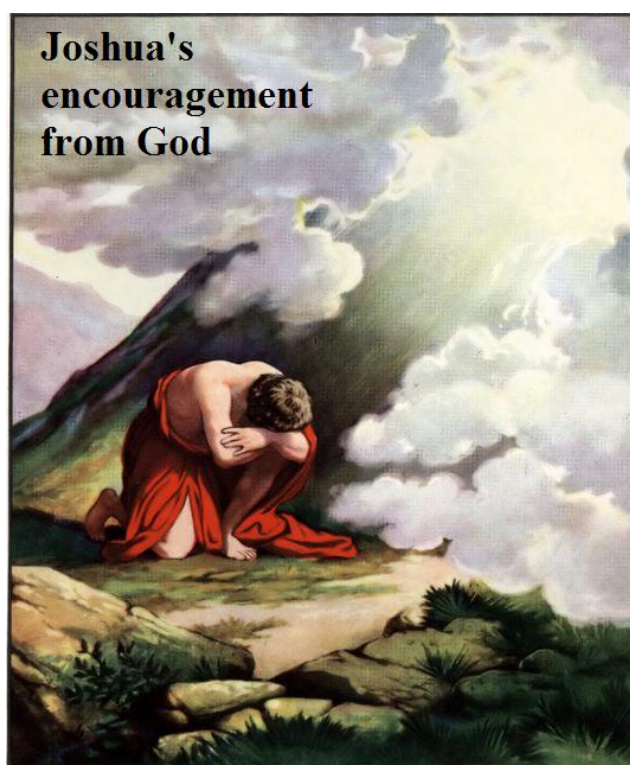




Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Moses has died and left Joshua to lead the chosen people into the promised land. The details of the first few battles are given and then the general campaign is described. Finally, the land is given to the various tribes to finish the migration process. There is one lesson for the entire book of Joshua. Unlike most of our courses, this one requires the student to do a lot of reading in preparation for the class meeting. In fact, the expectation is that the student will read the entire Bible book of Joshua before attending the class. The course might be more suitable for a monthly Bible Study group. Either way, I believe only serious Bible students will benefit from this kind of course. The class discussion will not mean as much without the preparatory reading having been done.



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### **Suggested methodology:**

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on the page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Joshua.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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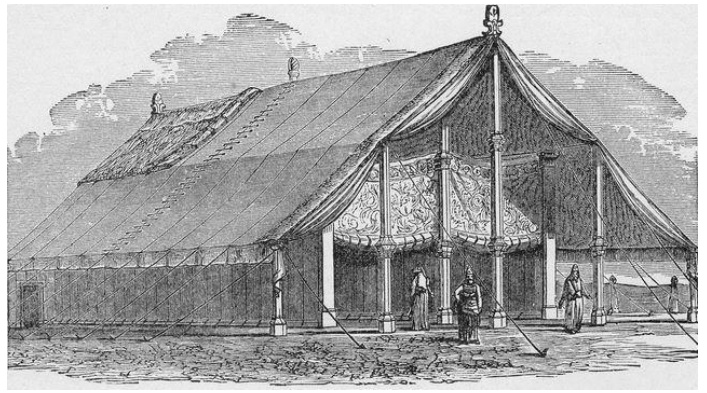
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**PRELUDE** Joshua is a piece of the history of the Jewish nation. Before starting the book itself let us look at a little context. In Genesis the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob go to Egypt. Exodus starts in Egypt and ends with the Israelites building the tabernacle. Leviticus is mostly about the Law of God some of which was mentioned in Exodus. Numbers focuses on the wandering of the people until they get to the Promised Land. Deuteronomy summarizes the other three books.



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All four of the books just prior to Joshua have laws, administrative details, & information on various parts of their journey. The Israelites have to fight their way through the wilderness against other nations that did not want them to pass. (Perhaps the most interesting example of one of these fights is in Numbers 22 thru 24.) There are several rebellions by some of the Israelites against the authority of God such like the golden calf incident while Moses is receiving the commandments.

There are few parts of these books we need to look at before we start with Joshua. Please read Numbers 13 & 14 and then answer the following two questions:

[A] What were the names of the two spies who brought back a good report?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

[B] What happened to the people when they did not listen to the good spies' report?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

[C] Read Deuteronomy 32:48-51. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

[D] Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12. Who was appointed the new leader of the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

As you read the book Joshua notice similarities between Joshua, the man, and Moses, if you can. There is a question at the end that asks how they are alike. Also look for promises God made in the Torah that are fulfilled in Joshua.

There is one more thing you need to know before we start. Moses had, at their request, already given the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh land on the east side of the Jordan river. As the book opens the people are in this land to the east of the Jordan.

**ENTERING THE LAND**

Read Joshua Chapters 1 – 5 and answer the following questions:

[1] What river did God tell Joshua to lead the people across? \_\_\_\_\_

[2] (a) Who hid the spies? \_\_\_\_\_ (b) What was her job? \_\_\_\_\_

[3] How did they cross the river? \_\_\_\_\_

[4] How many stones did they set up as a memorial? \_\_\_\_\_

[5] The manna stopped after they celebrated what festival? \_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

Numbers 13 and 14

[A] What were the names of the two spies who brought back a good report? Joshua & Caleb.

[B] What happened to the people when they did not listen to the spies with the good report?  
They had to wander in the wilderness until they died. Their children were given the land instead.

[C] Read Deuteronomy 32:48-51. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land?  
Did not fully obey God or broke faith with God or did not uphold His holiness or trespassed against God

[D] Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12. Who was appointed the new leader of the Israelites? Joshua

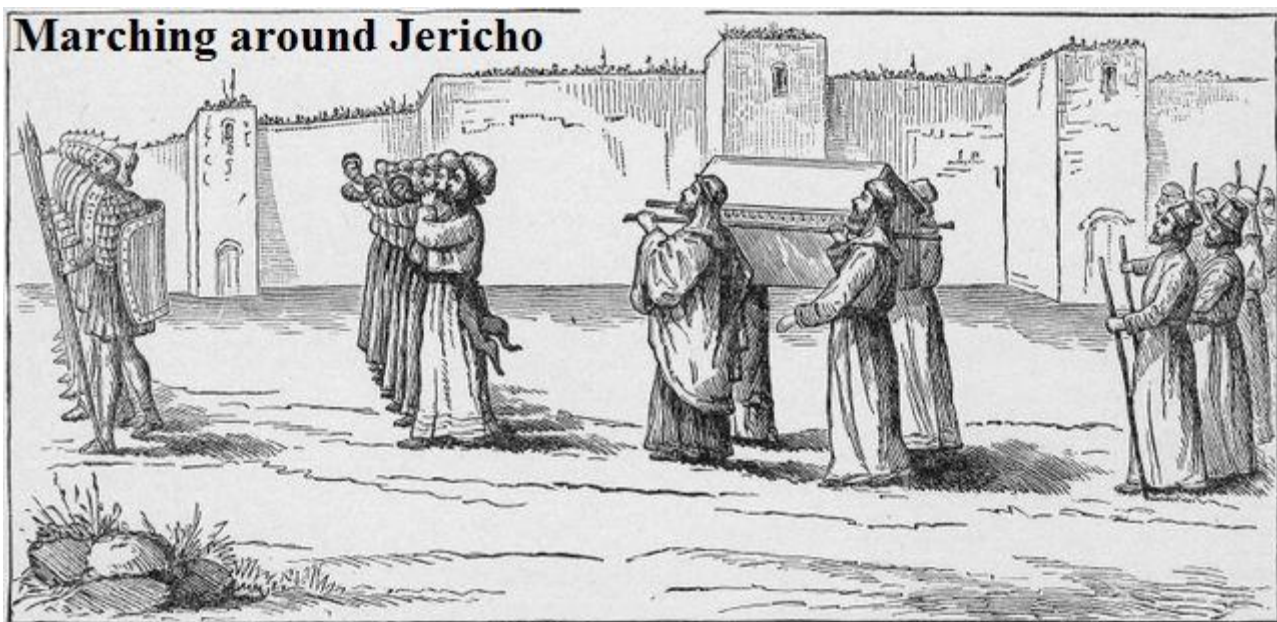
[1] What river did God tell Joshua to lead the people across? The Jordan Josh 1:2

[2] (a) Who hid the spies? Rahab. Josh 2:3-4 (b) What was her job? Harlot or prostitute Josh 2:1

[3] How did they cross the river? On dry ground or God stopped the water Josh 3:14-17

[4] How many stones did they set up as a memorial? Twelve Joshua 4:9

[5] The manna stopped after they celebrated what festival? Passover Joshua 5:10-12



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## CENTRAL CONQUEST

Read Joshua Chapters 6 – 12 and answer the following questions:

[6] What three things did they do right before the walls of Jericho fell? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ &

[7] What did Achan keep for himself? \_\_\_\_\_ &

\_\_\_\_\_ &

[8] How many people of Ai survived? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[10] (a) How many kings attacked the Gibeonites?

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) How many kings did Joshua execute? \_\_\_\_\_

[11] When did they have peace?

\_\_\_\_\_

[12] How many kings were conquered? \_\_\_\_\_

[10] (a) How many kings attacked the Gibeonites? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) How many kings did Joshua execute? \_\_\_\_\_

[11] When did they have peace? \_\_\_\_\_

[12] How many kings were conquered? \_\_\_\_\_

## DIVIDING THE LAND

Read Joshua Chapters 13 – 19 and answer the following questions:

[13] Which tribe inherited no land? \_\_\_\_\_

[14] Who asked for, and was given, Hebron? \_\_\_\_\_

[15] Which city in the land of Judah remained unconquered? \_\_\_\_\_

[16] What part of Ephraim remained unconquered? \_\_\_\_\_

[17] Were portions of land given only to sons? \_\_\_\_\_

[18] Where did they meet to divide up the rest of the land? \_\_\_\_\_

[19] Which tribe shared land with Judah? \_\_\_\_\_

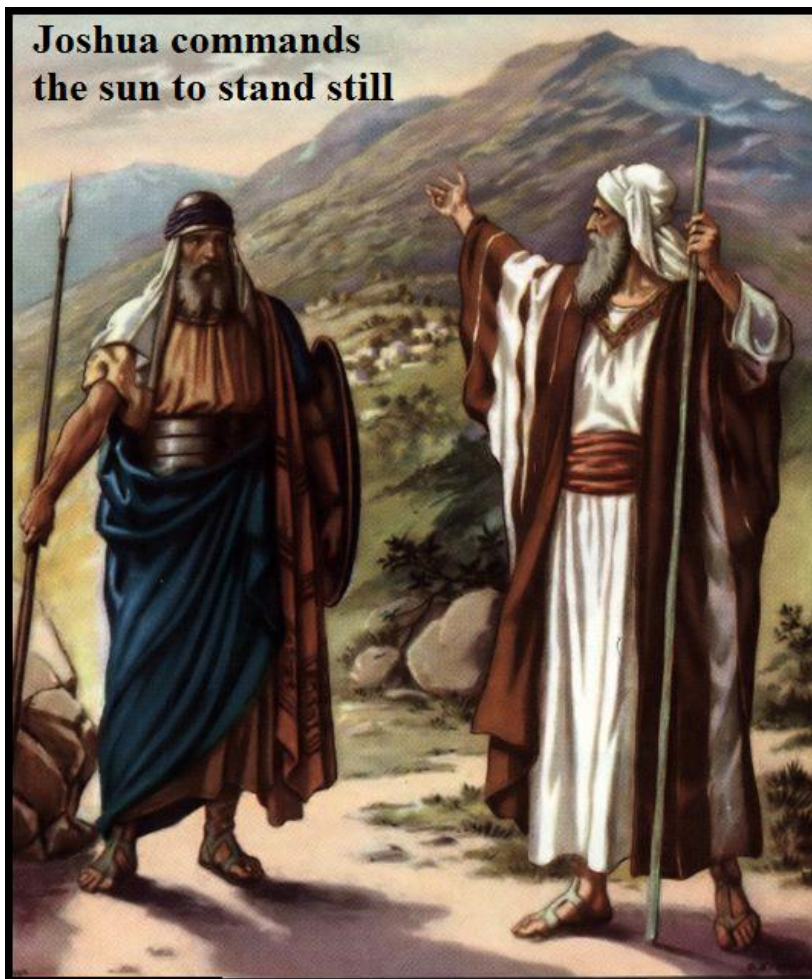
## The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The mood at the guard tower was ironically light just moments before the fall of Jericho. **Joshua 6**

----- ANSWERS -----

- [6] What three things did they do right before the walls of Jericho fell?  
Marched around it 7 times, the priests blew trumpets and the people shouted. Josh 6:15-16
- [7] What did Achan keep for himself? Silver, gold and a garment Josh 7:21
- [8] How many people of Ai survived? None Josh 8:22-29
- [9] How did the Gibeonites fool Joshua? They pretended to be travelers from a distant land. Josh 9
- [10] (a) How many kings attacked the Gibeonites? Five Josh 10:5  
(b) How many kings did Joshua execute? Five Josh 10:23-26
- [11] When did they have peace? When they had won or victory brought peace. Josh 11:18-23
- [12] How many kings were conquered? Thirty-one Josh 12:24
- [13] Which tribe inherited no land? Levi Josh 13:33
- [14] Who asked for, and was given, Hebron? Caleb Josh 14:13-15
- [15] Which city in the land of Judah remained unconquered? Jerusalem Josh 15:63
- [16] What part of Ephraim remained unconquered? Gezer Josh 16:10
- [17] Were portions of land given only to sons? No Josh 17:6
- [18] Where did they meet to divide up the rest of the land? Shiloh Josh 18:1
- [19] Which tribe shared land with Judah? Simeon Josh 19:9



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## SETTLING THE LAND

Read Joshua Chapters 20 – 24 and answer the following questions:

[20] How many cities of refuge did they make? \_\_\_\_\_

[21] How many of God's good promises were kept? \_\_\_\_\_

[22] What did Reuben and Gad name their altar? \_\_\_\_\_

[23] What four things did Joshua say they should do with God?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(d) \_\_\_\_\_

[24] How old was Joshua when he died?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Dividing the land among the tribes.**

## MOSES & GOD'S PROMISES

If you have not studied the Torah in detail the next two questions (25 & 26) will be very difficult. There are not easy even if you have studied. Think of them as "extra credit" questions that you only need to answer if you have time and interest.

[25] Name three things that are alike about Moses and Joshua?

(a). \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_

Hints:

Exod. 3:12

Exod. 12:26-27, 13:14-15

Exod. 3:2, 14:19

Exod. 14:1-31

Exod. 14:31,

Exod. 4:21

Exod. 6:1-8

[26] Can you identify three promises that God kept that are described in the book of Joshua?

(a). \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_

Hints:

Deut. 3:21,28; 31:3-8

Deut. 27:1-28:68

Num. 26:52-56

Deut. 11:29, 27:4,13

Deut. 9:1-5

Num. 35:1-8

-----ANSWERS-----

[20] How many cities of refuge did they make? Six Josh 20:1-8 (See map →)

[21] How many of God’s good promises were kept? All of them Josh 21:45

[22] What did Reuben and Gad call their altar? Ed or Witness Josh 22:34

[23] What four things did Joshua say they should do with God?

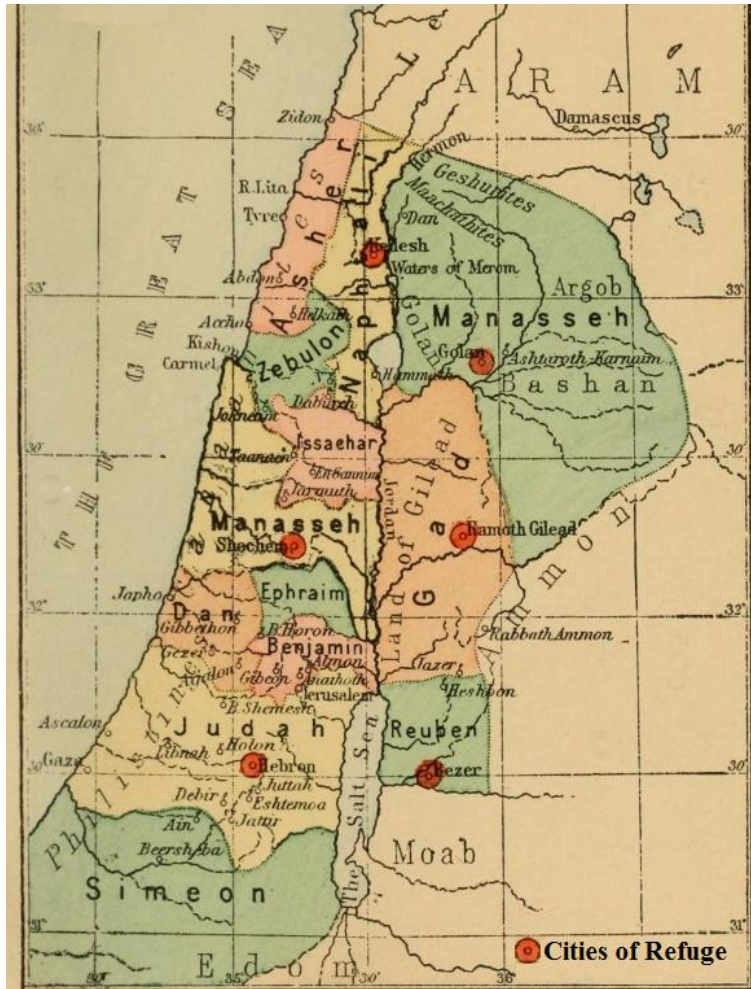
(a) cling, hold fast, or cleave to God Josh 23:8

(b) love God Josh 23:11

(c) know God Josh 23:13-14

(d) fear the Lord Josh 23:15-16

[24] How old was Joshua when he died? 110 Josh 24:29



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[25] Similarities between Moses and Joshua:

Similar Action	Moses	Joshua
God was with them	Exod. 3:12	Josh. 1:5, 3:7
Led people across body of water on dry ground	Exod. 14:1-31	Josh. 3:14-17
God spoke through them	Exod. 6:1-8	Josh. 4:1-5, 6:1-7
Established later teaching practice	Exod. 12:26-27, 13:14-15	Josh. 4:6-7
God made them great in the eyes of the people	Exod. 14:31,	Josh. 4:14
Experienced appearances of God's messenger	Exod. 3:2, 14:19	Josh. 5:13-15
Faced people with hardened hearts	Exod. 4:21	Josh. 11:20
There may be other things alike about them. If you found some, well done!		

[26] Promises Kept

Promise	Stated to Moses	Kept in Joshua
Giving of the land	Deut. 3:21,28; 31:3-8	Josh. 1:3
Worship on Mt. Ebal	Deut. 11:29, 27:4,13	Josh. 8:30-31
Reading of blessings and curses	Deut. 27:1-28:68	Josh. 8:34
Conquering of all cities	Deut. 9:1-5	Josh. 11:12
Distributing of land	Num. 26:52-56	Josh. 14:1-19:51
Providing cities for Levites	Num. 35:1-8	Josh. 21:1-42

There might be others. If you found some, well done!

**For further thought:**

How are Joshua and Jesus alike?



**CONCLUSION**

(C1) Which verse in Joshua would you recommend someone memorize? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(C2) In chapter 9, how do you think Joshua could have avoided being tricked by the Gibeonites?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(C3) If someone asked you to tell him about Joshua what would you say?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(C4) Would your answer question C3 differently depending on whether the person asking was a Christian or a lost person? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(C5) What is the most interesting thing you learned while studying Joshua?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about Joshua, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

**(C1) A Verse to Remember** My favorite is Joshua 24:15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

**(C2) Tricky Visitors** I believe if they had asked the Lord, they would have not been tricked. They went on the strength of their own wisdom, instead of His. We make a mistake whenever we do that.

**(C3) Joshua Core Message** For me the most important message of this book is that it shows the promises God makes, He keeps.

**(C4) Audience Analysis** The book is the same no matter what, but if I have an unbeliever to talk to, I am going to try to turn it into an opportunity to share the Gospel. God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt and brought them into the Promised Land. He can also rescue us from slavery to sin, and bring us into paradise with Him.

**(C5) Something of Interest** "So what can we learn from Joshua's life? Can we draw principles for leadership from his life? Sure. That God gave him the victory in taking the Promised Land does not take away from his military leadership. Furthermore, he was a more-than-capable leader for the Israelites, but his skill in leadership is not the primary lesson we should draw from Joshua's life. A better lesson would be Joshua's faithfulness, his stand against the ten spies who brought the disparaging report about the obstacles in taking over the Promised Land, and his zeal in ensuring the covenant faithfulness of the people. But even his faith wasn't perfect. There is the fact that Joshua sent spies into Jericho even though God had ensured victory, and then there is the overconfidence he exhibited in the battle of Ai.

"The primary lesson to draw from Joshua's life is that God is faithful to His promises. God promised Abraham that his descendants would dwell in the land, and under Joshua, God brought the people into the land that He had promised to give to them. This act completed the mission of redemption that God started with Moses in bringing Israel out of Egypt. It is also a type which points to the ultimate redemption that Jesus brings to the community of faith. Like Moses, Jesus delivered us from bondage and slavery to sin, and like Joshua, Jesus will bring us into the eternal Promised Land and everlasting Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:8-10)."

from: <http://www.gotquestions.org/life-Joshua.html>