

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

Have you ever read a chapter in the Bible but then could not remember what you had read? Have you ever fallen asleep while reading? An hour after you read, do you retain what you have read? These problems destroy enjoyment in Bible reading and therefore we must use a method of Bible reading that will solve this problem. To read properly we must be keen observers. We must see words and phrases that stand out while at the same time collecting the whole thought. Remember, the important thing is not how many times you have gone through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has gone through you!

Observe // what do I see?

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for your study. The text is given to you so that you will underline, circle, box, and highlight important words as you read. As you read look for comparisons, contrasts, purposes, results, causes, explanations, conclusions, and conditions. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why, and how as you read. Keep asking these questions as you read to prevent a lazy brain while reading. Look for themes and main ideas from the passage.

Interpret // what does it mean?

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Reread through the passage after your observation notations have been made looking to answer what the passage means. Record your explanations of the text in the workbook.

Apply // how does this affect me?

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. Write down lessons that you have learned for you own life especially things that you see you need to change. Only you know your heart and what is happening in your life to be able to apply God's word directly to you. Bible study is fruitless if we do not take the information we have learned and directly change our lives. Write down how the passage affects you. The transformation section in the workbook will help you in this effort.

Share // how can I share my findings with us?

Now we want to share our findings with others. We want to share our observations, interpretations, and applications with others in the Bible class. This is your opportunity to hear what others have found in their studies and for you to share what you found. By doing this we are able to build one another up and grow up in the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:12-13). If we do not share what we have found then we will be unable to grow together as the family of Christ.

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

The book is named after the successor of Moses and new leader of Israel. While not considered part of the Pentateuch, the book of Joshua brings the story of Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan to completion. As with the other narrative books of the Old Testament, the book of Joshua must not be read as merely a narrative. It is all too easy for us to do that with this book: tell the stories to the children about how the people of Israel conquered Jericho and occupied the land. But this book continues to reveal pictures of our redemption. There are two key pictures to observe as you study this book. First, God's promise of the inheritance is unfailing. God is willing and able to achieve the promises. God will keep his promise of his people entering the promised land. Second, success to enter the promised land will depend on his people on being strong and courageous to trust in these promises. Will we be courageous enough to believe in God's promises? Will we have the strength to trust in God or not? This is the framework and theme for this book.

There is also important typology for this book. Moses cannot lead the people into the promised land. But Joshua can lead the people into the promised land and he will lead them in. Joshua will lead the people and give them rest. Joshua is pictured as the new Moses, which will be seen on many occasions throughout the book of Joshua. The redemption events of the exodus will be repeated in the book of Joshua under his leadership. Further, the scriptures make it very easy for us to see this typology because the name "Joshua" in the Hebrew language is the name "Jesus" in the Greek. Joshua's name means "Yahweh saves." In fact, we know this typology must be here because Joshua's given name was not Joshua. Moses changed his name from Hoshea (salvation) to Joshua (Yahweh saves) (cf. Numbers 13:16). So we need to keep our eye on the New Testament as we study the book of Joshua because Joshua and the work God accomplishes through him are a picture of how God will bring people into the eternal promised land. God is calling for his people to have a deeper faith, to be strong and courageous, and trust him like never before. This is a second chance to enter the promised land after catastrophic failure. Are we listening?

OUTLINING JOSHUA:

_____ (Joshua 1-5)

_____ (Joshua 6-12)

_____ (Joshua 13-21)

_____ (Joshua 22-24)

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Imagine being Joshua and hearing what the Lord told him in verses 1-4. What would you think and feel about this?
- 2 How has God prepared Joshua for this moment (Exodus 17:8-13; 24:13; 32:17; 33:11; Deuteronomy 31:7)?
- 3 What does the Lord tell Joshua three times (1:5-9)? Why do you think the Lord needs to do this?
- 4 How was Joshua supposed to be able to be strong and courageous (1:5-9)? What different things does the Lord tell Joshua that would give him this strength and courage?
- 5 Are these same promises made to us (cf. Ephesians 6:10-11; Hebrews 13:5-6)? How can we be strong like Joshua was to be strong?
- 6 What does Joshua remind the Trans-Jordan tribes about (1:10-15)? What is the response of those people (1:16-18)?
- 7 What do the people tell Joshua (1:18)? What do we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Why would lodging in the house of a prostitute be a good hiding place for the spies?

- 2 Why did Rahab hide the spies (2:8-13)?

- 3 What acts of faith do we see exhibited by Rahab in this chapter?

- 4 Read Matthew 1:1-17. What do you learn about why Rahab? What does this mean for her?

- 5 What is Rahab praised for in Hebrews 11:29-31?

- 6 What example does Rahab stand for in James 2:21-26?

- 7 Write down the background and character of Rahab? What is God showing about how he would save people?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What does God instruct the people regarding crossing the Jordan River in 3:1-6? What was the reason for these directions?
- 2 What was God going to do for crossing the Jordan River (3:7-17)? What time of the year was it and what did that mean for the river?
- 3 What does the crossing of the Jordan River reenact in Israel's history? What is the message?
- 4 What was the purpose of the memorial stones (4:1-24)? In what ways are these directions similar to the directions of the Passover? What is the message?
- 5 Why were the men circumcised after crossing the river (5:1-9)? Is this a good military strategy? What is God teaching? What is the message?
- 6 What day was it when the people came through the Jordan River and camped on the other side (5:10-12)? What is the message?
- 7 In what ways were the people required to show faith in God in these three chapters?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Explain the commander of the Lord's armies' response to Joshua's question. What does the commander mean? What does Joshua understand by his response?

- 2 Based on what Joshua is told to do and what he does, who is the commander of the Lord's army? How does this parallel Moses in Exodus?

- 3 Explain the directions for conquering Jericho. What was the requirement of faith? Do you think you would have faith to do something as illogical as this command?

- 4 What other important directions are given (6:17-21)?

- 5 Who is spared (6:22-25)? Why?

- 6 What did this event accomplish (6:27)? Why is this important?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the reason for the failure at Ai (7:1,10-12)?
- 2 Explain Joshua's prayer (7:6-9). What is he expressing to God? What is the basis of his request?
- 3 What needed to be done before God would continue with Israel (7:10-15)? What do we learn?
- 4 Why is Achan's confession not enough for his rescue (7:16-21)? Why does he still die for his error? What do we learn?
- 5 Write down all the people affected by the sin of Achan in chapter 7? What do we learn about sin and its effects?
- 6 What does God tell Joshua once Achan's sin is dealt with (8:1-2)? What will the people be allowed to do that is different from the Jericho attack? How does this tie to Achan's sin?
- 7 Describe the nature of the attack on Ai. How does God give the victory?
- 8 What does Joshua do in verses 30-35? Where was Israel commanded to do this? What is the message after the Ai incident?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What are the cities in the land of Canaan planning (9:1-2)? Why?

- 2 Explain what the Gibeonites do.

- 3 Why do the leaders of Israel make a mistake? What do they fail to do (9:14)? What do we learn from this?

- 4 Why do the leaders refuse to attack the various Gibeonite cities (9:16-21)?

- 5 Why did the Gibeonites deceive the Israelites (9:22-25)? What did they know? Compare their response and actions to Rahab's response and actions.

- 6 What did Joshua do (9:26-27)? What redemptive pictures are found here?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What problem does the king of Jerusalem have (10:1-2)? What is his solution (10:1-5)?

- 2 What do the Gibeonites do (10:6)? What does Joshua do in response? Is God for saving Gibeon or destroying Gibeon? Explain why.

- 3 What miracle does Joshua ask the Lord to do? What does the text say is the amazing thing about this event (10:14)?

- 4 What is recorded in the rest of chapter 10?

- 5 What is recorded in chapter 11? Look at 11:23. What has God accomplished through Joshua?

- 6 What is recorded in chapter 12?

- 7 Consider that the battle at Gibeon in Joshua 10 is the last war and miracle recorded in the conquest of Canaan. What was the big message that Joshua wanted Israel to learn? What was the big message that God wanted Israel to learn? What is the message for us?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What problem is described in Joshua 13:1-7? What is God's plan?

- 2 What does Caleb request (14:6-15)? How old is he? What do we learn from Caleb? What do we learn about his faith?

- 3 What does chapter 15 record? What is the message?

- 4 Read the following scriptures: 15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13. What is the problem? Why are they having a problem?

- 5 What is the problem the people of Joseph have (17:14-18)? What is Joshua's solution? What problem do the people of Israel have with Joshua's solution? What is Joshua's response?

- 6 Considering chapters 16-17, what is the problem the people are having? Why are they having a problem? What is the failure of faith? What do we learn from this?

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the charge Joshua makes (18:1-3)? What seems to have been Israel's problem?

- 2 What is described in chapters 18-19? What is the primary point?

- 3 What is taught in chapter 20? Where are a more thorough declaration about this topic recorded? What is the primary message?

- 4 What is given to the Levites in chapter 21?

- 5 Read Joshua 21:43-45. This can be consider the key to the whole book. What did God do? What did God give?

- 6 Consider Hebrews 4:6-10. How did God give the promised rest to Israel yet the writer of Hebrews say that Joshua did not give them rest? Explain how to reconcile these texts. What do we learn?

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Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the charge Joshua gives to the two and a half tribes before they go back to the east side of the Jordan (22:1-6)?

- 2 What is given to the two and a half tribes as they return to their land (22:7-9)?

- 3 What did these two and a half tribes build (22:10-12)? What was the response of Israel?

- 4 Before going to war, what does Phinehas and the heads of the tribes do (22:13-20)? Write down what points they make. What do we learn from this?

- 5 What was the response of the two and a half tribes (22:21-29)? Why did they do this act? What do we learn from this?

- 6 What was the response of Phinehas and the heads of the tribes to the answer given by the two and a half tribes (22:30-34)? What do we learn from this?

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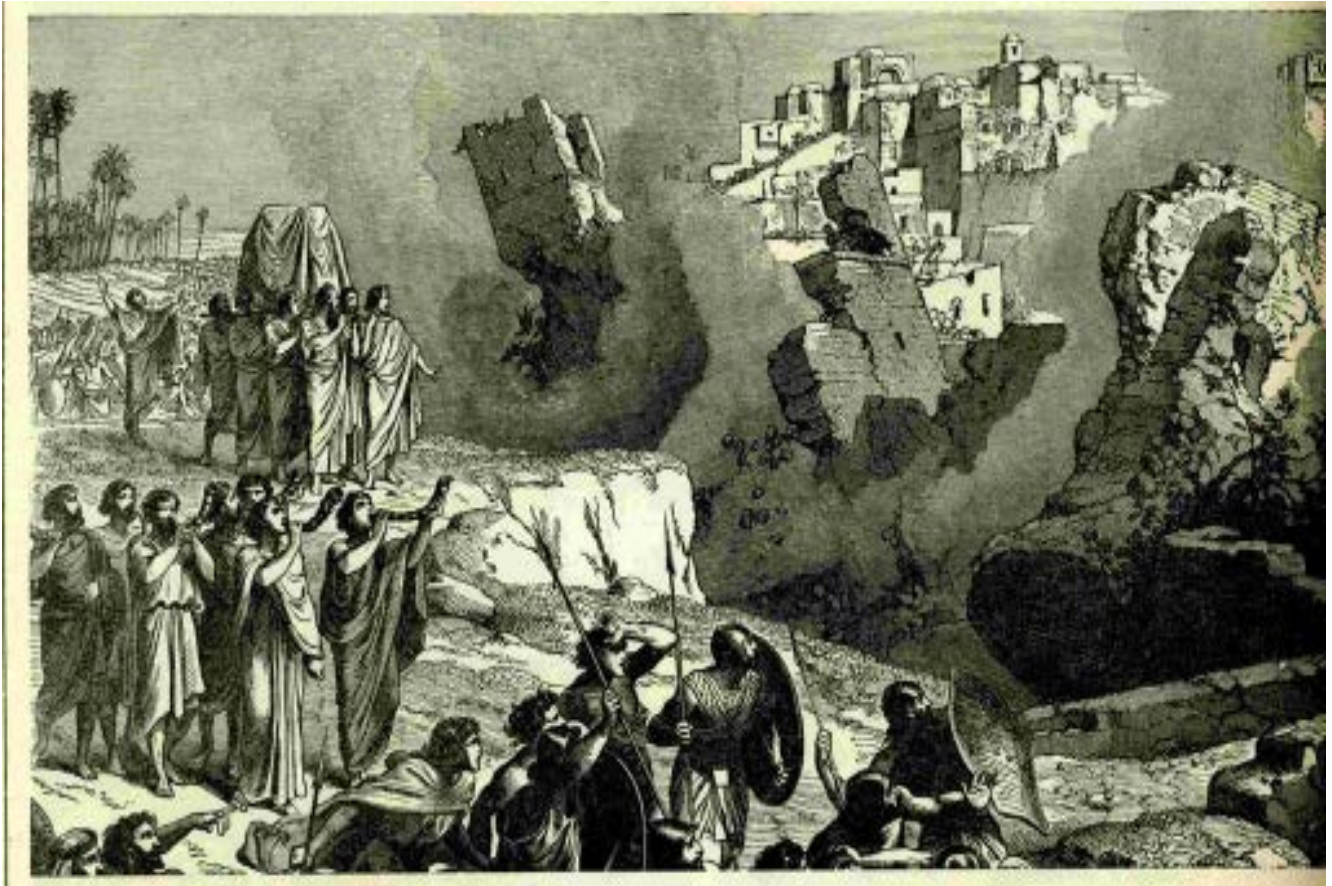
Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is Joshua's first charge to all Israel (23:1-13)?
- 2 What is Joshua's message to Israel in 23:14-16?
- 3 What is Joshua's message to Israel in 24:1-13? Why does he rehearse these things?
- 4 What is Joshua's second charge to all Israel (24:14-16)?
- 5 How do the people respond (24:17-18)?
- 6 How does Joshua respond to the people's response (24:19-20)? Why does he respond this way?
- 7 How do the people respond (24:21)? How does Joshua respond to them (24:22-28)? What does Joshua do?
- 8 What is Joshua called for the first time (24:29)? Who else was called this at the end of his life (1:1)?
- 9 How does the book end (24:29-33)? What is the message?

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JOSHUA



STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville

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