

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 7 – “Joshua”
March 11, 2007

The Book of Joshua represents...

- A new section of the Bible—the first of the historical books of the Old Testament.
- A new era in the history of God’s people—the Conquest of the Promised Land
- A new leader for God’s people—Joshua. (Also the author of this book.)
- An Old Testament illustration of the Christian life.

*Outline of the Book of Joshua:
A Spiritual Journey Based on Geographical Landmarks*

1. Egypt – The Nature of Sin

Egypt represents the general spiritual condition of mankind. We all are in bondage to sin until Christ (our “Moses”) comes to lead us out. **Romans 3:10, 23**

2. The Red Sea – The Necessity of Sacrifice (The Shed Blood of Christ)

Salvation, like the parting of the Red Sea, is a miraculous act of divine deliverance.

We cannot achieve salvation apart from Christ. Our way of passage from death unto life is provided through Him and Him alone. **John 14:6**

Once Christ sets you free, Satan cannot again enslave you. **John 8:34-36**

The destruction of Pharaoh’s pursuing forces is a picture of the believer’s eternal security in Christ. **Romans 8:1, 35-39; John 10:27-30.**

3. Mount Sinai—The Purpose of the Law

The purpose of the Law is not to save us. The purpose of the Law is to show us the necessity for a Savior. **Galatians 3:24**

The Law sets forth God’s standards. The Law reveals the distance between holy God and sinful man, a distance so great that only Christ can bridge it.

We are not saved by keeping the Law (i.e., salvation by works). We are saved when we put our faith in the One to whom the Law points (i.e., salvation by grace). **Ephesians 2:8-10**

4. **The Wilderness—The Tragedy of Spiritual Mediocrity**

God doesn't deliver us from Egypt just to get us to the Wilderness. But, unfortunately, this is precisely where many Christians dwell. They've stopped short of Jordan and the Promised Land.

- The Wilderness is the place of purposeless existence.
- The Wilderness is the place of partial obedience.

5. **The Jordan River—The Crossroads of Discipleship. Joshua 3-4**

Spiritual growth always requires faith and action (i.e., trust and obedience). We must be willing to step forward and “get our feet wet.”

Spiritual markers play an important role in our faith journey. They are powerful witnesses to others and powerful reminders to us.

6. **Canaan (The Promised Land)—The Fullness of Christ (Spiritual Maturity)**

This is the place where God wants us to live. **John 10:10.**

- Caution # 1: We never fully “arrive” in this life.
- Caution # 2: Even in the Promised Land, there are still enemies to be engaged, there are still battles to be fought.

7. **The Battle of Jericho—Experiencing Victory in Christ. Joshua 5-6.**

- Sometimes God uses strange strategies in order to achieve His purposes.
- Victory and blessing come when we do things God's way.

8. **The Battle of Ai—Suffering Spiritual Setbacks. Joshua 7-8.**

- Spiritual complacency can lead to unexpected disaster.
- Secret sin is serious business.
- Spiritual defeat is a time for prayerful introspection, evaluation, confession, and repentance.
 - Don't settle for less than God intended. **Joshua 22:1-4 (Numbers 32)**
 - The choice is yours. **Joshua 24:14-15**