

Taking over from Moses, who had been such a great leader, must have been daunting for Joshua. God has to give him some strong encouragement in chapter 1, and we may need to hear him encourage us in similar ways. Joshua not only has the promise that God will be with him; he discovers it in practice, as his spies are kept safe, the people cross the flooded river and the massive walls of Jericho come down.

JOSHUA

Looking back: CANAANITES, ISRAEL

Looking forward: GOD'S PLAN, THE END

1-5 JOSHUA LEADS ISRAEL

- 1-5 THE SENDING OF THE SPIES
- 1 OBEY THE 10 COMMANDS OF THE TORAH
- 2-4 LEADS ISRAEL INTO PROMISED LAND
- 5 ANGEL OF THE LORD

6-12 BATTLES WITH THE CANAANITES

- 6 JERICHO CITY FORTIFIED
- 7-8 AI ISRAEL'S FUTURE
- 9 WAR OF BETH-EL
- 10-11 MATHAN ISRAELI
- 12 ISRAEL'S VICTORIES

13-22 JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

- 13-15 BORING
- 16-18 PROMISED LAND
- 19-22 FULFILLMENT of GOD'S PROMISE to ABRAHAM

23-24 JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

- 23-24 FULFILLMENT of GOD'S PROMISE to ABRAHAM
- UNFAITHFULNESS: DIVING, JUSTICE AND EXILE
- WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?

GOD'S JUSTICE ON HUMAN EVIL

- WHY THE CANAANITES?**
 - 1 MORAL CORRUPTION (16:9-10; 24:2)
 - 2 CHILD SACRIFICE (16:10; 24:2)
- DID GOD INITIATE A GENOCIDE?**
 - STORIES OF VIOLENCE (10:10-11; 11:1-12; 12:1-13)
 - CANAANITES CAN TURN TO GOD OF ISRAEL
- UNIQUE MOMENT IN HISTORY**
 - LIMITED TO CANAANITES (1:1; 24:1-13)

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Joshua couldn't just sit back and do nothing while he waited for God. He is involved in careful planning, sending out the spies. He has to learn to trust God even when it seems a crazy thing to do. Imagine what it would have been like to step into a flooded, rapidly flowing river or to march round a powerful city time and time again. Trusting God can be a big challenge.

For us in different circumstances this will work out in different ways, but we still need to trust God and to remember that he has not changed. More than that, as Psalm 139 reminds us, he knows us intimately and is always with us. When have you felt God's presence and seen him at work? Joshua had the people place a pile of stones in the river to act as a reminder; how might we remind ourselves of all that God has done for us? Ask yourself where you need to see his power. What is he asking you to do that seems impossible? What would it take to trust him in these situations?