



The story

The story opens with dust on sandals and anticipation in the air. Israel stands on the edge of something they have never known before. Behind them lies the wilderness, a place marked by wandering, provision, and discipline, while before them stands the Promised Land, a place of abundance, conflict, and possession. The river has been crossed, the covenant has been renewed, and the people are no longer drifting. They are poised to advance.

Joshua is movement from beginning to end, with battle lines drawn, feet marching, walls falling, and territory taken. It is the clash of kingdoms and the unfolding of promise, gritty and alive with action. Beneath every step, something deeper is unfolding, as this is not merely the conquest of land but a display of the faithfulness of God to His people.

At first glance, Joshua reads like an epic account where armies move, cities fall, and leaders rise. Once you step inside the account, something greater is revealed. Every battle, every command, and every victory points beyond itself to a deeper spiritual reality.

The Old Testament was never meant to stand alone. Hebrews 10:1 explains that the law is a shadow of the good things to come, not the substance itself. A shadow proves something real is casting it, just as the shadow of a tree confirms the tree even when it is not fully seen. Joshua stands as one of those shadows, revealing

something greater that is coming into view.

Even the name points forward. Joshua means “The Lord is salvation,” the same name given to Jesus. Joshua stands as a type and picture of the greater Deliverer, as he leads Israel into the land while Jesus leads His people into life. This raises the central question that must guide the entire study: what is this book showing us?

Understanding that question shapes everything that follows.

WHAT IS THE PROMISED LAND & “CROSSING THE JORDAN”?

The Promised Land represents the Spirit-filled, abundant life in Christ that is entered and lived out by faith. Crossing the Jordan is stepping fully into what God has already made available, moving from deliverance into active participation in what has been given.

For Israel, leaving Egypt marked salvation, but the wilderness was never the goal. It was a place of provision, yet also a place of stagnation, where life was sustained but not fully lived out in purpose. Crossing the Jordan marked a decisive transition into a life where trust would be tested daily, dependence would replace predictability, and obedience would define progress.

This transition introduced a new kind of walk. It required faith, movement, and engagement with what God had already promised. The people were no longer being carried in the same way; they were being called forward into a life that would be lived in step with the Lord.

JOSHUA TYPIFIES

#1. An Abundant Life in Christ

Crossing the Jordan meant leaving behind a wilderness walk that was endless, fruitless, and contained, and stepping into a life that was active and alive. For Israel, this marked the shift from simply being delivered to going all in, where they would walk in step with the Spirit and move under the command of the Lord.

The relationship deepens in this transition, as the Shepherd now leads as Commander, calling His people forward into active obedience. This is a life that moves, takes ground, and advances according to what God has spoken. Those who step into it experience a walk that is vibrant, fruitful, active, and full, marked by purpose and sustained by dependence on the Lord.

#2. Our Inheritance in Christ

The land was a promise established long before Joshua. In Genesis 12:1–3,7, God declared that this land would belong to Abraham and his descendants, and by the time Joshua begins, that promise had already been given and was waiting. The central issue was possession, as the people were called to step into what had already been declared as theirs.

Joshua reveals that inheritance must be taken hold of by faith. This reflects the truth of Ephesians 1:3, where believers are already given every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. The inheritance is received and walked in, not earned, and it becomes visible as it is lived out.

The tension rests in believing what God has said and stepping into it. The Promised Land represents possessing what has already been given in Christ, where faith moves truth from knowledge into lived reality.

#3. Spiritual Warfare

Joshua portrays physical warfare that reveals a deeper spiritual reality. Ephesians 6:12 clarifies that the true battle is against spiritual forces in the heavenly places, and Joshua gives visible expression to that unseen conflict.

Every city represents opposition, and every battle reveals dependence on the Lord. Victory is rooted in alignment with Him rather than human strength or strategy. The land is good and filled with promise, yet it is contested, and stepping into it requires engaging in that conflict through faith.

This is the nature of the life of faith. It involves advancing into what God has given while encountering resistance that must be faced in reliance on Him.

#4. Walk of Faith & Obedience

Joshua illustrates a walk that is active, attentive, and responsive to the Lord's voice. This life is not passive or casual, but marked by intentional movement and trust in what God has said. Ephesians 5:8 calls believers to walk as children of light, discerning what is pleasing to the Lord, and Joshua shows what that walk looks like in real time.

Victory flows through faith and obedience, as each step aligns with God's instruction. Every movement matters, and every command carries weight, forming a life that is lived in dependence and trust.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

This moment stands on a long history of

God's work among His people. Through Jacob and his twelve sons, a nation was formed, and in Egypt that nation grew. The Lord delivered them through the Red Sea with power, and at Mount Sinai He gave them instruction, identity, and structure, shaping them into a people set apart for His purposes.

Within a year, they stood at the edge of the land at Kadesh Barnea. Twelve spies were sent to examine it, and while ten responded in fear, two responded in faith. Joshua and Caleb urged the people to move forward based on what the Lord had spoken. The people refused, and fear led to wandering.

For nearly forty years, Israel moved in circles through the wilderness, marked by complaint, rebellion, and repeated failure. Throughout this time, the Lord remained faithful, providing manna, water, guidance, and protection. Their needs were met daily in a season defined by provision without participation, where God sustained them as they learned and were shaped.

That season prepared them but did not fulfill the purpose for which they were called. Over time, a new generation rose, and Moses prepared them through his final words, reminding them of the law and the faithfulness of God. Leadership then passed to Joshua, marking a transition into a new phase.

The land ahead was good and filled with promise, yet it was occupied and required engagement. This marked the shift into the life of faith, where God's people would walk with Him in active trust and obedience. His promises remained sure and His provision complete, while His people were called to step forward and live in what He had given.

The edge of the land marks the beginning of a new walk, one defined by courage, obedience, and unwavering

trust in what God has spoken. This is the life that unfolds throughout the book of Joshua, where every step reveals the faithfulness of the Lord and calls His people to respond in faith.

Hold these truths firmly. The Promised Land is the abundant life in Christ. The inheritance has already been given. The battle is spiritual. The walk requires faith and obedience. These truths anchor the entire book and bring clarity to every battle, every victory, and every step forward.

The focus now turns to the leader who will guide the people into this life. Joshua has been present, prepared, and formed for this moment, and the next step is to understand the man whom God has chosen to lead.