

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

## Joshua

## Lesson 2 - Taking that first step

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Let us set the stage, the children of Israel have wandered in the wilderness for 38 years; that generation is dying there in the wilderness. The Bible says in Joshua 1:1-9 *Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

Joshua has 24 chapters; 658 verses. If you want to Joshua, it has 18,858 words. According to First Kings 6:1, the exodus from Egypt took place 480 years before the fourth year of Solomon. This would put the exodus at 1446 BC; subtract the forty years in the wilderness, according to Exodus 16 and Numbers 14, we're around the year of 1406 BC. Jephthah put three hundred years between Israel's sojourn at Heshbon in the second year of his judgeship in Judges 11:26. So Jephthah to Solomon – these dates match up giving us roughly the same time period for about 1400 years before Jesus Christ historically.

There are four great themes of the book of Joshua. They are primarily unfolded in these nine verses. In verses 1 and 2, this great truth – God's servants die; God's work continues. The great difference between a work of God and a work of man; is that a work of God does not fall apart when someone dies. Moses passes off the scene; Joshua steps on the scene, things do not get worse, they get better. That is a great theme of this book.

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Secondly, the promise of God's abiding presence along with the promise of God's divine protection. Trying to follow the Lord in total submission does not exempt you from battles, troubles, opposition and enemies – it just guarantees you His presence is in the midst of the fight. Victory is not guaranteed either by His presence; but His presence is guaranteed in the fight.

The third great theme (and we read it in these verses) is that victory is dependant upon mans acting upon God's promises. Let us paraphrase what the Lord said "Joshua, I am going to give you all the land that you set the sole of your foot upon, if you will obey all my commandments. I am going to give you rest in the promise land, (Genesis 14:14-15) if you do what I told you to do."

We have this constant struggle, not only in our personal lives but in our church's. As we have said before proper doctrine in our Bible is right in the middle, there is a ditch on both sides if you go too far to the right or too far to the left. Let us suppose there is someone all the way over to the left in the Law. Their walk with God is burdened by the laws and commandments of the Old Testament Jew or maybe you know someone whose doctrine has drifted way over to the right side to Absolute Grace ("bless God, I am free") where they are disobeying the word of God. The middle ground is liberty freedom from sin under the direction of the word of God. If you are trying to conquer sin, without that liberty and freedom, you are not going to get the victory. If you are trying to enjoy the victory without obedience to the word of God, you are going to soon lose that victory. These verses really bring that forth; we will spend a great deal of time on them.

Joshua 1:5. *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life:* God said, I am going to be with you there is not a man on earth that can take you down. But if you do not obey my word, you will fall down all by yourself.

Joshua 1:8. *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* Verse 8, *...for then* (when? you do what God said in His word.) *...then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Joshua 1:9. *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

The book primarily teaches us four things.

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1. The faithfulness of God to keep His covenants. He has promised them the land and they will eventually get it. (Romans 11:29, when God promises He never repents on His promises.)
2. The importance of the written word. It shows up in Joshua 1:8; 8:32-35; 23:6-16; 24:26-27. By the time Moses dies, God's words are in a book. And the people are commanded to be in submission to the words of God **in the book of Law**. Look what He says in verse 8, *This book of the law...* - not oral tradition, not hand-me-down verbal story-telling, but a book.
3. The theme of this book is the utter failure of human effort apart from God's hand. They cannot get across that Jordan River without God parting the waters. God parts the waters. They cannot take Jericho without God's blessing – so Jericho falls. But when they think, "We will just go up to Ai and defeat them, without prayer, without sanctification, without fellowship with the Lord." That little dinky town of Ai whipped them. God said, "I made you some promises, but I gave you some responsibility too." You try and claim my promises without enjoying a relationship with me – it is not going to work.
4. God hates sin, He does not hate sin just for His own sake, He hates sin, because He loves you. You love your children – you despise the neighbor that would harm them. If you love your children, you despise the influences that would harm them. God hates liquor, dope, stealing and lying; He hates it because it hurts you. It hurts your family. It hurts your life. It wounds your heart, God does not want that. God wants you blessed. He judges sin or punishes sin or allows sin to pay heavy consequences in your life so you turn from it. He does not delight in punishing, afflicting or wounding; but like a surgeon you have to operate. Sometimes God has to cut a little piece of something out that is killing you. The Lord will preserve the whole. Never get the idea that the Lord will wink at or overlook your sin.

Let us recap what we learned in Lesson 1: The children of Israel are in bondage in Egypt. They are slaves to a cruel taskmaster and there is nothing they can do but live and die for him. The Lord tells them, if you will take the blood of a lamb, apply it to your doorposts, I will see that act of faith; and on the basis of that shed blood I will bring you out of bondage in Egypt. The Bible tells us, in 1 Corinthians 5:7, this is a picture of our salvation. Then sometime later, they come to the Red Sea; Pharaoh and his armies are trying to bring them back into bondage. The Lord parts the waters of the Red Sea leading them through the water onto the other side, the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, this is a picture of our spiritual baptism.(see Romans 6:4)

Now, when they crossed that Red Sea, they are within just a few weeks of the Promised Land. They made their way down to Succoth and Moriah, where the pillar of cloud showed up. They passed Elam where the manna was given – water from the rock. The Lord is providing all their needs. Amalek

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rises up and God gives them victory in war over Amalek, everything's going great.

Then Moses goes up on the mountain to get the law, while he is up there, guess what happens? Aaron takes earrings along with the spoils of Egypt to make a golden calf. While they were all dancing, sinning around that gold calf, Moses became angry breaking the original tablets.

They are beginning to get bored, they start complaining about the manna. Then they get to Kadesh-Barnea at they send spies into the Promised Land and the spies come back, "...we're like grasshoppers...(Numbers 13:33) *there's giants there... we're so scared... we can't...*" This whole time out here in this wilderness, they are illustrating the fact that you can be saved and baptized on your way to the Promised Land and still be carnally minded enjoying the blessings of God, His mercy while being carnally minded.

The Jews wandered around, when they came to Kadesh-Barnea, then they just started going around in circles for 38 years. They are only about a week from the Promise Land and took them thirty-eight years to get there. You say, why? To be carnally minded is death (Romans 8:6). They were that close to the blessing and could not lay hold on it. They just go around in circles. They are saved – but they are just not interested. Some are convicted about with the way they are living, but they do not want to do anything about it. They do not understand why their kids are rebellious, their marriage stinks they have no joy. No ministry for the Lord.

The old generation dies Joshua with the new generation, decide we are going to try to be sanctified; God has some promises for us, before we even try to lay hold on one of them. We are going to obey God; we are going to re-establish our relationship with God – this begins to take place in Gilgal. Then the Lord parts the waters of Jordan just like He parted the waters of the Red Sea.

They enter into Canaan. Canaan is not a picture of heaven, in spite of all those wonderful southern gospel songs. Because when they get to Canaan, there were enemies, struggles, difficulties with wars to fight. The Promised Land in Joshua is not a picture of heaven – it's a picture of the life of a spiritually minded man or a spiritually minded woman. "How do we know that?"

Other than the points we just made about the enemies, what about Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh? They came into the Promise Land and won some victories looked around left and went back. What are we going to do – go to heaven for three months and decide that earth was better and come back? Canaan is not a type of heaven; it is a type of rest. Rest is a curious word, because that land of rest was a land of battles land of foes a land of warfare. Listen, it is that simple to get saved and baptized (water). But

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if you are going to enjoy, the life of the spiritually minded, you are going to learn to fight, win and to conquer with God's help by God's guidance. The Christian life is not a life without opposition. But it is a life without failure.

Look at that Joshua 1:8 again, ***This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*** The word success only appears once in the Bible in this verse. Do you know what success is? It is you with God's help taking on and conquering every form of opposition to a spiritually minded life instead of a carnally minded life. That is the only area in which God promises you success. You are not promised success in business, ministry, or in the world. You are promised success, if you will believe God, go to war against all that would keep you carnally minded allowing God to reward you with a spiritual mind instead of a carnal mind.

notes

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**Joshua**  
**Lesson 2 - Taking that first step**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the 4 overall teaching of the Book of Joshua?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
2. What does it mean to be successful?
3. What is Egypt picture of in your Bible?
4. Explain how eternal security is taught in this Lesson?
5. Does God put importance on HIS written word? explain.

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6. Explain the meaning of Sanctification?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Explain what happen when the children of Israel came to Kadesh-Barnea?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does Moses represent?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Explain the rest available to GOD's people.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Explain the desire of the "natural man."

**True/False**

- Canaan is the promise land.
- I can love sports and love GOD too.
- The most important thing in my life is my family.
- My only ministry is going to church on Sunday

**Scripture Memorization**

Joshua 1:5; Joshua 1:8; Romans 8:6  
write these on the back on the sheet  
(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?