



# JOSHUA

# TITLE/AUTHOR

The title of the book comes from its main character  
Joshua

The author of the book is not mentioned, though it is  
fair to say Joshua wrote most of it

It does depict Joshua writing (8:32, 24:26), but never  
directly claims he wrote it

# COMPOSITION

Even if Joshua wrote the bulk of the book, some later editor shaped the final form

Several times the phrase “to this day” is used:

- 4:9
- 5:9
- 6:25
- Etc.

Also, in 10:13 an earlier source we don't have is mentioned

# LITERARY ANALYSIS

In some ways, Joshua completes the story of the Pentateuch

The genre of the book is very similar, but with the accent on “history” instead of “instruction”

Joshua also starts the “Deuteronomistic History” that runs through Judges, the books of Samuel, and the books of Kings

As such, it is history written from a theological point of view

# OUTLINE

Joshua can be outlined the following way:

- Entering The Land (1-4)
- Taking The Land (5-12)
- Possessing The Land (13-21)
- Retaining The Land (22-24)

Joshua 1:1-9 functions like a table of contents for the book:

- 1:2-5 = 1:10-12:24
- 1:6 = 13-21
- 1:7-9 = 22-24

# MAJOR THEMES

The major themes of Joshua are:

- The faithfulness of God in fulfilling the covenant promises.
- The conquest and apportionment of the land.
- The importance of obedience.

The key verses of Joshua are 21:43-45

# PURPOSE

The purpose of the book of Joshua “was to recount, from a theological perspective, the events surrounding Israel’s capture and settlement of the land of Canaan” (ESV Notes)

This recounting emphasizes God’s faithfulness in fulfilling his promises to the Patriarchs

What had been promised about the land in Genesis 12:1-3 and then reiterated in Genesis 15 is progressively fulfilled in the book of Joshua



# FAMILIAR STORIES

There are many familiar stories in Joshua:

- The Spies and Rahab (chapter 2)
- Crossing The Jordan (chapter 3)
- The Battle of Jericho (chapter 6)
- Achan's Sin (chapter 7)