

# Possessing the Promises

## Introduction to Joshua

Lesson 1

### **FIRST DAY:** Introduction

The Bible offers a myriad of promises! It is God's divine power that has *given to us exceedingly great and precious promises* (2 Peter 1:4). That means that these promises have become ours through Jesus Christ: *For all the promises of God are Yes and in Him (Jesus) Amen, to the glory of God* (2 Corinthians 1:20). Though all believers are recipients of these amazing promises, most promises go unclaimed in our lives because of a failure to know them, embrace them, and walk in them. This study through the book of Joshua will give us insights on how to know, embrace, and walk in the *exceedingly great and precious promises* God has for each one of us!

As we study this book we will be introduced to Joshua. His name means *God saves* and is the Hebrew equivalent of the name *Jesus*. Joshua serves as a typology or foreshadowing of Jesus, Who takes us into all God's promises. Joshua was given a daunting assignment by God: he succeeded Moses (the deliverer and leader of Israel), led the people into the Promised Land, fought hostile forces, and distributed the allotments to the tribes of Israel.

Most commentators believe that Joshua was the author of this book that bears his name: *Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God* (Joshua 24:26). This book is the first of the twelve historical books found in the Bible. It chronicles the conquering of the land, and the preparations needed in the lives of Joshua and the Israelites in order to possess the Promised Land.

Joshua led the Israelites in three military campaigns, and fought against over thirty different enemy armies. Under Joshua's leadership the people learned vital lessons on how to inherit not only the land, but also the promises of God.

As you study the background of this amazing book, may you be inspired to prepare your heart to receive the *exceedingly great and precious promises* God has for you.

*Ask God to open your heart and mind through the study of Joshua so that you can know, embrace, and walk in the promises God has in store for you!*

## **SECOND DAY: Joshua's Enlistment**

1. We are introduced to Joshua in Exodus 17:8-16 when *Amalek came and fought with Israel* as they journeyed in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. Use these verses to note and comment on:

a. Joshua's commission (verse 9)

b. Joshua's response (verse 10)

c. Joshua's battle (verses 11-13)

d. Joshua's *memorial* (verses 14-16)

(1) Why do you think God wanted Moses to *recount* this to Joshua?

2. Joshua is mentioned during Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness. From the following Scriptures record what else you learn about Joshua:

a. Exodus 24:12-14

b. Exodus 33:10-11

(1) What stands out to you from these references?

3. From your study today, in what way are you encouraged by the character of Joshua?

### **THIRD DAY: Joshua's Faith**

1. In the book of Numbers, we continue to see Joshua's maturity as a leader prior to entering the Promised Land. Read Numbers 11:24-30 and record a lesson Joshua might have learned from Moses.

a. Compare this with Jesus' words in Luke 9:49-50 and share your thoughts.

2. According to Numbers 13:16, Joshua was one of the men sent to *spy out the land* that the Lord was giving to Israel. The majority of the spies gave a *bad report* and struck fear into the hearts of the Israelites (Numbers 13:31-14:4). However, Joshua and Caleb gave a different report. Use Numbers 14:6-9 to remark on their appraisal of:

a. The *bad report* (verse 6)

b. The *land* (verses 7-8)

c. The *people of the land* (verse 9)

d. The *LORD* (verses 8-9)

(1) What was Joshua's recommendation to the people?

(2) Honestly, how do you think you might have responded to such a report?

3. Use Numbers 14:29-34, 36-38 to contrast the consequences for:

a. Those who gave the *bad report*

b. Joshua and Caleb

(1) How does this speak to you?

(2) Read Numbers 32:12 to identify and comment on the key to Joshua and Caleb's faith.

4. In Numbers 27:18–23 the LORD commanded Moses to begin giving *authority* to Joshua and to *inaugurate* him before the people. What stands out to you from this command?

5. Note from Numbers 34:17 what Moses said about Joshua.

6. From your study today, how do you see Joshua maturing as the future leader of Israel?

## FOURTH DAY: Joshua's Preparation

1. When the time finally came to enter into the Promised Land, Moses could not enter. In his stead, Joshua would take the people into all God promised. Note and comment on the following promises God made concerning Joshua:
  - a. Deuteronomy 1:38
  
  - b. Deuteronomy 3:21-22
  
  - c. Deuteronomy 3:28
  
2. At the end of his life, Moses declared God's plan to the whole nation of Israel: *The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said* (Deuteronomy 31:3). He then spoke to Joshua *in the sight of all Israel*. Use Deuteronomy 31:7-8 to remark on Moses' declaration concerning:
  - a. God's plan
  
  - b. God's promise
  
  - c. God's presence

(1) How do you think Joshua would have felt when he heard this declaration?

3. What do you find noteworthy about Joshua from the scene in Deuteronomy 34:5-9?

4. From your study today, why do you think Joshua was now prepared to enter the Promised Land?

a. Share a way God is preparing you to enter His promises.

### **FIFTH DAY:** The Promised Land

1. When God first called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, He made a promise concerning His deliverance. According to Exodus 3:8, what did God promise to:

a. Deliver them *out of*

b. Deliver them *to*

(1) David Guzik says, *The land of Canaan belonged to Israel since the day God promised it to Abraham (Genesis 12:5-7)*. God reiterated these promises here to Moses over 400 years later. How does this enrich your understanding of God's promises?

2. Years later, as Moses prepared the people to enter Canaan under Joshua's command, he rehearsed God's promises concerning the *land*. Use Deuteronomy 6:10-11 to describe what Moses said about this *land*.

a. What do you think would have been the most encouraging aspect of this promise?

3. Enumerate the blessings of the Promised Land from the following Scriptures:

a. Deuteronomy 8:7-9

b. Deuteronomy 11:11-12

(1) According to Deuteronomy 8:6, what was the prerequisite for enjoying such blessings?

(2) Why do you think this is so vital?

4. From your study today what resonates with you?

