

Old Testament Survey: 6

Great Expectations [part 1]

Joshua – 1 Samuel

As we open the book of Joshua, we see Israel about to enter the land that God had promised to bring them into. This land was promised to Abraham and was included in the promises of Genesis 12 and Genesis 15.

At many times it seemed that Israel would never get there:

- Pharaoh prevented them from leaving Egypt on many occasions
- their first attempt to enter the land failed because of their unbelief
- a whole unbelieving generation died in the interim period

Excitement and expectation builds as Israel prepares to possess their inheritance.

Moses has died and Joshua has been raised up to lead the children of Israel into this new land.

JOSHUA

Joshua 1.6-8

God is bringing His people in to the land because of the promise He made to Abraham. He gives them the instruction as to what He expects from them:

- to be strong and courageous
- to observe the Law and not turn from it
- to meditate and keep the word of God prominent in their lives

If they followed these instructions, they would be prosperous and successful.

Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land, they have a great victory at Jericho and more victories follow as they march through the land. Cities fall as God fights the battles for His people. Right before their eyes God is fulfilling the promises He made to Abraham – but how do they treat Him in return?

- **Joshua 7.1** Here we read that they did not follow God's instructions at Jericho – **they disobeyed and sinned**. This sin cost them the victory at Ai.
- **Joshua 9.14-15** They allowed strangers to join them and refused to seek God's mind – **they ignored Him**. They entered into covenant with their enemies against God's instruction given to them in Deuteronomy 7.1-4
- **Joshua 17.12-13** They allowed certain Caananites to stay in the land – **they disobeyed God's command**. They were told to expel all the inhabitants of the land.

- **Joshua 18.1-3** Some tribes hadn't taken possession of their allotment – **they had disregarded God's promise** and neglected to take possession of what was rightfully and already theirs.
- **Joshua 24.19-24** They served other gods – **they had forsaken God, were disloyal and they had broken the first of the commandments.**

Joshua ends with a clarion call for the people to choose to follow after God, to put away any foreign gods and to serve Him faithfully (Joshua 24.14-25). The people unanimously declare to serve God and obey Him.

Joshua was:

- **a servant** – the servant of Moses (Exodus 24.13; Numbers 11.28) and was often found busy around the Tabernacle (Exodus 33.11).
- **a soldier**– He too was an experienced military leader who knew how to plan campaigns, discipline his forces, use spies but above all pray and trust in God. He fought and won a great victory over the Amalekites (Exodus 17.9-16)
- **a spy** – one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to go into Canaan. He returned and encouraged the people to trust God and go in and take possession (Numbers 13.16; Numbers 14.6-9)
- **a saviour** – His name means saviour. Moses, who represented the Law, brought the people of God to the borders of the Promised Land. Joshua took them into the fullness of the blessing. Jesus fully brings us into the blessing of God, it took a Saviour to bring us in, something which the Law was unable to do. The Law was only given until the Saviour came (Galatians 3.19).
- **a statesman** – he displayed an unselfish statesmanship. Once the division of the land was complete, he carried on by setting up the Tabernacle, appointing the cities of refuge, and arrangement of the Levitical order and service.
- **a saint** – His Godly character marked him out as successor to Moses.
 - He was filled with the Spirit of God (Deuteronomy 34.9)
 - He enjoyed the presence of God (Joshua 1.5; Joshua 6.27)
 - He was indwelt by the word of God (Joshua 1.8)
 - He was obedient to the will of God (Numbers 32.12; Joshua 5.14)
 - He left Israel a great Godly legacy (Joshua 24.31; Judges 2.7-8)