

Joshua

Lesson #2, Chapter 1

Because the book of Joshua is so tightly knit to the books of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), let us first review the major events and important figures leading up to the book of Joshua.

1. Trace God's covenant with Abraham to see the importance of possessing the land. Note with whom God makes His covenant in each instance. See Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-8; 26:1-5; 28:10-15.
2. Summarize Israel's past history, starting from the Exodus from Egypt under Moses' leadership, then highlight the events leading up to the book of Joshua as the people stand ready to enter the land. (The books of Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy contain Israel's story. Feel free to use a Bible dictionary, study Bible notes, etc. to answer this question.)
3. What did the Israelites understand about God at this time in history? Think over the things we've already studied and read that God has done for the nation and look up the following verses to form your answer: Gen. 2:4; 15:1-21; Ex. 2:24-25; 3:6, 9; 6:2-4, 6-8; 15:11, 13.
4. Read the following verses, then describe who Joshua was, what his character was like, and the deeds he did up to this point in his life. Look up Ex. 17:9-10; Num. 11:27-29; 13:1-3, 8, 16; 14:6-10, 30, 38; 27:18-23; 32:11-12; Deut. 31:23.
5. When the book of Joshua opens what transition is taking place (verses 1-2)?

6. Notice how specifically God encourages and strengthens Joshua in verses 1-9. List those statements. Why did Joshua need that encouragement from God?

7. In verses 6-9 God commands Joshua three times to *be strong and courageous*. Note the different reasons and exhortations that accompany each “*be strong and courageous*.”

8. God tells Joshua the way to be successful with the huge task entrusted to him. What is the key to Joshua’s success (verses 7-8)?

9. What are some ways the world says you can achieve success? Where does biblical success begin?

10. Think about your life. How faithfully are you applying these exhortations to biblical success to your life? Are there any changes you need to make so that you can have true, biblical success?

11. What does Joshua instruct the officers to command the people to do in verses 10-11? Why are those instructions significant? See Ex. 16:35 and Josh. 5:12.

12. In verses 12-15 Joshua tells the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to remember their promise. What commitment did the 2 ½ tribes make? See also Num. 32:1-5, 20-27 and Deut. 3:1-20.

13. Taking into account what you learned in Question #12, why was it so important that the 2 ½ tribes help their brothers? See also Num. 32:6-15.

14. Eager Beaver: Num. 26:7, 18, 34 record that 136,930 men were of age to go to war. Yet Josh. 4:13 states that only 40,000 of these men crossed over to fight with their brothers. Turn to Deut. 20:1-9 to review God's weeding out process. What principle did God want them to know and practice, even in this crucial time of conquering the land?

15. What kind of response do the 2 ½ tribes give Joshua in verses 16-18?

16. Were the 2 ½ tribes being overly zealous when they promised to kill anyone who didn't obey Joshua? See Deut. 17:12-13.

17. Still looking at Deut. 17:12-13, consider *wit* means to be *presumptuous* (NIV *contemptuous*)? What is a presumptuous person rebelling against according to those verses? Why does presumption need to be dealt with so severely?

18. How would the 2 ½ tribes deal with *you*? Are you guilty of presumptuous sins against the leaders God has placed over you for your good or against God Himself? How should you respond when you discover those attitudes in yourself? See Ps. 19:12-14.

19. Look back over the chapter and note each time *LORD* or the *LORD your God* is used. What do you learn about the character of God from each instance?

20. Go through this chapter and list each of the commands given. For example: *Now arise, cross this Jordan* (both in verse 2).

21. Review the commands you wrote down in question #20. Some of the commands were not intended for us today, but quite a few of those commands transcend time to apply to us *today*. What are the consequences for not obeying these commands in your life? How can you begin *today* to follow the commands revealed in this chapter?