

Old Testament Survey Lesson Ten

Introduction

From the Pentateuch to the Historical Books

- Pentateuch (5 scrolls authored by Moses)
- Historical Books (Joshua through Esther)

Books of the Law and History from a National Point of View

Book	Theme
Law: The Foundation for Christ	
Genesis	The election of the nation
Exodus	The redemption of the nation
Leviticus	The sanctification of the nation
Numbers	The direction of the nation
Deuteronomy	The instruction of the nation
History: The Preparation for Christ	
Joshua	The possession of the nation
Judges/Ruth	The oppression of the nation
1 Samuel	The kingdom of the nation
2 Samuel	The expansion of the nation
1 Kings 1-11	The glory of the nation
1 Kings 12-22	The division of the nation
2 Kings 1-17	The fall of the northern nation
2 Kings 18-25	The exile of the southern nation
1 Chronicles	The preparation of the nation's temple
2 Chronicles	The destruction of the nation's temple
Ezra	The restoration of the nation's capital city
Nehemiah	The rebuilding of the nation's capital city
Esther	The protection of the nation's people

(Chart: Norman Geisler)

- Historical books chronicle the establishment, destruction, and restoration of Israel as a nation.
- From conquering Canaan, Judges, Monarch, divided kingdom, exile, and return to homeland.

Four Movements in this section—

- Conquest and Life of Canaan (Joshua-1 Samuel)
- Monarchy (2 Samuel; 1 and 2 Kings; 1 and 2 Chronicles 1-9)
- Southern Kingdom of Judah (1 and 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles 10-36)
- Post exile books (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)

Moses' exhortations to Israel in Deuteronomy were clear

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. Deuteronomy 30:15-18 NKJV

- Had they heeded these words, their experience would have been far more peaceful and far less volatile.
- As years passed forgot those words and became more interested in their own pursuits than God's.
- But God remained faithful

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV

- He punished them but continued to raise up leaders to bring them out of bondage

I. About the Book of Joshua

- A. Author—Jewish tradition was Joshua
 - 1. Internal evidence may say otherwise
 - a. Clear that he wrote some

Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. Joshua 24:26 NKJV

- b. Account of his death requires someone else

Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being one hundred and ten years old. 30 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. Joshua 24:29-31 NKJV

- c. Common phrase “until this day” (4:9, 5:9, 7:26) suggests extended time elapses but not necessarily a long time
- d. Jebusites mentioned in Joshua 15:63 (1000 BC David drove them out of Jerusalem so before then)

As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day. Joshua 15:63 NKJV

(2 Samuel 5:6-10)

- e. Canaanites

And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers. Joshua 16:10 NKJV

—970 BC King of Egypt conquered Gezer (1 Kings 3:1; 9:16)

- 2. Likely reconciliation
 - a. Much of the book from eyewitness accounts, perhaps Joshua’s own hand
 - b. Clearly present before Solomon’s time
 - c. Probably Joshua plus compiler/editor
- B. Theme and Purpose (covers 25-35 years of Israel’s history)—around 1400 BC (Exodus in 1440)
 - 1. God kept his promise to Abraham regarding land.
 - 2. God eventually judges sin though rich in mercy.
 - 3. God judges sin in all nations, Canaan as well as Israel.
- C. Setting conditions in Canaan
 - 1. Abraham and his family demonstrated to the Canaanites, worship to the one true God.
 - a. Altars were built there by all the patriarchs
 - b. Yet sin of Amorites not completed

But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." Genesis 15:16 NKJV

- c. While the Hebrews in Egypt—Canaan became more wicked

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2. Wickedness of Canaan
 - a. Their own idols—polytheistic
 - b. Chief god was El (called father, bull, creator)
 - c. Worshiped Asherah (wife of El)
 - d. El's chief son was Baal—meaning lord (1 Kings 18—though Baal reigned as king of gods and created heaven, earth, and childbirth)
 - e. They sacrificed children, consorted with prostitutes, worshiped snakes

3. The reason Moses told Joshua to kill them all was that they would lead Israel into sin.
 - a. The war on Canaanites was their judgment
 - b. God took back the land that belonged to Him and away from those who chose not to honor Him

4. Canaanite cities
 - a. Built on a hill with tall, thick wall around it
 - b. Ruler controlled city and surrounding area
 - c. People in walled cities could fight all enemies as long as they have food and nourishment

II. About Joshua

- A. His name (yehoshua)—“Yahweh is salvation”
 1. Original name—Hosea (hosea)—salvation

From the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun. Numbers 13:8 NKJV

These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua. Numbers 13:16 NKJV

So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. Deuteronomy 32:44 NKJV

2. Moses prefixed to it YHWH
 3. Constant reminder of Israel's deliverer
- B. Joshua as Moses' successor—his preparation
 1. Joshua led battle against Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16)
 2. Joins Moses partially as he re-ascends to Sinai (Exodus 24:13)

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3. Joshua hears the noise and tells Moses in the golden calf debacle (Exodus 32:17)
4. With Moses at the tent when Moses goes into talk to God

So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Exodus 33:11 NKJV

5. Mistake regarding the prophets

But we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. Numbers 32:17 NKJV

So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!" 29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!" Numbers 11:28-29 NKJV

6. One of the twelve spies

But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them." Numbers 14:6-9 NKJV

7. Chosen as successor to Moses

And the Lord said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; 19 set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. 20 And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the Lord for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him — all the congregation." 22 So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. 23 And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses. Numbers 27:18-23 NKJV

III. The Content of Joshua

A. Entering Canaan (1-4)

1. The call

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them — the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:1-9 NKJV

2. The command—pass over Jordan (1:10-18)
3. Spies to Jericho protected by Rahab (2)
 - a. King knew they were there
 - b. Hid on roof
 - c. Confessed faith in their God
 - d. They promised to spare her and her family
 - e. Let down by a rope—scarlet rope
4. Crossing of Jordan on dry ground led by priests with the ark (3, 4)
5. Each tribe carried a stone of reminder of the Jordan

Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; 5 and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' 7 Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." Joshua 4:4-7 NKJV

And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. 21 Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' 22 then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; 23 for the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, 24 that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever." Joshua 4:20-24 NKJV

B. Conquering Canaan (5-12)

1. Strategy

- a. Two major power blocks (Amarites/south—Canaanites/north)
- b. Three campaigns—beginning with central—Jericho/Ai to drive a wedge between the two

2. Gilgal encounter (5)

- a. Circumcision of males born in the wilderness
- b. Kept Passover; ate produce of the land, manna came
- c. Captain of the Lord's Host

3. Battles in the central (6-9)

a. Jericho (6)

- 1 time a day for 6 days
- 7 times on the 7th day—trumpets blown by priests

NOTE: Commands

But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. Joshua 6:24 NKJV

Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the Lord who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates." Joshua 6:26 NKJV

b. Ai (7, 8)

- Spies suggested only 2,000-3,000
- 3,000 went—they ran away
- 36 killed
- Joshua prayed
- God's reply

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So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? 11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. Joshua 7:10-12 NKJV

- Directed to destroy Achan
- Family identified
- Achan is destroyed

Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. 26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day. Joshua 7:24-26 NKJV

- Battle they won at Ai
- c. Deceit of Gibeonites (9)—about 7 miles southwest of Ai
 - Acted as if travelers from far distance
 - Went to camp at Gilgal—ask for a covenant

And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us." Joshua 9:6 NKJV

- Took provision but did not consent
- Made a covenant—found out neighbors
- Became woodcutters/servants

Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us? 23 Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves — woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God." 24 So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the Lord your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. 25 And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us." 26 So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. 27 And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord, in the place which He would choose, even to this day. Joshua 9:22-27 NKJV

And when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Deuteronomy 7:2 NKJV

4. Battles in the south (10)
 - a. Three battles are defensive rather than aggressive
 - b. 5 kings ally against Gibeonites for deflection
 - c. Panic of Adoni-Zedek—King of Jerusalem over Israel's destruction of Jericho/Ai-past with Gibeon
 - d. 5 king coalition
 - e. Joshua defeats the alliance but not kings

So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you." 9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. 10 So the Lord routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword. Joshua 10:7-11 NKJV

- f. Sun stands still so he can finish the job

Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." 13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel. 15 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal. Joshua 10:12-15 NKJV

- g. Kings captured, hung from tree, then back to cave
 - h. 7 cities in the south fell (10:28-29)
5. Battles in the north (11-12)
 - a. Jabin led coalition against Israel

And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. Joshua 11:1-4 NKJV

b. Joshua defeats them by waters of Merom

And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. 6 But the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." 7 So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. 8 And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. 9 So Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire. Joshua 11:5-9 NKJV

c. Defeat of Hazor

Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms. 11 And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire. Joshua 11:10-11 NKJV

d. Drawn out battles

Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. 19 There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle. 20 For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord had commanded Moses. 21 And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. 22 None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod. 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war. Joshua 11:18-23 NKJV

e. Summary of Joshua's victories (12)

C. Settling Canaan (13-24)

1. Division of the land (13-19)
2. Settlement of the land (20-24)
 - a. Each tribe received its own area of Canaan
 - b. Exception was the tribe of Levi
3. Levites lived in 48 cities as priests serving the Lord
 - a. Shiloh became religious center of Israel—tabernacle
 - b. Six refuge cities—3 on each side of Jordan
4. Joshua's farewell
 - a. Peace in the land

Now it came to pass, a long time after the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age. Joshua 23:1 NKJV

b. Charge to stay true

Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, 7 and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, 8 but you shall hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day. 9 For the Lord has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day. Joshua 23:6-9 NKJV

c. Warning

Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God. 12 Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations — these that remain among you — and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, 13 know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you. Joshua 23:11-13 NKJV

d. Final address

- Rehearsal of God's blessing
- Challenge

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"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV

— People respond

So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." 19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good." 21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord!" Joshua 24:16-21 NKJV

e. New covenant made

Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God." Joshua 24:26-27 NKJV

f. Joshua's death

Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being one hundred and ten years old. 30 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. Joshua 24:29-30 NKJV

g. Joshua's service of God

Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. Joshua 24:31 NKJV