

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

JOSHUA



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



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Joshua

Joshua (Moses successor) leads Israel to invade and conquer the Promised Land of Israel.

Author: Joshua and at least one other author.

In this book you will read about the Battle of Jericho and the day the sun stood still, and the twelve tribes. Much of the last half is dividing the spoils, in the form of real estate to the twelve tribes.

In Joshua – Jesus is the Commander of the Army of the Lord

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it
Joshua 1:8 day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.
Then you will be prosperous and successful."



TEACHER: 24 CHAPTERS

Of the 12 traditionally historical books in the Old Testament, Joshua is the 1st. I'm not sure why the Pentateuch isn't considered history, as it covers over 1/3 of the world's history, but who am I to quibble. Joshua to Esther are the History Books. As you know Moses has died and Joshua is God's anointed man of the hour. The 2 maps on page 1 include on the left, Canaan before Joshua, and on the right, Joshua's routes in battle.

Joshua contains 3 major miracles, 1st the crossing of the Jordan River, 2nd the destruction of the walls of Jericho, and 3rd the day the sun stood still so that Joshua could win the prize of Jerusalem. Those 3 miracles are a beautiful picture of the Christian walk. Stepping out in faith, tearing down the walls of sin, and walking in the freedom that God had intended all along. Even the name Joshua, is the name of Jesus in Hebrew. The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) titles this book "Jesus!" I don't know if it's true or not, but Jewish tradition through the Midrash say's Joshua married Rahab the Harlot that saved the spies, and had several daughters. It also states his father was childless, praying for a son, and Joshua was born after he died. They use this story to explain the father son relationship between Moses and Joshua. True or not, I don't know, but, it is strong enough among Jewish scholars that I thought you should know of its Midrashim origins. Sometimes being aware of another's viewpoint, gives an advantage in witnessing. According to Joshua 24:30, he is buried at Timnath-serah, having died at 110 years old in the Ephraim hillside, where his tomb is still visited. As we start in Joshua, he is now in his 70's if we assume he was in his 30's, when he was a spy 40 years ago. Joshua ch.1.

STUDENT:

CH. 1

After the death of the LORD's servant Moses, the LORD spoke to Moses' helper, Joshua son of Nun. ² He said, "My servant Moses is dead. Get ready now, you and all the people of Israel, and cross the Jordan River into the land that I am giving them. ³ As I told Moses, I have given you and all my people the entire land that you will be marching over. ⁴ Your borders will reach from the desert in the south to the Lebanon Mountains in the north; from the great Euphrates River in the east, through the Hittite country, to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ Joshua, no one will be able to defeat you as long as you live. I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will always be with you; I will never abandon you. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁶ Be determined and confident, for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land which I promised their ancestors. ⁷ Just be determined, be confident; and make sure that you obey the whole Law that my servant Moses gave you. Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go. ⁸ Be sure that the book of the Law is always read in your worship. Study it day and night, and make sure that you obey everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go." (GNT)

TEACHER:

In verses 10 -15 Joshua orders the leaders to tell everyone to gather food and get ready, because in 3 days they are going to cross the Jordan River! He then goes to the Tribes of Reuben, Gad and the ½ tribe of Manasseh, and tells them that their wives and children can stay put with the livestock, but the soldiers have to go with Israel, as was agreed to by Moses. Everyone obeys. (Funny how 40 years in the desert will humble you isn't it?)

The book starts with the story of Rahab.

CH. 2

STUDENT:

Then Joshua sent two spies from the camp at Acacia with orders to go and secretly explore the land of Canaan, especially the city of Jericho. When they came to the city, they went to spend the night in the house of a prostitute named Rahab. ² The king of Jericho heard that some Israelites had come that night to spy out the country, ³ so he sent word to Rahab: "The men in your house have come to spy out the whole country! Bring them out!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

The king of Jericho hears about it, and sends word to Rahab, telling her to "bring them out." She replies....

STUDENT:

⁴⁻⁶ "Some men did come to my house," she answered, "but I don't know where they were from. They left at sundown before the city gate was closed. I didn't find out where they were going, but if you start after them quickly, you can catch them." (Now Rahab had taken the two spies up on the roof and hidden them under some stalks of flax that she had put there.) ⁷ The king's men left the city, and then the gate was shut. They went looking for the Israelite spies as far as the place where the road crosses the Jordan. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Rahab testifies....

STUDENT:

⁸ Before the spies settled down for the night, Rahab went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land. Everyone in the country is terrified of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the LORD dried up the Red Sea in front of you when you were leaving Egypt. We have also heard how you killed Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan. ¹¹ We were afraid as soon as we heard about it; we have all lost our courage because of you. (GNT)



TEACHER:

Pay attention to what Rahab says here. "We have heard of....the red sea, Og and Sihon, the Amorite kings...." The battles they fought in their past, are now their testimonies going before them. She says "we have all lost our courage because of you." Then she makes a confession of faith.

STUDENT:

The LORD your God is God in heaven above and here on earth. ¹² Now swear by him that you will treat my family as kindly as I have treated you, and give me some sign that I can trust you. ¹³ Promise me that you will save my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families! Don't let us be killed!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

The spies agree, she helps them escape, and they tell her to tie a red cord to her window, and collect all her family in that place, so when Israel attacks, they will know to help those in the home with the red cord tied to the window. The spy's get back to their camp, and leave the good report that "all the people are terrified of us." The next day all of Israel moves camp to Jordan, and they sat there for 3 days. Then the priests made an announcement.

STUDENT:

.... the leaders went through the camp ³ and told the people, "When you see the priests carrying the Covenant Box of the LORD your God, break camp and follow them. ⁴ You have never been here before, so they will show you the way to go. But do not get near the Covenant Box; stay about half a mile behind it." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Joshua tells Israel to purify themselves because God is going to do many miracles tomorrow. He then sends the covenant box ahead of the camp. God then tells Joshua that the people will begin to honor Joshua because of the miracles God is going to perform. They will realize that Joshua is a man like Moses. There were at that time 7 nations living in Canaan at that time. God lists all 7, and tells Joshua this.

STUDENT: *Edited into a list from the KJV, and explained by the Author*

⁹ Then Joshua said to the people, "Come here and listen to what the LORD your God has to say. ¹⁰ As you advance, he will surely drive out the:

1. Canaanites (Children of Canaan, Canaan was the son of Ham, who was the youngest son of Noah)
2. Hittites (Also called Hethites, they were the children of Heth, son of Canaan)
3. Hivites (The Hivites also descended from Canaan, according to Genesis 10. Jacob had encountered them around 500 years earlier in Genesis 34.)
4. Perizzites (Descendants of Ham. Ham had 4 sons who migrated all through Africa and the Middle East. Ham is the father of Africa. Cush the 1st born populated Ethiopia, Mizraim populated Egypt, then Put, who fathered Libya in Northern Africa, and Canaan, who most scholars believe were the 1st to settle in what we call today the Middle East. The Perizzites occupied the land God had reserved for Judah.)
5. Girgashites (Descendants of the 5th son of Canaan, I have read they were a branch of the Hivite line.)
6. Amorites (Semitic descendants of Canaan, flourished in Syria and beyond in every direction. They were major players once you traveled far enough northeast to stray from Egyptian influence.)
7. Jebusites (Also a descending from Canaan son of Ham, son of Noah, they were warriors. Mentioned throughout the Bible they were not very good neighbors, and did not play well with others. Joshua would not be able to drive them out, as they lived in the mountains surrounding modern day Jerusalem. They would be around to contest King David. They had made a pact with Abraham, ill-advised as it was, and it haunted Israel until King David, routed them out.)

TEACHER:

I have no idea why I compiled all that, comfort yourselves in knowing that you now know more about Joshua Chapter 3 verse 10 than anyone in the world. This does show that God does not forget when He curses someone. He cursed the line of Canaan because of his father Ham's sin against Noah, and it also shows God is very patient and slow to carry out that punishment. Noah was a long time ago. Back to Joshua.

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STUDENT:

You will know that the living God is among you ¹¹ when the Covenant Box of the Lord of all the earth crosses the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now choose twelve men, one from each of the tribes of Israel. ¹³ When the priests who carry the Covenant Box of the LORD of all the earth put their feet in the water, the Jordan will stop flowing, and the water coming downstream will pile up in one place." ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ It was harvest time, and the river was in flood.

(GNT)

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TEACHER:

This is the picture and the purpose of what is happening. The Jordan River travels from The Sea of Galilee down to the Dead Sea. They are next to the Dead Sea facing the Jordan as it flows into the Dead Sea. God is going to stop the Jordan from flowing into the Dead Sea 30 miles upstream. He is going to "pile it up" when the Ark goes into the river. Israel is standing over ½ mile back because God wants them to see the whole scene unfold. You should be aware that this is spring harvest, and the ice melt from the mountains fills the river banks to the brim even to this day. You should also be aware that the sea level from Galilee to the Dead Sea is a 1000 foot drop. The Jordan moves quickly this time of year. It will be quite the spectacle of God's power.

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STUDENT:

When the people left the camp to cross the Jordan, the priests went ahead of them, carrying the Covenant Box. As soon as the priests stepped into the river, ¹⁶ the water stopped flowing and piled up, far upstream at Adam, the city beside Zarethan. The flow downstream to the Dead Sea was completely cut off, and the people were able to cross over near Jericho. ¹⁷ While the people walked across on dry ground, the priests carrying the LORD's Covenant Box stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan until all the people had crossed over. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

When all the people crossed over, God tells Joshua to send 12 men, 1 from each tribe, to go back to the middle of the river, and gather 1 stone each for a memorial.

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STUDENT:

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men he had chosen, ⁵ and he told them, "Go into the Jordan ahead of the Covenant Box of the LORD your God. Each one of you take a stone on your shoulder, one for each of the tribes of Israel. ⁶ These stones will remind the people of what the LORD has done. In the future, when your children ask what these stones mean to you, ⁷ you will tell them that the water of the Jordan stopped flowing when the LORD's Covenant Box crossed the river. These stones will always remind the people of Israel of what happened here." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The men did as God had commanded and set them up at the campsite as a memorial. Joshua also set up 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan where the priests stood with the Ark of the Covenant. The LORD's word was performed in Joshua as well.

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STUDENT:

¹⁴ What the LORD did that day made the people of Israel consider Joshua a great man. They honored him all his life, just as they had honored Moses. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁵ Then the LORD told Joshua ¹⁶ to command the priests carrying the Covenant Box to come up out of the Jordan. ¹⁷ Joshua did so, ¹⁸ and when the priests reached the riverbank, the river began flowing once more and flooded its banks again. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The last few words of this chapter really speak to me. In the future, when your kids ask what this pile of rocks mean, tell them about what God did. Then he says this way the whole world will know how great God is. It's not the pile of rocks, it's the telling of the story to the children. By passing down these truths to our kids, we can change the world. If the world doesn't change,,,,,is it the rocks? Or the testimony that's missing? Listen carefully as we read.

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STUDENT:

"In the future, when your children ask you what these stones mean, ²² you will tell them about the time when Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground. ²³ Tell them that the LORD your God dried up the water of the Jordan for you until you had crossed, just as he dried up the Red Sea for us. ²⁴ Because of this everyone on earth will know how great the LORD's power is, and you will honor the LORD your God forever." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 5 the Lord tells Joshua to circumcise the Israelites. Verses 6-7 explain that no circumcisions were performed during the wandering years. The Lord says to Joshua "Today I have removed from you the disgrace of being slaves in Egypt."

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camping at Gilgal on the plain near Jericho, they observed Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month. ¹¹ The next day was the first time they ate food grown in Canaan: roasted grain and bread made without yeast. ¹² The manna stopped falling then, and the Israelites no longer had any. From that time on they ate food grown in Canaan. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The chapter ends with an extraordinary event. Joshua meets someone that I, along with many others, believe is the Lord Jesus Christ. Some say an angel. Let's read and discuss.

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STUDENT:

¹³ While Joshua was near Jericho, he suddenly saw a man standing in front of him, holding a sword. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you one of our soldiers, or an enemy?"

¹⁴ "Neither," the man answered. "I am here as the commander of the LORD's army."

Joshua threw himself on the ground in worship and said, "I am your servant, sir. What do you want me to do?"

¹⁵ And the commander of the LORD's army told him, "Take your sandals off; you are standing on holy ground."

And Joshua did as he was told. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The reason I believe He must be Jesus, is the Man doesn't stop Joshua from worshipping Him. He also tells Joshua to take off his shoes and that he is on Holy Ground. Don't get contentious, there is margin for interpretation here. What do you think? Joshua chapter 6 tells the story of "The Fall of Jericho."

STUDENT:

The gates of Jericho were kept shut and guarded to keep the Israelites out. No one could enter or leave the city. ² The LORD said to Joshua, "I am putting into your hands Jericho, with its king and all its brave soldiers. ³ You and your soldiers are to march around the city once a day for six days. ⁴ Seven priests, each carrying a trumpet, are to go in front of the Covenant Box. On the seventh day you and your soldiers are to march around the city seven times while the priests blow the trumpets. ⁵ Then they are to sound one long note. As soon as you hear it, all the people are to give a loud shout, and the city walls will collapse. Then the whole army will go straight into the city." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Joshua gets the people lined up, and they start marching. The 7 priests blew the 7 trumpets as they led the way, while Israel marched in silence behind them. They did this for 6 straight days.



Then on the 7th day, they marched around the city 7 times. Then this happens.

STUDENT:

¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests were about to sound the trumpets, Joshua ordered the people to shout, and he said, "The LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ The city and everything in it must be totally destroyed as an offering to the LORD. Only the prostitute Rahab and her household will be spared, because she hid our spies. ¹⁸ But you are not to take anything that is to be destroyed; if you do, you will bring trouble and destruction on the Israelite camp. ¹⁹ Everything made of silver, gold, bronze, or iron is set apart for the LORD. It is to be put in the LORD's treasury." (GNT)



TEACHER:

As soon as the people yelled, the walls collapsed. Joshua tells the men to fulfill the promises made to Rahab, and as soon as they are safe, they set the city on fire. Joshua then curses Jericho.

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STUDENT:

At this time Joshua issued a solemn warning: "Anyone who tries to rebuild the city of Jericho will be under the LORD's curse.

Whoever lays the foundation will lose his oldest son;
Whoever builds the gates will lose his youngest."

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread through the whole country. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

God was very clear that at Jericho, Israel should not keep anything, outside of a list for the treasury that God had listed. But, Achan from the tribe of Judah, disobeyed.

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STUDENT:

² Joshua sent some men from Jericho to Ai, a city east of Bethel, near Bethaven, with orders to go and explore the land. When they had done so, ³ they reported back to Joshua: "There is no need for everyone to attack Ai. Send only about two or three thousand men. Don't send the whole army up there to fight; it is not a large city." ⁴ So about three thousand Israelites made the attack, but they were forced to retreat. ⁵ The men of Ai chased them from the city gate as far as some quarries and killed about thirty-six of them on the way down the hill. Then the Israelites lost their courage and were afraid. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Joshua seeks God's face with a broken spirit, and God tells Joshua what happened. He says some men had stolen some things condemned to destruction, mixed it with their personal effects, and lied about it.

God said "I, the LORD God of Israel, have this to say:

'Israel, you have in your possession some things that I ordered you to destroy!

You cannot stand against your enemies until you get rid of these things!' (GNT)

God has Israel line up by their tribes and picks out Judah, and Judah lines up by clans and God picks out Zerah's clan, the families of Zerah line up and God picks Zabdi's family out, and finally God picks Achan.

The price was steep.

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STUDENT:

²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you brought such trouble on us? The LORD will now bring trouble on you!" All the people then stoned Achan to death; they also stoned and burned his family and possessions. ²⁶ They put a huge pile of stones over him, which is there to this day. That is why that place is still called Trouble Valley.

Then the LORD was no longer furious. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The Lord tells Joshua to take the city of Ai, and He would make them victorious. He also tells them that this time, they may keep the spoils of war for themselves, but they must burn the city itself to the ground. In celebration Joshua builds an altar and sacrifices burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. After the offerings, this was the scene.

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STUDENT:

CH. 8

³² There, with the Israelites looking on, Joshua made on the stones a copy of the Law which Moses had written. ³³ The Israelites, with their leaders, officers, and judges, as well as the foreigners among them, stood on two sides of the LORD's Covenant Box, facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Half of the people stood with their backs to Mount Gerizim and the other half with their backs to Mount Ebal. The LORD's servant Moses had commanded them to do this when the time came for them to receive the blessing. ³⁴ Joshua then read aloud the whole Law, including the blessings and the curses, just as they are written in the book of the Law. ³⁵ Every one of the commandments of Moses was read by Joshua to the whole gathering, which included women and children, as well as the foreigners living among them. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Israel became very famous as a result of these 1st 2 victories, and all the other kingdoms in Canaan, knew they had God on their side. So they join forces. To quote the Arthashastra, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." The Gibeonites cook up a scheme to trick the Israelites, by pretending to live far away, and seeking a treaty between them. Israel doesn't fall for it at 1st, but Joshua hears them out.

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STUDENT:

CH. 9

¹⁴ The Israelites accepted some food from them, but did not consult the LORD about it. ¹⁵ Joshua made a treaty of friendship with the people of Gibeon and allowed them to live. The leaders of the community of Israel gave their solemn promise to keep the treaty. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

3 days later, they find out they live 3 days away from them. They were neighbors. But Israel could not kill them. You might think someone should have brought up false pretenses, but the problem was not the lie that caused this. It was the failure to consult with God on this. How many times have we fallen into the same trap? But, they don't get off scot-free either.

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STUDENT:

Now we cannot harm them. ²⁰ We must let them live because of our promise; if we don't, God will punish us. ²¹ Let them live, but they will have to cut wood and carry water for us." This was what the leaders suggested. ²² Joshua ordered the people of Gibeon to be brought to him, and he asked them, "Why did you deceive us and tell us that you were from far away, when you live right here? ²³ Because you did this, God has condemned you. Your people will always be slaves, cutting wood and carrying water for the sanctuary of my God."

To this day they have continued to do this work in the place where the LORD has chosen to be worshiped. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

When Adonizedek, the King of Jerusalem, heard that Gibeon made a treaty with Israel, he rounded up the other kings to attack Gibeon. He was upset because the kings of Canaan had joined forces to fight united. God tells Joshua, "don't be afraid of them, I have already given you the victory." As Israel chased the army, God rained large hailstones on them, and more were killed by hail than swords! Listen what happens next.

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CH. 10

STUDENT:

¹² On the day that the LORD gave the men of Israel victory over the Amorites, Joshua spoke to the LORD. In the presence of the Israelites he said,

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon;
Moon, stop over Aijalon Valley.”

¹³ The sun stood still and the moon did not move until the nation had conquered its enemies. This is written in the *Book of Jashar*. The sun stood still in the middle of the sky and did not go down for a whole day.

¹⁴ Never before, and never since, has there been a day like it, when the LORD obeyed a human being.

The LORD fought on Israel's side! ¹⁵ After this, Joshua and his army went back to the camp at Gilgal. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The Israelites capture all 5 Amorite kings and jail them temporarily in a cave, while they continue in pursuit. After the victory, Joshua and his men go back to the cave.

STUDENT:

²² Then Joshua said, “Open the entrance to the cave and bring those five kings out to me.” ²³ So the cave was opened, and the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon were brought out ²⁴ and taken to Joshua. Joshua then called all the men of Israel to him and ordered the officers who had gone with him to come and put their feet on the necks of the kings. They did so. ²⁵ Then Joshua said to his officers, “Don't be afraid or discouraged. Be determined and confident because this is what the LORD is going to do to all your enemies.” ²⁶ Then Joshua killed the kings and hanged them on five trees. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Joshua finishes his sweep of nations, killing everyone in his wake. As a result of Joshua's southern sweep of kingdoms, the northern kingdoms united with kingdoms on both sides of the Jordan River, and set up a massive military force akin to Egypt's might, with chariots and horses. This is the Lord's response.

CH. 11

STUDENT:

⁶ The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them. By this time tomorrow I will have killed all of them for Israel. You are to cripple their horses and burn their chariots.” ⁷ So Joshua and all his men attacked them by surprise at Merom Brook. ⁸ The LORD gave the Israelites victory over them; the Israelites attacked and pursued them as far north as Misrephoth Maim and Sidon, and as far east as the valley of Mizpah. The fight continued until none of the enemy was left alive. ⁹ Joshua did to them what the LORD had commanded: he crippled their horses and burned their chariots. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Next Joshua goes against the Giants.

STUDENT:

²¹ At this time Joshua went and destroyed the race of giants called the Anakim who lived in the hill country—in Hebron, Debir, Anab, and in all the hill country of Judah and Israel. Joshua completely destroyed them and their cities. ²² None of the Anakim were left in the land of Israel; a few, however, were left in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. ²³ Joshua captured the whole land, as the LORD had commanded Moses. Joshua gave it to the Israelites as their own and divided it into portions, one for each tribe. So the people rested from war. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Some of the giants went to Gath. Who came from Gath? Goliath, whom David would kill much later in Israel's history. The Anakim were the children of Anak, the son of Arba, the founder of the city of Kiriath Arba. (In Josh. 15 "Hebron") This place Kiriath Arba is a very hallowed place in history. It contains the burial places of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah. This is one of the most famous plots of land in the world and this tomb is visited by millions still today. You can find Hebron on the map on page 3. Pictures of the burial sites mentioned are included on the final few pages of this lesson.

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CH. 12

STUDENT:

⁷ Joshua and the people of Israel defeated all the kings in the territory west of the Jordan, from Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak in the south near Edom. Joshua divided this land among the tribes and gave it to them as a permanent possession.....and in verse 24thirty-one kings in all. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Some excerpts from the beginning of chapter 13.

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CH. 13

STUDENT:

Joshua was now very old. The LORD said to him, "You are very old, but there is still much land to be taken....."

I will drive all these peoples out as the people of Israel advance. You must divide the land among the Israelites, just as I have commanded you to do. ⁷ Now then, divide this land among the other nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh, for them to possess as their own." (GNT)

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CH. 13
CH. 14
CH. 15
CH. 16
CH. 17
CH. 18
CH. 19



CH. 20
CH. 21



TEACHER:

In chapter 22 Joshua sends the eastern tribes home, as they kept up their side of the bargain to fight with Israel and receive the land east of the Jordan River for themselves. When they arrived home, they built an altar by the Jordan on their side of the river. Israel was upset because the worship God was centralized to the tabernacle. They now wanted to go to war with them.

STUDENT:

"Why have you done this evil thing against the God of Israel? You have rebelled against the LORD by building this altar for yourselves! You are no longer following him! ¹⁷ Remember our sin at Peor, when the LORD punished his own people with an epidemic? We are still suffering because of that. Wasn't that sin enough? ¹⁸ Are you going to refuse to follow him now? If you rebel against the LORD today, he will be angry with everyone in Israel tomorrow. ¹⁹ Now then, if your land is not fit to worship in, come over into the LORD's land, where his Tent is. Claim some land among us. But don't rebel against the LORD or make rebels out of us by building an altar in addition to the altar of the LORD our God. ²⁰ Remember how Achan son of Zerah refused to obey the command about the things condemned to destruction; the whole community of Israel was punished for that. Achan was not the only one who died because of his sin." (GNT)

TEACHER:

The eastern tribes convinced them it wasn't for the animal sacrifices, but as a reminder that they also were Israel, and worshipped the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

STUDENT:

This was to keep your descendants from saying that ours have nothing to do with the LORD. ²⁸ It was our idea that, if this should ever happen, our descendants could say, 'Look! Our ancestors made an altar just like the LORD's altar. It was not for burning offerings or for sacrifice, but as a sign for our people and yours.' ²⁹ We would certainly not rebel against the LORD or stop following him now by building an altar to burn offerings on or for grain offerings or sacrifices. We would not build any other altar than the altar of the LORD our God that stands in front of the Tent of his presence." (GNT)

STUDENT:

³³ The Israelites were satisfied and praised God. They no longer talked about going to war to devastate the land where the people of Reuben and Gad had settled. ³⁴ The people of Reuben and Gad said, "This altar is a witness to all of us that the LORD is God." And so they named it "Witness." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Joshua is very old now. Chapter 23 is his farewell address. Study the address at home, we will share some here.

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CH. 23

STUDENT:

Much later the LORD gave Israel security from their enemies around them. By that time Joshua was very old, ² so he called all Israel, the elders, leaders, judges, and officers of the people, and said, "I am very old now. ³ You have seen everything that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you. The LORD your God has been fighting for you. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁶ So be careful to obey and do everything that is written in the book of the Law of Moses. Do not neglect any part of it, ⁷ and then you will not associate with these peoples left among you or speak the names of their gods or use those names in taking vows or worship those gods or bow down to them. ⁸ Instead, be faithful to the LORD, as you have been till now. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁴ "Now my time has come to die. Every one of you knows in his heart and soul that the LORD your God has given you all the good things that he promised. Every promise he made has been kept; not one has failed. ¹⁵ But just as he kept every promise that he made to you, so he will carry out every threat. ¹⁶ If you do not keep the covenant which the LORD your God commanded you to keep and if you serve and worship other gods, then in his anger he will punish you, and soon none of you will be left in this good land that he has given you." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Joshua then gathers all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem. He gives 1 last warning and reminder to love God, and soon after passes on to his reward.

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CH. 24

STUDENT:

²⁹ After that, the LORD's servant Joshua son of Nun died at the age of a hundred and ten. ³⁰ They buried him on his own land at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim north of Mount Gaash. ³¹ As long as Joshua lived, the people of Israel served the LORD, and after his death they continued to do so as long as those leaders were alive who had seen for themselves everything that the LORD had done for Israel. (GNT)

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NEXT LESSON JUDGES:

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As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

HISTORY BOOKS

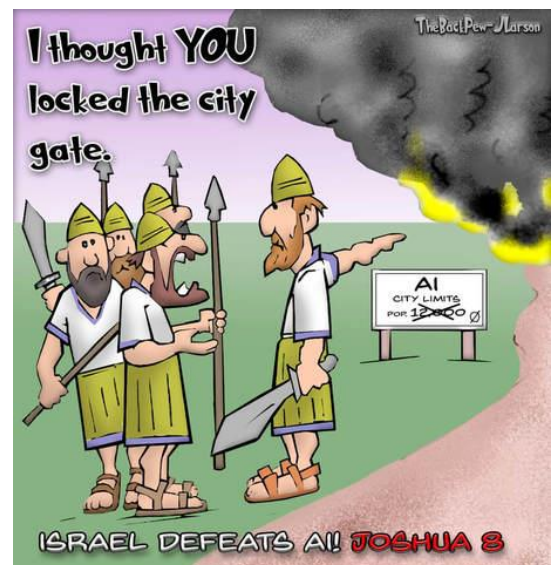
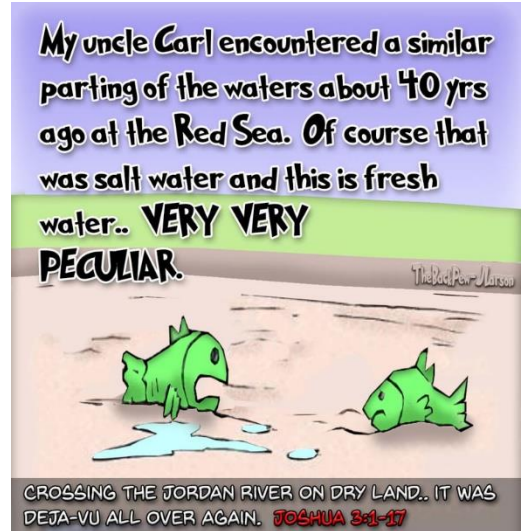
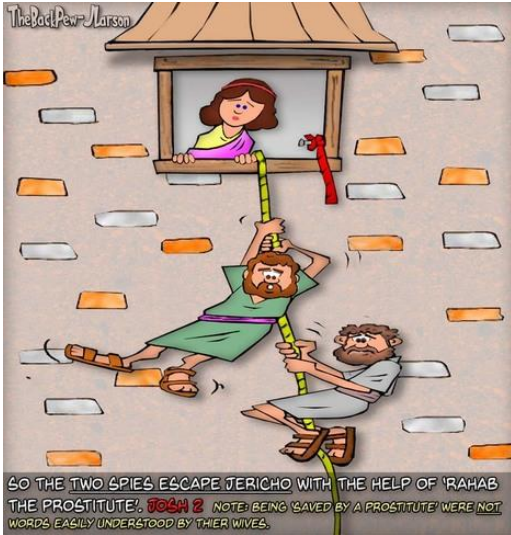
H R S A B I G A I L J E Z J S
A E E L E U M A S E L A H E E
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S O H J E D U T H U N E A E A
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S E B L L A U H S O J A Z K H
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I U A J E C O N I A H A A A Y
F H A R O B E D A G A M H H H

ABIGAIL
AHAZ
AHAZIAH
AHIJAH
AMAZIAH
AMON
ASA
ATHALIAH
CHRONICLES
DEBORAH
ELI
ELKANAH
EZRA

FIRST
GAD
HEZEKIAH
JECONIAH
JEDUTHUN
JEHOAHAZ
JEHOASH
JEHOIAKIM
JEHORAM
JEHOSHAPHAT
JEHU
JOSHUA
JUDGES
KINGS

MANASSEH
MORDECAI
NEHEMIAH
REHOBOAM
RUTH
SAMUEL
SAUL
SECOND
SHEMAIAH
SOLOMON
ZEDEKIAH

R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY
DAVID HOBRATH



The Tombs of Joshua and Caleb at Kifl Haris in the West Bank.



Photos courtesy of Abraham Lowenstein.

According to the Book of Genesis, Abraham specifically purchased the land for use as a burial plot from Ephron the Hittite, making it one of two purchases by Abraham of real estate in the Land of Canaan, the Promised Land. The book describes how the three patriarchs and their wives, the matriarchs, were buried there.

Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 23:1–20; Genesis 49:31)

Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 35:29; Genesis 49:31)

Jacob and Leah (Genesis 49:28–33; Genesis 50:4–5; Genesis 50:12–13)

The only matriarch missing is Jacob's other wife, Rachel, described in Genesis as having been buried near Bethlehem. These verses are the common source for the religious beliefs surrounding the cave.

The story of Abraham's burial is recounted in, for example, Ibn Kathir's 14th century Stories of the Prophets.



Tomb of Abraham

Jewish midrashic literature avows that, in addition to the patriarch couples, Adam, the first man, and his wife, Eve, were also interred in the Cave of the Patriarchs, a tradition supported by ancient Samaritan texts. The tradition is supported by the simple wording of Genesis 23:2, which refers to "Kiryat Arba... Hevron" ("arba" means 'four'). Commenting on that passage, Rashi listed the four couples chronologically, starting with Adam and Eve.



Cave of the Patriarchs By Ooman - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

