



# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Seeing the Big Picture

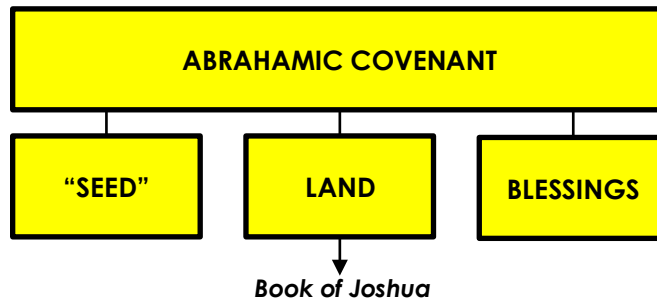
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### PART 6: THE CONQUEST PERIOD

The conquest period described in the book of Joshua is from the death of Moses to the conquering and division of the Promised Land. The book of Joshua is an extension of the land promises in the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:7; 1-15; 15:18-20). The main characters are Joshua Caleb and Rahab.



#### I. Phase 1: The Israelites enter the Promised Land (1:1—5:12)

- A. God commissions Joshua to take Moses' place as leader of Israel (1:1-2)**
- B. God reaffirms the boundaries of the Promised Land (1:3-9)**
- C. Joshua prepares the people to enter the Promised Land (1:10-18)**
- D. Rahab and the spies (2:1-24)**
  - Joshua sends spies into Jericho.
  - The King of Jericho asks Rahab to inform him if she sees the spies.
  - Instead, she protects them in her house built into the wall of Jericho.
- E. Crossing the Jordan (3:1—5:12) into the Promised Land**
  - Jordan River (like the Red Sea) dries up as they cross it.
  - Gilgal: They erected 12 stones at Gilgal to commemorate the event.
  - Gilgal became their base camp until the land was conquered.
  - Israelite army has about 40,000 armed men
  - Uncircumcised men are circumcised to renew their commitment to the Mosaic covenant.
  - Manna stops and they now live off the Land.

#### II. PHASE 2: The Israelites conquer the Promised Land (5:13—12:24)

- A. Joshua attacks the center portion of the Promised Land**
  - The fall of Jericho (5:13-6:27)
  - Achan's sin (7:1-26)
  - Ai destroyed (8:1-29)
  - Covenant renewed at Mount Ebal (8:30-35)

## B. Joshua attacks the southern portion of the Promised Land (9:1-10:43)

- The Gibeonite deception (9:1-27)
- The sun stands still (10:1-15)
- Five Amorite kings killed (10:16-28)
- Southern cities conquered (10:29-43)

## C. Joshua attacks the northern portion of the Promised Land (11:1-15)

- Jabin, king of Hazor gathered the kings of Madon, Shimron, Acshaph, and other northern kings (11:1-5).
- They confronted the Israelites at the Waters of Merom.
- Joshua, probably at night, at God's direction they hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots (11:6-7).
- Nothing was spared (11:8-15).

## D. Summary of the conquests (11:16--12:24)

- Defeat of the Canaanite kings (11:16--12:23).
- Victory of the Israelites (12:24-43).

# III. PHASE 3: The Israelites divide the Promised Land among the twelve tribes (13:1— 24:33)

## A. The tribes receive their land (13:1—19:51)

## B. Special cities are set aside (20:1-21:45)

- Cities of refuge for those who kill someone accidentally.
- Towns given to Levites (descendants of Aaron).

## C. Eastern tribes return home (22:1-34)

- Tribe of Reuben.
- Tribe of Gad.
- Half-tribe of Manasseh.

## D. Joshua's farewell to the leaders (23:1-24:33)

- He reminds Israel to keep the Mosaic Covenant.
- He dies at age 110, buried in hill country of Ephraim.

## IV. Summary

The book of Joshua describes how Sovereign God keeps his promise to Abraham that he would give his descendants a specific land of their own. Here we see that God is a faithful, dependable promise (covenant) keeper. In the book of Judges we also learn that the individual tribes failed to drive out all of the Canaanites which resulted in their being plagued for years afterward--God expects 100% obedience, not 90%.

