

BOOK OF JOSHUA: THEMES AND MAP

Themes

- God's faithfulness to his promises
- Conquest, settlement, and life in the land
- The covenant between God and Israel
- God's holiness and judgment
- The unity of God's people
- The role of Joshua as leader of Israel

Key People

Joshua – God chose him to be Israel's leader after Moses' death. He organized, led, and settled Israel in the land God had promised them.

Rahab – A pagan prostitute who showed

hospitality to Israel's spies, demonstrated amazing faith in God, and became part of God's covenant people. She is listed as one of Jesus' ancestors in his genealogy (Matt. 1:5).

Achan – His disobedience—he took plunder from the battlefield when Israel had been instructed to not take anything—caused Israel to lose an important battle against Ai. He was stoned to death as punishment (Josh. 7).

Eleazar – Son of Aaron, he took over the high priest's duties after Aaron had passed away (see Ex. 6:23; Num. 20:28). He helped Joshua leading Israel into the Promised Land.

Phinehas – Son of Eleazar, the high priest, and priest of Israel. His intervention to prevent the Israelites from polluting themselves and his zeal for God's covenant granted him a special covenant with God. He and his descendants would be priest of Israel forever (Josh. 22:13, 32–34; 24:33).

The Conquest

A common worry regarding the book, and a shocking realization for those who read it for the first time, are the commands to Israel to kill all inhabitants of the land, including women and children. God is serious about sin and its consequences. In this case, the Israelites were God's tool for punishing sin in the land. This war was no more cruel than any other at the time. As we find in the book of Judges, not all Canaanites were killed, since we find many of them living in the land. Most likely, women and children had fled to the woods to safety, something they were likely used to doing, since the region experienced much war.

DIVISION OF THE LAND

