

## THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

### JOSHUA

This book's name is derived from the principal character, Joshua. Joshua and Caleb were the only 2 of the 12 spies that came back with a good report

Verses 1-2 are a pretty good summary of the entire book

**Jos 1:1** Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying,

**Jos 1:2** "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.

Moses led the people out of Egypt and was supposed to lead them into the Promised Land. God didn't allow him to because he rebelled against God by hitting the rock instead of speaking to it.

- God allows him to see it from the mountain but then dies and is buried by the Lord Himself
- so his successor takes leadership of this huge group of wilderness wanderers

#### Story of Rahab and the spies:

- Joshua sends two men to spy out Jericho
- Rahab the harlot offers to help them in trade for safety for her and her family
- the spies agree
  - when they invade, she is to hang a scarlet red cord out the window and all who are in that room will be spared

#### Crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land:

- mirrors the story of crossing the red sea
  - As the priests carrying the Ark step into the water, the Jordan parts and they cross on dry ground
- many people compare the Promised Land to heaven
  - that doesn't fit though
  - if the Promised Land was a picture of heaven then it would stand to reason that we won't see Moses in heaven since God forbade him from entering
  - but we don't have to wonder if Moses' rebellion kept him out of heaven

**Mat 17:1** Six days later Jesus \*took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and \*led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

**Mat 17:2** And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

**Mat 17:3** And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

- so we know for certain that Moses is in heaven
  - isn't that reassuring?
    - like Moses, we mess up
    - we might lose our temper with others or even get mad at God
    - God doesn't get mad at us; He might discipline us but He doesn't stop loving us

**Rom 8:1** *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

-so let's not question our salvation each time we fall short of what God expects from us

-so if the Promised Land isn't a picture of heaven, then what might it represent?

-Egypt is often a picture of the "world" in the scriptures

-always referred to as "down to Egypt" never (up to Egypt)

-the people went from Egypt (the world) towards the Promised Land but first they crossed the Red Sea which represents baptism

**1Co 10:1** *For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;*

**1Co 10:2** *and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;*

-After baptism, they are disciplined in the wilderness

-and then another baptism...this time across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land

-like us: out of the world, baptized and disciplined, and then we are baptized by the Spirit

John the baptist says:

**Mar 1:8** *"I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

-when we allow the Spirit to guide our lives, we no longer have to do things in our own effort

**Deu 6:10** *"Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build,*

**Deu 6:11** *and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied,*

-but these blessings come with this warning:

**Deu 6:12** *then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

### **The fall of Jericho:**

March around the city once a day for 6 days

Then 7 times on the seventh day, blow the horn and yell!

-Everything was to be destroyed except silver and gold (went into treasury of house of the Lord)  
(first fruits)

-Rahab and family spared.

### **Sin of Achan:**

-Takes from the Jericho spoils

-get defeated at Ai

-Achan and family get stoned

-may seem severe but God wants His people to know from the beginning that there are consequences to sin

-just like when the Church was born in Acts

-Ananias and Saphira were killed for a similar sin

-remember, just because God takes someone's life, doesn't mean they won't be in heaven

### **Sun Stands Still:**

-5 armies come against Joshua and the Israelites

-God fights for them with large hailstones

-Joshua asks God to make the sun and moon stand still till they finish avenging themselves

### **The Day the Sun Stood Still...-"And it came to pass" ...**

This concerns a missing day in time discovered and related by Harold Hill, President of Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore Maryland, and a consultant in the space program. Mr. H. Hill stated that he thought one of the most amazing things God has for us today happened to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Maryland. They were trying to determine the position of the sun, moon, and planets 100 and 1000 years from now.

In order to do this they had to plot the orbits through past centuries. They ran the computer measurements back and forth over the centuries and suddenly it came to a halt. The computer signaled that there was something wrong either in the information fed into it or with the results compared with the standards. They called in the computer service department to check it out and found nothing technically wrong. The computer still came up with the same discrepancy.... a day was missing in space and elapsed time. The scientists were dumbfounded. There was no answer.

One of the team remembered a reference to the sun standing still in the Bible. Upon checking, they found in the book of Joshua a pretty "ridiculous" statement for anybody who has "common sense." According to Scripture, Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and if darkness fell, they would overpower him; so Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still: "So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." (Joshua 10:13) There was the missing day!!!

They checked the computer going back to the time it was written and found it was close, but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes.... not a whole day. They again read the passage and there it said, "about (approximately) a whole day." This did not account for the other missing 40 minutes. The 40 minutes had to be found because in projecting space orbits, the error would be multiplied over and over.

Again, the man remembered somewhere in the Bible that it said the sun went backwards. In II Kings, chapter 20, Hezekiah, on his death bed was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah did not believe him and asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said, "...shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go back ten degrees?" Hezekiah replied, "It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees." (II Kings 20:9-10) Ten degrees is exactly 20 minutes. So, to bring the shadow back ten degrees then return the shadow back to it's original position through it's natural motion is 40 minutes!!

Twenty-three hours and twenty minutes for Joshua, plus forty minutes in II Kings makes the missing twenty four hours the scientists had to log in their log book as being the missing day in the universe!!

### **Conclusion:**

Joshua finishes with the land being divided between the tribes and closes with death of Joshua

### **Picture types of Christ:**

Joshua himself is a type of Christ

-means "Jehovah saved", or "Yahweh is salvation"

-The name "Jesus" is the Hebrew equivalent for Joshua

Commander of God's army:

**Jos 5:13** Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?"

**Jos 5:14** He said, "No; rather I indeed come now *as* captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, (means "to bow down and worship") and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?"

**Jos 5:15** The captain of the LORD'S host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

### **Rahab's Scarlet Cord**

-The symbol Rahab was to give was to hang a scarlet cord from her window sill

-then the attacking forces (God's people) would not enter or harm her or her family

-but the condition was that they had to stay in their room and mark it with a crimson or scarlet cord

-Sound familiar?

-the children of Israel were told to stay in their rooms, mark the doors with blood and wait for the destroyer to pass over

-and obviously the blood on the door was to represent the protecting blood of Christ