



# JOSHUA

## OCTOBER 2019

Read on your own or with others,  
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to it than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

## **THE END OF THE JOURNEY?**

In one sense the book of Joshua is the end of an epic journey for God's people. Back in Genesis God made a promise to Abraham that he would make a great nation out of his descendants and establish them in the land of Canaan (Genesis 17:4-8).

Hundreds of years have passed and now this promise is coming true. At the beginning of the book of Joshua the people of Israel are on the bank of the River Jordan staring across into the Promised Land. As we read through its pages the people conquer the land and God is declared to be faithful to all his promises (Joshua 23:14).

Yet, the story does not end here. Israel were not able to keep God's Covenant (Joshua 24:19). There is a need for another Joshua (Joshua is the Hebrew version of the name Jesus) who would come and meet the demands of the covenant and usher in a new covenant where hearts would be changed, sins forgiven and an eternal inheritance secured (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

### **1. GETTING READY TO ENTER: JOSHUA 1-5**

The early chapters of Joshua relay the events that took place as the people of Israel prepared to cross the Jordan and enter the land. There are two key events that take place. First, a new leader is chosen by God. This leader is Joshua, Moses' assistant. However, the book is clear that although Israel had a new human leader, ultimately God is still in charge (Joshua 5:13-15).

Second, the people were called to consecrate themselves to God (Joshua 3:5). Before they could go into the land they had to dedicate themselves to serving, following and obeying God.

### **2. THE CONQUEST: JOSHUA 6-12**

These chapters tell us about some of the battles and events surrounding the conquest of Canaan. They read like a rollercoaster ride. There are the highs of the incredible victories that God gave to the people. Yet, there are also the lows of Israel's disobedience and foolishness.

The climax of this section is not a great miracle by God or a great

victory on the battle field. It is the renewal of the covenant between God and the people of Israel.

In obedience to Moses' words in Deuteronomy 27-28 Joshua builds an altar on Mount Ebal and the people are reminded of the blessings and curses of the covenant. If they follow God he will graciously bless them, if they turn to other Gods he will bring judgment.

### **3. THE LAND SHARED: JOSHUA 13-21**

Having conquered most of the land, God commands Joshua to share the land among the people of Israel so that each tribe will have an inheritance (Joshua 13:6-7). Here are some things of note in these chapters:

- The many place names show us the care with which God shared the land and apportioned each tribe their inheritance.
- God is faithful and keeps his promises (Joshua 21:43-45).
- God is not just faithful to the nation as a whole, but to the individuals within it – Caleb (Joshua 14:6-15) & Zelophehad's daughters (Joshua 17:3-6).

### **4. LAID TO REST: JOSHUA 22-24**

The land has been sufficiently conquered and it is now time for the Eastern Tribes to head home. These are the tribes who had asked to receive an inheritance on the other side of the Jordan. Yet, will they be faithful to follow the Lord?

That's the main concern for these chapters, but not only for the Eastern Tribes. As Joshua approaches his death he challenges the entire nation of Israel to follow God (Joshua 24:23).

The book ends with the death of Joshua and of Eleazar the priest. They are both buried in the land of their inheritance and we are also told about the burial of Joseph's bones that had been brought back from Egypt.

## **ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK**

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life? (Matthew 7:24-27)