we need to understand its structure and purpose. Many times, the who, what, when, where, and why questions of a book can be answered directly from the text. With the book of Joshua, however, those questions can't be answered from the book alone. Start by looking for the answers in the book of Joshua itself—feel free to skim the pages looking for your answers. Once you've looked in the Bible text, then you can supplement your answers using your study Bible notes, commentaries on Joshua, or Bible encyclopedias to answer the following questions. One of my favorite resources for gaining insight into the make-up and background of a book is *Talk Thru the Bible* by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa. It's a "must have" for any student of the Bible!

1. *Who* wrote the book of Joshua?
2. *When* was it written?
3. *Why* was it written (what is its purpose)?
4. What *task* is the nation to accomplish in the book of Joshua?
5. Who are the *main characters* in the book of Joshua?

6. List a *simple outline* of the book of Joshua that *succinctly* summarizes the structure of the book. (For help locating an outline like this, look in your Bible's study notes or in a commentary or Bible encyclopedia).

7. The book of Joshua is the sequel to the events that transpired in the book of Deuteronomy. Read Deuteronomy Chapters 1-3 to write a short summary, explaining the circumstances leading up to the book of Joshua.

8. Though Moses had been raised up by God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, he was not the one to take them into the Promised Land of Canaan. Why? See Num. 20:1-13; Deut. 32:48-52; 34:1-8; Ps. 106:32-33.

9. What were Moses' last words to the nation of Israel before he died (Deut. 32:45-47)?

10. How did Moses pass the mantle of leadership to Joshua? See Num. 27:15-23; Deut. 34:9.

11. How did the people respond to the change in leadership just as they were ready to enter the land? See Josh. 1:16-17.

12. This might feel basic, but it's a good review. Please list the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch.

- a. Now list the 12 history books.

- b. Next, write down the 5 poetry books of the Old Testament.

- c. List the 5 major prophets.

- d. Now write down the 12 minor prophets.

13. List the 12 tribes of Israel that were ready to enter the land. (Num. 26 can provide help if you need it).

14. List 3 things you've already noticed in the book of Joshua you find interesting. What do you hope to gain from your study in Joshua?