**Joshua**

* 1. The Land-Taking (Jos 1: 1– 12: 24)
  2. The Distribution of the Land (Jos 13: 1– 22: 34)
  3. An Era Ends (Jos 23: 1– 24: 33)

The book of Joshua and its story were not written to describe the process by which the Israelite tribes came to dominate parts of Canaan. The book sought to encourage the exiles of Judah and Jerusalem to believe in the power of their ancestral deity to lead them from exile in Babylon back to the land promised to Abraham’s descendants. The fall of Jerusalem, the destruction of its Temple, the scattering of the priesthood, and the end of the dynasty and national state led the people of Judah to wonder about the power and the willingness of their God to save. *Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 459). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.*

The great irony of the book of Joshua was that its stories about the Israelite army conquering great cities and annihilating their populace were written at a time when ancient Israel was at its lowest ebb— politically and militarily. The two Israelite national states no longer existed. Their territory was absorbed into the Babylonian provincial system. The leading citizens of Judah were taken to Babylon to prevent their fomenting of any resistance to the new order in the region. Those Judahites who remained in the land were subsistence farmers who were not in a position to challenge Babylonian rule. Certainly, the stories about the mighty Israelite army winning victory after victory under Joshua was a parody of the military and political impotence of Judah in the sixth century BC. Unfortunately, the stories of the book of Joshua have served to provide support for the wars of conquest waged by Christians over the centuries. *Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (pp. 459-460). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.*

1. **The Land-Taking (Jos 1: 1– 12: 24)** map pg 273

Chapter 1 Conquest of Canaan

* 1. **Divine Promise of Assistance.** 1 After Moses, the servant of the Lord, had died, **the Lord said to Moses’ aide Joshua**, son of Nun: 2 Moses my servant is dead. So now, you and the whole people with you, prepare to cross the Jordan to the land that I will give the Israelites.

Chapter 1: 2– 9 The beginning of the Book of Joshua strongly emphasizes the **credentials of Joshua as Moses’** worthy successor (vv. 2, 3, 4, 7; cf. v. 17; 3: 7; 4: 14; 5: 15). *(Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 2188). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition).*

7b **Do not let this book of the law depart from your lips**. Recite it by day and by night, that you may carefully observe all that is written in it; *Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 2133). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.*

17 **As completely as we obeyed Moses, we will obey you**. Only, may the Lord, your God, be with you as God was with Moses. 18 Anyone who rebels against your orders and does not obey all your commands shall be put to death. Only be strong and steadfast.” Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 2134). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.

Chapter 2 Spies Saved by Rahab.

* 1. 2:1Then Joshua, son of Nun, secretly sent out two spies from Shittim (map p273), saying, “Go, reconnoiter the land and Jericho.” Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 269).
  2. When the two reached Jericho, they went into the house of a prostitute named Rahab, where they lodged. Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (pp. 269).
  3. 2:3So the king of Jericho sent Rahab the order, “Bring out the men who have come to you and entered your house, for they have come to spy out the entire land.” 4The woman had taken the two men and hidden them, so she said, “True, the men you speak of came to me, but I did not know where they came from. 5At dark, when it was time to close the gate, they left, and I do not know where they went. You will have to pursue them quickly to overtake them.” Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 269)
  4. 6Now, she had led them to the roof, and hidden them among her stalks of flax spread out\* there. 7But the pursuers set out along the way to the fords of the Jordan. As soon as they had left to pursue them, the gate was shut. 8Before the spies lay down, Rahab went up to them on the roof 9and said: “I know that the Lord has given you the land, that a dread of you has come upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land tremble with fear because of you. 10For we have heard how the Lord dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, l and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites beyond the Jordan, whom you destroyed under the ban. 11We heard, and our hearts melted within us; everyone is utterly dispirited because of you, since the Lord, your God, is God in heaven above and on earth below. 12 Now then, swear to me by the Lord that, since I am showing kindness to you, you in turn will show kindness to my family. Give me a reliable sign 13that you will allow my father and mother, brothers and sisters, and my whole family to live, and that you will deliver us from death.” 14“ We pledge our lives for yours,” Donald Senior; John Collins; Mary Ann Getty. The Catholic Study Bible (p. 270).

Chapter 3 Preparations for Crossing the Jordan.

The Crossing Begun.

* 1. 14The people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan, with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant ahead of them.

Chapter 4 Memorial Stones.

1. 1After the entire nation had completed the crossing of the Jordan, 2the Lord said to Joshua: Choose twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, 3and command them, “Take up twelve stones from this spot in the Jordan riverbed where the priests have been standing. Carry them over with you, and place them where you are to stay tonight.”
2. 6In the future, these are to be a sign among you. When your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ 7you shall answer them, ‘The waters of the Jordan ceased to flow before the ark of the covenant of the Lord when it crossed the Jordan.’ a Thus these stones are to serve as a perpetual memorial to the Israelites.”

Chapter 5 Rites at Gilgal.

1. 2 On this occasion the Lord said to Joshua: Make flint knives and circumcise Israel for the second time.
2. 4This was the reason for the circumcision: Of all the people who had come out of Egypt, every male of military age had died in the wilderness during the journey after they came out of Egypt. 5Though all the men who came out were circumcised, none of those born in the wilderness during the journey after the departure from Egypt were circumcised.
3. 9Then the Lord said to Joshua: Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you. Therefore the place is called Gilgal to the present day.
4. 13 While Joshua was near Jericho, he raised his eyes and saw one who stood facing him, drawn sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you one of us or one of our enemies?” 14He replied, “Neither. I am the commander of the army of the Lord: now I have come.”
5. “What has my lord to say to his servant?” 15The commander of the army of the Lord replied to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy.”

Chapter 6 Now Jericho was in a state of siege because of the presence of the Israelites.

1. 18 But be careful not to covet or take anything that is under the ban; otherwise you will bring upon the camp of Israel this ban and the misery of it. 19All silver and gold, and the articles of bronze or iron, are holy to the Lord. They shall be put in the treasury of the Lord.”
2. The Fall of Jericho. 20As the horns blew, the people began to shout. When they heard the sound of the horn, they raised a tremendous shout. The wall collapsed, and the people attacked the city straight ahead and took it.
3. 22 To the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out the woman with all her family, as you swore to her you would do.” 23The spies entered and brought out Rahab, with her father, mother, brothers, and all her family; her entire family they led forth and placed outside the camp of Israel.
4. 27Thus the Lord was with Joshua so that his fame spread throughout the land.

Chapter 7 Defeat at Ai.

1. 1But the Israelites acted treacherously with regard to the ban; Achan, son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah of the tribe of Judah, took goods that were under the ban, x and the anger of the Lord flared up against the Israelites.
2. When they had explored Ai, 3they returned to Joshua and advised, “Do not send all the people up; if only about two or three thousand go up, they can attack and overcome Ai. 4About three thousand of the people made the attack, but they fled before the army at Ai, 5who killed some thirty-six of them. They pursued them from the city gate to the Shebarim, and defeated them on the descent, so that the confidence of the people melted away like water.
3. 10The Lord replied to Joshua: Stand up. Why are you lying there? 11 Israel has sinned: they have transgressed the covenant\* which I enjoined on them. They have taken goods subject to the ban. They have stolen and lied, placing the goods in their baggage. 12If the Israelites cannot stand up to their enemies, but must turn their back to them, it is because they are under the ban. I will not continue to be with you unless you remove that which is banned from among you. 13Get up, sanctify the people. Tell them, “Sanctify yourselves before tomorrow, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: That which is banned is in your midst, Israel. You cannot stand up to your enemies until you remove it from among you. the family which the Lord designates shall come forward one by one. 15Whoever is designated as having incurred the ban shall be destroyed by fire, with all that is his, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord and has committed a shameful crime in Israel.”
4. **Achan’s Guilt and Punishment**. 19Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and praise him by telling me what you have done; do not hide it from me.” 20Achan answered Joshua, “I have indeed sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 21Among the spoils, I saw a beautiful Babylonian mantle, two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight; I coveted them and I took them. They are now hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” 22Joshua sent messengers and they ran to the tent and there they were, hidden in the tent, with the silver underneath. 23They took them from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and spread them out before the Lord. 24Then Joshua and all Israel took Achan, son of Zerah, with the silver, the mantle, and the bar of gold, and with his sons and daughters, his ox, his donkey and his sheep, his tent, and all his possessions, and led them off to the Valley of Achor. 25Joshua said, “What misery have you caused us? May the Lord bring misery upon you today!” And all Israel stoned him to death. They burnt them with fire and they stoned them. 26Over Achan they piled a great heap of stones, which remains to the present day. Then the Lord turned from his anger. That is why the place is called the Valley of Achor to this day.

Chapter 8 Capture of Ai.

1. 1 The Lord then said to Joshua: Do not be afraid or dismayed. Take all the army with you and prepare to attack Ai. I have delivered the king of Ai into your power, with his people, city, and land. 2Do to Ai and its king what you did to Jericho and its king— except that you may take its spoil and livestock as plunder.

Chapter 9 Confederacy Against Israel.

Chapter 10 The Siege of Gibeon.

Chapter 11 Northern Confederacy.

Chapter 12 Lists of Conquered Kings.

1. **Division of the Land**

Chapter 13 Division of Land Commanded

* 1. The Eastern Tribes. 13:8 Now the other half of the tribe of Manasseh, as well as the Reubenites and Gadites, had taken as their heritage what Moses, the servant of the Lord, had given them east of the Jordan:
  2. Reuben. 13:15 This is what Moses gave to the tribe of the Reubenites by their clans:
  3. Gad. 13:24 This is what Moses gave to the tribe of the Gadites by their clans:
  4. Manasseh. 13:29 This is what Moses gave to the half-tribe of Manasseh;

Chapter 14

1. The Western Tribes: the portions which the Israelites received as heritage in the land of Canaan. Eleazar the priest, Joshua, son of Nun, and the heads of families in the tribes of the Israelites determined 14:2 their heritage by lot, as the Lord had commanded through Moses concerning the remaining nine and a half tribes.
2. Caleb’s Portion. 14:6 When the Judahites approached Joshua in Gilgal, the Kenizzite Caleb, son of Jephunneh, said to him: “You know the word the Lord spoke to Moses, the man of God, concerning you and concerning me in Kadesh-barnea.

Chapter 15 Boundaries of Judah.

Chapter 16 The Joseph Tribes.

Chapter 17 Manasseh.

Chapter 18 - 21The Seven Remaining Portions

1. 1The whole community of the Israelites assembled at Shiloh, where they set up the tent of meeting; and the land was subdued before them. 2There remained seven tribes among the Israelites that had not yet received their heritage. 3Joshua therefore said to the Israelites, “How much longer will you put off taking steps to possess the land which the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you? 4Choose three representatives from each of your tribes; I will send them to go throughout the land and describe it for purposes of acquiring their heritage. When they return to me 5you shall divide it into seven parts. **See Map p 291**