



Joshua

Old Testament

β 6th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 2.12% of the verses in the Bible

β Possibly written by Joshua.

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The moment has been anticipated for four decades. God's Will was understood - now it's about to happen. The Israelites cross the River Jordan whilst it is in flood and then the new chapter begins. The previous four Books of the Bible help us to understand how they got to that place. We're also reminded that God's promises of a special land (mentioned in Genesis) are now being fulfilled. How will all of this happen in reality? They knew they wouldn't be welcomed by the present inhabitants! It wouldn't be an easy or straight forward transition to capture the land flowing with milk and honey.

Moses has died in the Wilderness and Joshua succeeds him and leads the Israelites into partially conquering and then dividing their Promised Land. We see several supernatural events (dry land, strong city walls fall and the sun stands still) and these are to glorify God,

Facts: Joshua is first mentioned in Ex 17:9, where he's leading a battle against the Amalekites. He was one of the 12 Spies sent to Canaan (Num 13).

not to make the Israelites look good. We learn that total obedience to God is necessary. Being clever militarily was an asset when conquering Canaan, but it was Joshua's and the Israelites' submission to God that changed the balance in their favour. It was a continuous time of faith in action. Idolatry was not to be entertained. That's a challenge to all of us too.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.