

Joshua Introduction

- The book of Joshua picks up where the book of Deuteronomy leaves off, being written in about 1450 BC
- Though Joshua may have written some of the book, certain parts of the book prove that he didn't write all of it
- Courage was Joshua's greatest trait (Ex. 17:10; Josh. 24:15; 1:5, and he urged it on others 1:6)
- Describes the fulfillment of the land promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1 — Joshua 21:43-45; 23:14 states this fulfillment
- Describes the conquest of a land controlled by powerful people (Numbers 13:28; Deut. 1:28; 9:1; Josh. 11:4, 6, 9; 17:16 mentions "chariots of iron")
- Book can be divided equally into two groups of twelve chapters: The first 12 covering the conquest of Canaan and the second 12 covering the partitioning of the tribal lands
- According to Caleb's speech in Joshua 14:7-10, the conquest took about 5 years (Caleb was 40 when he and others spied out the land, then 40 years of wilderness wandering, leaves 5 for the conquest)
- Conquest began on the eastern side of Canaan, north of the dead sea. An assault from the south would have made travel and battle difficult due to mountain ranges
- An assault from the east may have been unexpected due to the swollen waters of the Jordan river at that time of the year (Josh. 3:15)
- Conquering and destroying Jericho and Ai gave Israel a wedge-like assault path (divide and conquer approach)
- Too, they were miraculously assisted by God!