

# Study No.9 Conquest of Canaan



**Timeframe of events:**  
c. 1400 to 1350 B.C.

**Summary:** The book of Joshua details a period of about 40 or 50 years. It features the nation of Israel's earliest battles in the land of Canaan - "The Promised Land". Also included are the areas of land allotted to each of the 12 tribes.

## Main Reading / Listening



Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!

**As a minimum, please read or listen to:**

Joshua 1:1-9.

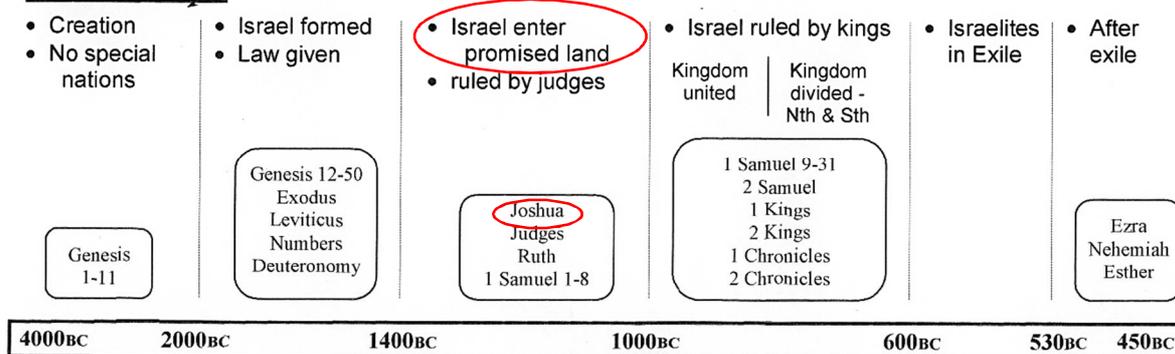
**To read or listen to the entire Bible systematically, this week's passages are:**

Joshua (24 chapters)

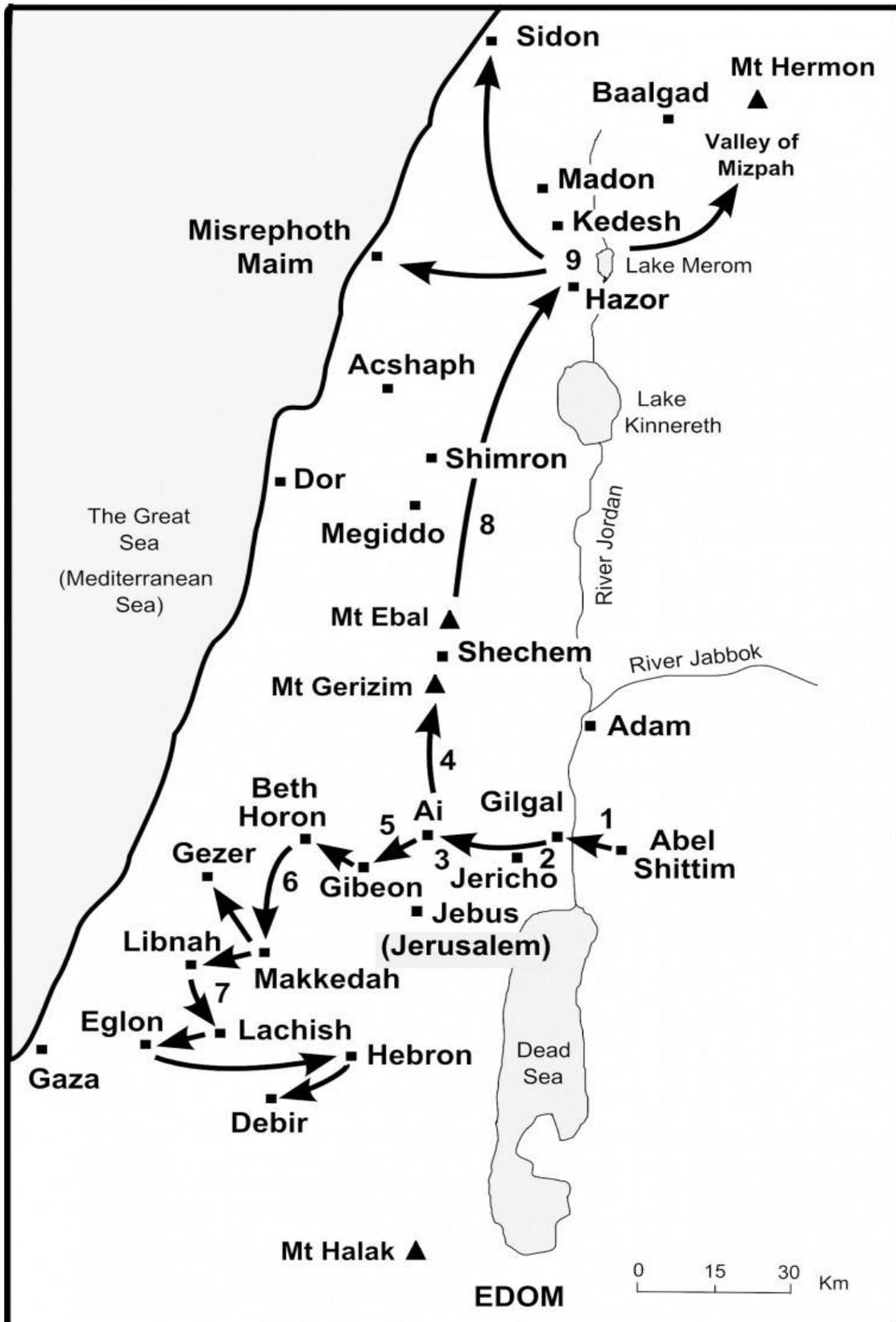
## Relevant Charts:



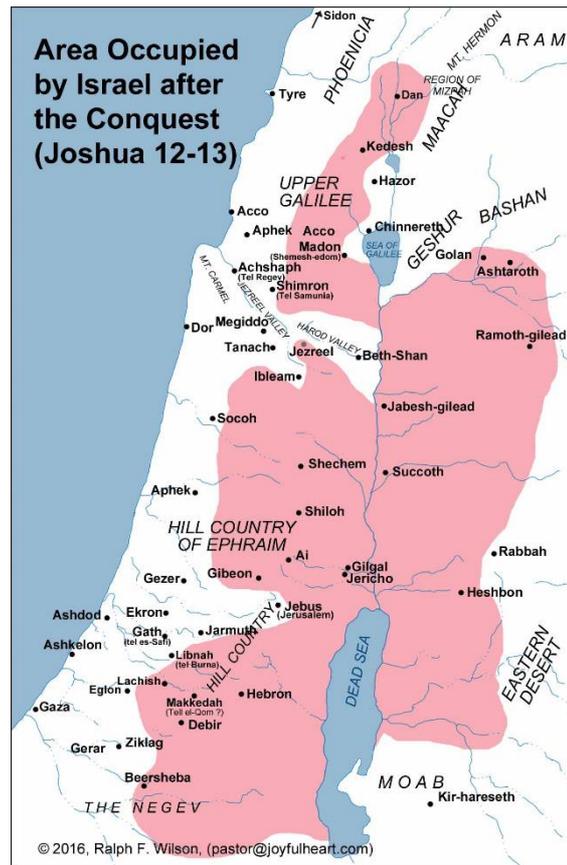
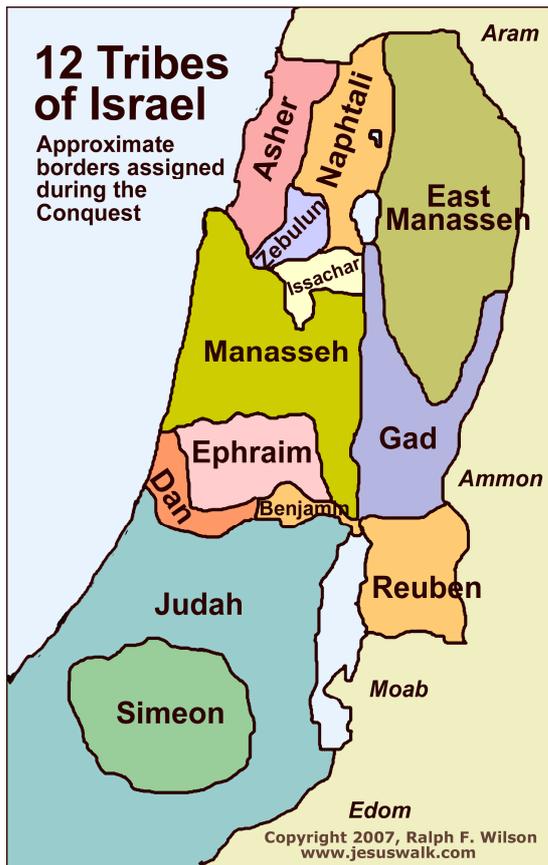
### *History:*



Israel's campaigns under Joshua



Source - <https://www.thebiblejourney.org>



### Enhancing your reading:

Attempt one or more of the following tasks for a better appreciation of the subjects covered by the main readings for this study.



- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

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- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.
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- Read or listen to these other Bible passages that relate to the content of this week's readings:  
1 Chronicles 7:20-29; Nehemiah 9:22-25; Psalm 44:1-3;  
Acts 7:44,45; Heb 4:1-10; 11:30.

**Consider and discuss  
the following questions:**



*All references come from the book of Joshua, unless otherwise indicated.*

- (1) What does the name "Joshua" mean?
- (2) What was Joshua's role before becoming Israel's leader? (see Exodus 24:13; Joshua 1:1)
- (3) Which important events in the exodus story was Joshua involved in? For a start see Exodus 17:8-13; 24:13; 32:17 and Numbers 14:6-9.
- (4) Given that they were still daily being fed with manna, and used to being nomadic, what sort of provisions were the Israelites to "prepare" especially before entering Canaan? (1:11)
- (5) In Joshua 1:6,7,9,18 Deut 31:6,7 & 23, Joshua is exhorted to "be strong and of good courage" concerning his role of leading the Israelites in to possess the promised land. Why is this repeated several times?
- (6) If the two Israelite spies were in Jericho to spy out the land for a "holy cause", why did they lodge with a prostitute (2:1)?
- (7) Who were some of Rahab's more famous descendants? See Matthew 1:5-16.
- (8) In Joshua 2:3-6, Rahab lied about the Israelites in her lodging. How does the NT comment about this incident? See Hebrews 11:31 & James 2:18-26.

(9) Did the Israelites honour their oath concerning Rahab and her family (2:14, 17-20)? See also Joshua 6:23-25

(10) Approximately how long after the death of Moses did the crossing of the Jordan take place? See Joshua 1:11; 3:1,2, 16,17 and Deuteronomy 34:5-8.

(11) Why did the Levites carry the ark ahead of the people? (Joshua 3:3; cp Numbers 10:33-36)

(12) In modern measurements, approximately how far behind the ark were the common Israelites on their way to crossing the Jordan River ? (Joshua 3:4)

(13) What similarities are there between the events of Joshua 3:16,17 and Exodus 14:21,22? Cp Joshua 4:23,24.

(14) Who exactly was circumcised in the ritual described in Joshua 5:1-7?

(15) What was the significant milestone described in Joshua 5:10,11?

(16) Who was the "commander of the LORD'S army"? (Joshua 5:13-15) How did this commander's role differ from Joshua's?

(17) Was it this same commander who spoke with Joshua in 6:2-5?

(18) Why did the Lord make the Israelites draw out the conquest of Jericho over several days? (Joshua 6:3-5)?

(19) Who exactly marched around the city of Jericho? (6:3-7)

(20) How does observing who went into battle at Jericho shed light on the censuses of Numbers chs. 1-3 & 26, as well as the prophecies of Genesis 13:16 & 15:5?

(21) What role did the ark play in the conquest of Jericho?

(22) What were the "accursed things"? (6:18; 7:1,2,21 etc.)

(23) What problems did the acquisition of accursed things cause? (ch.7)

(24) Was the punishment of Achan overly harsh? (7:24,25) Give reasons for your answer.

- (25) There were two attempts to take the city of Ai. Compare 7:2-5 with 8:1-29. How did the two approaches differ?
- (26) What was the point of standing half of the people at the base of one mountain, and half on the other? (8:33; cp Deuteronomy chs. 27 to 30)
- (27) What mistakes did the Israelite rulers make in their dealings with the Gibeonites in ch.9?
- (28) Why couldn't their covenant be broken once they discovered the truth about the Gibeonites? (9:19,20; cp Numbers 30:2)
- (29) Why did the sun and moon stand still? (10:12-14) What was achieved by this?
- (30) How can the event described in 10:41 (note "Kadesh") influence our understanding of Numbers 13:26-14:9?
- (31) In 10:41, Goshen is mentioned as being one of the areas captured. Is this the same Goshen where the Israelites lived in Egypt? (cp Exodus 8:22; 9:26; Joshua 15:48-51) Give reasons for your answer.
- (32) Where was the main camp of the Israelites located whilst the battles for land took place? (Joshua 10:43)
- (33) Joshua 11:14 tells us that the Israelite army "struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing". (a) Why did the Israelites kill all the people of the Canaanite nations that they encountered, and not spare some? (b) Was this killing according to God's will? Give reasons for your answer.
- (34) Joshua 8:27 tells us that, "the livestock and the spoil of [Ai] Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua" (see also 11:14; 22:8). What was the difference between this and what Achan took from Jericho (7:1)?
- (35) How did the treaty with the Gibeonites differ from how other cities were treated by the Israelites (11:19,20)?
- (36) What was significant about Canaanites being left "in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod"? (11:22)
- (37) Not all of Canaan was under the control of Israel by the time Joshua died (24:29). Exactly what regions did they possess? Compare 11:23 with 13:1-7; 21:43 & 23:4,5.

(38) 15:45-47 describes towns that were part of Judah's inheritance, yet these were not conquered for perhaps another 300-400 years. Why are they listed here?

(39) 15:63 tells us that "the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day". When was this statement written?

(40) After the description of the inherited land east of the Jordan (13:8-32) the next portions to be described are Judah (15:1-12, 20-63) and Ephraim and Manasseh (16:1-10). Why are these two tribes listed first?

(41) Should the situations in 16:10 & 17:12,13 been allowed to have come about? Give reasons for your answer.

(42) Why are Zelophehad's daughters mentioned in Joshua 17:3,4? Cp Numbers 27:1-11)

(43) In Joshua 18:1, we read that the tabernacle was set up in Shiloh. Approximately how long did it remain in that location?

(44) Why didn't the remaining seven tribes claim their inheritance before this time? (18:2,5,7)

(45) Which were the seven remaining tribes? See ch.18:11-28; 19:1-9; 19:10-16; 19:17-23; 19:24-31; 19:32-39; 19:40-48.

(46) Why did the bulk of the Israelites' tribes prepare for war against the Reubenites? (22:12)

(47) What was "the iniquity of Peor"? (22:17)

(48) In addition to that given in Numbers 33 and Deuteronomy chs. 1 to 3, why is there yet another retelling of Israel's history thus far in Joshua 24:1-8?

(49) Is the "covenant" of 24:25 separate to the covenant made at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 24:1-8?

(50) How old was Joshua when he died? (24:29)

(51) Why was Joshua buried at Timnath Serah (24:29,30)?

(52) Why were Joseph's bones buried at Shechem? (24:32, cp Genesis 50:24-26; Hebrews 11:22)