

BIBLE CHURCH

santa rosa

DATE: March 1, 2015

SPEAKER: Pastor Josh Carrillo

Route 66: The TRUE STORY of God, His Glory & Our Rescue in Christ

JOSHUA

AUTHOR AND DATE:

JOSHUA ("Jehovah saves") is named for its main character. Even though the author is not clearly mentioned, Joshua is most likely the writer as he was a witness to the events recorded in the book (Josh. 24:26). The conclusion of the book recording Joshua's death was probably written by a trusted assistant (Josh. 24:29-33). Sections like the one that references Rahab as still being alive at the time of its writing (Josh. 6:25) allude to an estimated date written between 1405 to 1385 B.C. Joshua is the first of what is known as "the historical books." These books include Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel, 1–2 Kings, 1–2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Together, they span close to 1,000 years of history, and tell the story of:

1. Israel's entry into the Promised Land of Canaan under Joshua.
2. Israel's life in the land under the judges and the transition to kings.
3. The division of the nation into two rival kingdoms (Israel and Judah) and life in both.
4. The downfall and exile of both Israel and Judah.
5. Life in the exile (Israel by Assyria and Judah by Babylon).
6. Judah's return from exile.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA records the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham (Gen. 13:15) and Moses (Ex. 3:8) in giving Israel the Promised Land. As a result, Joshua is a lesson on the faithfulness of God and trustworthiness of His promises (Josh. 21:43-45; 23:14). At the same time, the book sets the stage for the beginning of a new age in God's dealing with His people, namely, God's response to Israel's failure to trust Him and live up to covenant responsibilities (Israel's commitment to God, His Word, and His people). This had been characteristic of Israel in the past, as seen in Genesis through Deuteronomy, and is illustrated in Joshua and the rest of the historical books that follow.

WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

To remind Israel of God's faithfulness to His promises in bringing them into the Promised Land and to teach them how to live in the land that He had given them.

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Podcasts can be downloaded at www.srbible.org

BIG IDEA:

God's faithfulness to His promises and His people leads them to rest in and follow Him.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

GOD, Joshua, Rahab, Achan, Eleazar, the people of Israel.

KEY PASSAGES:

Joshua 1 — God's call of Joshua.
Joshua 2 — Rahab and the spies.
Joshua 3-4 — The crossing of the Jordan.
Joshua 6 — The fall of Jericho.
Joshua 7 — Achan's sin and Israel's defeat.
Joshua 10 — The sun standing still at Gibeon.
Joshua 24 — The covenant renewed at Shechem.

KEY THEMES:

- VICTORY — God is the conqueror who brings His people into the promised land and gives them rest.
- PRESENCE — God's presence is the foundation for strength and courage (Josh. 1:5, 9).
- POWER — God's power is seen in His salvation and judgment (Josh. 2:14-20; 6:23; 7:25-26).
- UNITY — God brings His people together as part of His family (Josh. 18:1-10; 22:34).
- Sovereignty — God's control and authority is on display in giving His people both land and rest (Josh. 1:13; 11:23; 21:43-45).
- FAITHFULNESS — God's is faithful to fulfill all of His promises (Josh. 1:2; 10:1-15; 21:43-45).
- OBEDIENCE — God calls and enables His people to follow Him for His glory and their good (Josh. 1:8).
- REPENTANCE/WORSHIP — The importance of getting rid of idols and worshipping God alone (Josh. 24:14-28).

WHERE IS JESUS?

The book of Joshua (Josh. 1-24) — Israel's conquest over their enemies, led by Joshua, points to Jesus conquering His enemies (Satan, sin, and death) through His life, death, resurrection, and promised return (John 19:30; Rom. 5:18; Rev. 5:9-10).

Joshua 5:13-15 - The Commander of the LORD's army. Jesus is the ruler and head over all things, who achieves victory for His people (Matt. 28:18; Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 17:14; 19:11-21).

WHAT ABOUT US?

Joshua teaches us that:

God is in control of all things and is working everything out for His glory and His people's good. This is evident throughout the book of Joshua. God is present with His people, faithful to them at all times, and calls them to faithfully follow and worship Him.

Just as God was with His people and used His people to accomplish His plans in ancient times (Josh. 1:5-9; Josh. 2:6), He is with us today and will use us to get His work done (Matt. 28:18-20). Knowing this gives us confidence in Him. Because of Jesus He is with us, will use us, and is working in our lives for His glory, our good, and the good of others.

God's work done in God's way is the only way to life and victory. The greatest example of this is Jesus, whom the Father sent to accomplish salvation and give us life and victory through Him (Acts 4:23-24; Rom. 3:24-26). As a result, we must depend on Him for strength to help us live in a way that promotes the life and the victory found in Him alone (Rom. 8:31-39; Eph. 6:10; Phil. 4:13).

