

“THROUGH THE BIBLE”

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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HISTORY OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

(“Conquering Canaan”-Joshua 1:8)

INTRODUCTION

The central figure in the book faces conflict and conquest. What we do learn is recorded in the book that bears his name. In the first book, Genesis, Israel is born. As we follow the History, Moses the “law giver” is dead! **God clearly chooses the next leader**. His name is Joshua, or Jehoshua, meaning “the Lord [YHWH] saves or delivers.”], and God tells him, “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth,” God said, “But you shall meditate on it day and night to do according to all that is written in it.” (Josh. 1:8). The Biblical N. T. perspective is *renewal*. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians – “Be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**... you will be able to test and prove what God’s will is.” (Rom. 12:2). “History has shown that God reveals His prophecies literally!” Eventually, it becomes very necessary, **GOD GOES TO WAR! HE always delivers on HIS promises!**

1. Conquering Canaan (“Onward Christian Soldiers!”)

- a. The time has come-Possession- God gave Israel: Land Covenant Promise: (Abrahamic Covenant, Gen. 12:1-3). HE wanted them to take *possession* of it permanently. (Gen.13:15, 17:8). However, it will be a *(partial) conquest* of the land. God used Moses to prepare Joshua (Ex. 17:9-14; 24:13; 33:11). God Himself empowered Joshua for the task (Josh. 1:8-9... “The LORD your God is with you” ...). Joshua’s confidence was in God.
- b. The possession was conditional-they had to fight battles to possess the land. *Note*: In a message before his death, Joshua reminded Israel that their OBEDIENCE to the Word of God would determine their continued possession of the land. (Josh. 24:14-28). Obedience brings blessing now and eternally! The *Blessing* cannot be obtained through the energy of the “flesh.” Also, as we face great challenges, we can trust the LORD to

- help us to succeed. We must remember in the process of walking ahead into our calling, making decisions to follow God and obey Him, having faith and courage, *the process is hijacked by Satan and demon influence.*
Note: The Ai story: (Josh. 7:11, 15, 22:18-20). The Gibeonite deception story: (Josh. 9:14; 9:1--10:43)
- c. The Lord's Hebrew name, *Yeshua*, translates in English as *Joshua*. In the Greek language, "*Joshua*" is translated as "Jesus" (*SAVIOR*, "*Yahweh (Jehovah) saves*"). Joshua ("a type of Christ" in his name and ministry), led Israel under GOD'S COMMAND FROM DEFEAT TO VICTORY! God dealt with Joshua's fears/emotional problems, and his life shows us the pattern of "how to live a consistent Christian life." (2 Tim. 1:7...2:1, 15). God understands our human weakness and anxieties, and has made help available to us (Heb. 4:14-16).
 - d. Joshua's ultimate enjoyment of God was dependent on his willingness to follow the "ultimate Promise-Keeper." (Josh. 1:9).

CONCLUSION:

"The secret to Joshua's success was that he knew the words of God and he did not turn to the left or the right, away from them. He meditated on them day and night." - Dr. J. Vernon McGee

God is always faithful to His Covenant promises. Heaven is all about the grace and love of our God, not a place of conflict and conquest!

NOTES: