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Joshua: A Study Outline

Old Testament Digest, Volume 2

From the *Old Testament Digest* of William MacDonald

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Joshua

A study outline from William MacDonald's *Old Testament Digest, Volume 2* · online: kee-ministry-library.netlify.app/.../outline/joshua

Overview of Joshua

Joshua is the story of God leading His people into the Promised Land, as Exodus is the story of His leading them out of Egypt. MacDonald follows Israel across the Jordan, through three campaigns of conquest (central, southern and northern), into the division of the land among the tribes, and on to Joshua's farewell charges and death. The people had not changed, and were still prone to unbelief, but God kept every promise He had made: "not one word failed."

Key themes

- Possessing our possessions: Canaan pictures our present spiritual inheritance, not heaven
- Strength and courage from God's promise, God's Word and God's presence
- Victory by faith and obedience, not by military might
- Sin in the camp: one man's disobedience defeats the nation
- God's faithfulness: every promise kept, though Israel did not claim every promise
- Grace to the Gentile who believes, seen in Rahab
- Separation from the idols and peoples of the land

Christ in Joshua. MacDonald sees Joshua himself as a picture of Christ in resurrection, the one who leads God's people into their inheritance where the law (Moses) could not. The scarlet cord recalls the blood of the Passover, the ark that goes before Israel into the Jordan speaks of Christ, the stones in the riverbed and on the bank picture our death and resurrection with Him, and the Captain of the Lord's host is the Lord Jesus Himself before His incarnation. The manna and the old corn of the land speak of Christ in incarnation and in resurrection, and the cities of refuge picture Christ as the refuge to whom guilty sinners, and penitent Israel, may flee.

Read Joshua in the NET Bible: Joshua 1 · MacDonald's full commentary: Joshua in the Digest

MacDonald's Outline of Joshua

I. Entrance into Canaan (Joshua 1–5)
- A. Instructions to Joshua and the people (Joshua 1)
- B. Spies sent to Jericho (Joshua 2)
- C. Crossing of Jordan (Joshua 3–5)
  - 1. Memorials (Joshua 3:1–4:24)
  - 2. Circumcision (Joshua 5:1–9)
  - 3. Passover (Joshua 5:10–15)

II. Conquest of Canaan (Joshua 6–12)
- A. Central campaign (Joshua 6–9)
  - 1. Jericho (Joshua 6)
  - 2. Ai (Joshua 7:1–8:29)
  - 3. Confirmation of the covenant at Shechem (Joshua 8:35)
  - 4. Treaty with the Gibeonites (Joshua 9)
- B. Southern campaign (Joshua 10)
- C. Northern campaign (Joshua 11:1–14)
- D. Summary of conquests (Joshua 11:15–12:24)

III. Division of Canaan (Joshua 13–21)
- A. Boundaries of land still to be possessed (Joshua 13:1–7)
- B. Territory assigned to 2 ½ tribes (Joshua 13:8–33)
- C. Territory assigned to 9 ½ tribes (Joshua 14:1–19:51)
- D. Cities of refuge and cities of Levites (Joshua 20–21)

IV. Establishment in Canaan (Joshua 22–24)
- A. Altar erected by 2 ½ tribes east of Jordan (Joshua 22)
- B. Joshua's farewell address (Joshua 23:1–24:15)
- C. Covenant renewed at Shechem (Joshua 24:16–28)
- D. Joshua's death (Joshua 24:29–33)

I · God's Charge to Joshua

Joshua 1

MacDonald shows the new leader charged to be strong and courageous on the strength of God's promise, Word and presence, and the eastern tribes pledged to help take the land.

I. The land promised, but it must be possessed — Joshua 1:1–4
- A. From the Negev to Lebanon, the Mediterranean to the Euphrates — Joshua 1:3–4
- B. Law (Moses) cannot lead into the inheritance; only Christ in resurrection, pictured by Joshua

II. Joshua's background and fitness
- A. Renamed by Moses from Hoshea, an Ephraimite, Moses' servant (Numbers 13:16, Numbers 13:8)
- B. Equipped by spiritual vitality and faith, not military skill (Exodus 33:11)

III. Three times: be strong and courageous — Joshua 1:6–9

A. God's promise, a sure victory — Joshua 1:5–6

B. God's Word, a safe guide: meditate on it and obey it — Joshua 1:7–8

C. God's presence, a sustaining power — Joshua 1:9

IV. The people prepare to cross — Joshua 1:10–18

A. The 2½ eastern tribes must help conquer the land before returning home — Joshua 1:12–15

B. They readily agree — Joshua 1:16–18

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 13:16 Exodus 17 Exodus 33:11 Exodus 32:17 Numbers 14:6–10

LESSONS

- Success in God's work comes from filling our hearts and minds with God's Word and obeying it.
- Canaan pictures our present spiritual inheritance: it is all ours, but we must possess it by obeying the Word, claiming the promises and fighting the good fight of faith.

RELATED READING

- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 1
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on the divinely appointed leader
- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Joshua 1

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Follow-Up Guide for New Christians* (Jean Gibson)
- *Living Discipleship Principles* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 1 →

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2 · Rahab and the Spies

Joshua 2

MacDonald tells how a harlot of Jericho believed in Israel's God, sheltered the spies, and was promised safety under the scarlet cord.

I. Two spies sent to Jericho — Joshua 2:1

A. Military strategy, not unbelief: one step at a time

II. Rahab's faith — Joshua 2:8–11

A. She had heard of the Lord's victories and concluded He was the true God

B. She proved her faith by protecting the spies at the cost of betraying her country

III. Her lie is not commended, but her faith is — Joshua 2:4–5

A. Justified by works, not words (James 2:25); commended for faith (Hebrews 11:31)

IV. The scarlet cord — Joshua 2:17–21

A. A house protected by the blood, as at the Passover (Exodus 12)

V. The spies' escape and confident report — Joshua 2:22–24

CROSS REFERENCES

James 2:25 Hebrews 11:31 Hebrews 11:6 Exodus 12 Luke 7:2–9

LESSONS

- Great faith, wherever it is found, is always rewarded, for it pleases God.
- Some outside Israel showed more faith than those who saw God's works with their own eyes.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "Give Me a True Token"
- *Articles by David Dunlap* (David Dunlap) — Dunlap, "Rahab Perished Not"
- *God's Evangel: Being Gospel Papers* (F. W. Grant) — Grant on Rahab

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 2 →

3 · Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3

MacDonald describes the priests carrying the ark into the flooded river and the waters stopping so all Israel crossed on dry ground.

I. The ark goes first, carried by the priests — Joshua 3:1–6
   A. The people follow at a distance but keep it in view — Joshua 3:4
   B. The ark speaks of Christ: reverent distance, but always kept in view

II. The miracle at the water's edge — Joshua 3:14–16
   A. The river was stopped at the city of Adam, far to the north — Joshua 3:16
   B. Even if by a landslide, the timing was God's miracle

III. God's presence, not Israel's strength, was their hope of triumph

IV. The priests stand in the riverbed until all have crossed — Joshua 3:17

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 4:1–15

LESSONS

- Some of the worst heresies came from brazen attempts to solve mysteries about Christ's Person too deep for the human mind.
- Keeping Christ in view assures us of victory.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on crossing the Jordan
- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon, "The Way to Blessing"
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 3

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Our Lord Jesus Christ, "A Plant of Renown"* (Leonard Sheldrake)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 3 →

4 · The Memorial Stones

Joshua 4

MacDonald explains the two sets of twelve stones, one at Gilgal and one in the riverbed, as lasting memorials and pictures of death and resurrection with Christ.

I. Twelve stones carried out of the Jordan — Joshua 4:1–8
   A. Set up at Gilgal as a reminder to future generations — Joshua 4:20–24

II. The eastern tribes send 40,000 warriors — Joshua 4:12–13
   A. The rest of their 100,000 probably stayed to guard their families

III. Twelve stones set in the riverbed where the priests stood — Joshua 4:9
   A. Stones in the river: identification with Christ in death
   B. Stones on the bank: identification with Christ in resurrection

IV. Joshua exalted as Moses had been — Joshua 4:14
   A. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11)

V. Crossing on the tenth day of the first month, in time for Passover — Joshua 4:19

CROSS REFERENCES

Luke 14:11 Exodus 12:2–3 Numbers 26

LESSONS

- God exalts those who first serve humbly in another's shadow.

RELATED READING

- *Articles by George Rainey* (George Rainey) — Grainey, "The Two Memorials"
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "The Stones of Witness"
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 4

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Our Lord Jesus Christ, "A Plant of Renown"* (Leonard Sheldrake)
- *Bible Characters* (William Kelly)
- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 4 →

5 · Gilgal: Circumcision, Passover and the Captain

Joshua 5

MacDonald shows Israel's first camp in Canaan as a place of renewal: circumcision, the Passover, the end of the manna, and Joshua's meeting with the Captain of the Lord's host.

I. The Canaanites seized with panic — Joshua 5:1

II. Circumcision renewed — Joshua 5:2–9
   A. The wilderness generation had not been circumcised for forty years
   B. A sign of restoration to covenant blessing; the reproach of Egypt rolled away — Joshua 5:9
   C. A picture of self-judgment, vital to victory

III. The first Passover in Canaan — Joshua 5:10
   A. "Most unmilitary acts" in enemy territory: Joshua's faith
   B. A reminder of redemption from Egypt

IV. The manna ceases — Joshua 5:11–12
   A. Manna: Christ in incarnation; the old corn of the land: Christ in resurrection

V. The Captain of the Lord's host — Joshua 5:13–15
   A. The Lord Jesus before His incarnation, who accepts worship
   B. He comes not merely to help but to take full control — Joshua 5:14

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 2:16 Genesis 15:18–21 Exodus 13:5 Exodus 3

LESSONS

- God calls His people back to the basics of their relationship with Him before giving victory.
- Grace was His motive in bringing His people out; faithfulness was His guarantee that He would bring them in.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "Lessons from Gilgal"
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 19 (Expository 1)* (John Nelson Darby) — Darby on Joshua 5
- *Worship and Remembrance, Volume 4* (Daniel Smith) — Daniel Smith, "A Type of Christ in Joshua"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Worship and Remembrance, Volume 2* (Daniel Smith)
- *"We Beheld His Glory"* (Northcote Deck)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 5 →

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6 · The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6

MacDonald shows the first city of the central campaign falling by faith, while Rahab and her house are saved out of it.

I. The central campaign: divide and conquer

II. Jericho, low in place and morals, doomed on God's land
  A. Our own "Jerichos" fall when we claim the victory and move ahead in faith

III. Six days of marching, then seven times on the seventh day — Joshua 6:1–20
  A. The ark mentioned seven times in verses 6–12
  B. The walls fell by faith (Hebrews 11:30)

IV. Everything devoted to the Lord as firstfruits — Joshua 6:17–19
  A. Silver, gold, brass and iron to the Lord's treasury

V. Rahab and her family brought out — Joshua 6:22–25
  A. Faith that brought the walls down also brought Rahab out (Hebrews 11:31)
  B. Grace placed her in the line of David and of Christ (Matthew 1:5)

VI. The curse on whoever rebuilds Jericho — Joshua 6:26
  A. Fulfilled in Hiel's day (1 Kings 16:34)

CROSS REFERENCES

Hebrews 11:30–31 Matthew 1:5–6 Romans 8:29–30 1 Kings 16:34

LESSONS

- Rather than criticize God for judging the wicked, marvel at His grace that spared Rahab.
- Faith is the hand that takes hold of grace.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "The Fall of Jericho"
- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Joshua 6
- "Joshua 6" (H. L. Rossier, plymouthbrethren.org) — Rossier on Joshua 6

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Articles by William MacDonald* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 6 →

7 · Defeat at Ai and the Sin of Achan

Joshua 7

MacDonald traces Israel's defeat at Ai to one man's hidden sin, and the judgment at Achor that opened a door of hope.

I. Overconfidence after victory — Joshua 7:2–5
  A. No prayer before going and no command from the Lord
  B. Israel weaker because sin had entered the camp; 36 men died

II. Joshua's dismay and God's answer: up, deal with sin — Joshua 7:6–15
  A. Not a time for prayer but for action — Joshua 7:10
  B. One man sinned, but the whole nation was guilty — Joshua 7:11

III. The culprit found: tribe, family, household, man — Joshua 7:16–18

IV. Achan's confession — Joshua 7:19–21
  A. "I saw … I coveted … and took" (see James 1:14–15)

V. Judgment in the valley of Achor — Joshua 7:24–26
  A. He took what was devoted and became devoted himself (Deuteronomy 7:26)
  B. Rahab's faith saved her household; Achan's sin condemned his

CROSS REFERENCES

James 1:14–15 Deuteronomy 7:26

LESSONS

- Defeat often comes right after victory, when we feel strongest in ourselves.
- Sin defiles the whole camp and must be dealt with wherever it surfaces.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "Sin in the Camp"
- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Achan's sin and Ai
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 7

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Basic Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 7 →

8 · Ai Taken and the Law at Ebal

Joshua 8

MacDonald describes the ambush that took Ai and the altar and law set up on Mount Ebal between the blessing and the curse.

I. The ambush strategy — Joshua 8:3–22
  A. A force hidden west of the city; the main army draws the defenders out
  B. Joshua's outstretched spear the signal — Joshua 8:18
  C. The numbers: 30,000 and 5000, possibly two ambushes or a copyist's question — Joshua 8:3–12

II. This time the spoil was theirs — Joshua 8:27
  A. Had Achan only waited, he might have had it without losing his life

III. No losses recorded after sin was purged

A. Victory is God's presence and protection in the midst of conflict

IV. Altar on Ebal and the law written on stones — Joshua 8:30–35

A. In obedience to — Deuteronomy 27:2–6

B. Half the tribes before Ebal, half before Gerizim; blessings and curses read

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 27:2–6 Deuteronomy 27:14

LESSONS

- Victory in the Christian life is not the absence of conflict but God's presence in it.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on the fall of Ai and the law
- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Joshua 8–9
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 8

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Elements of Prophecy* (William Kelly)
- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 8 →

9 · The Gibeonite Deception

Joshua 9

MacDonald tells how the Gibeonites tricked Israel into a treaty because the leaders did not ask counsel of the Lord.

I. The kings of Canaan unite against Israel — Joshua 9:1–2

II. Gibeon's ruse — Joshua 9:3–13

A. They knew distant nations could be spared (Deuteronomy 20:10–15)

B. Worn clothes, old shoes, moldy bread and torn wineskins

III. The fatal omission: they did not inquire of the Lord — Joshua 9:14–15

IV. The trick exposed in three days — Joshua 9:16–21

A. The princes keep their oath

V. Gibeonites made woodcutters and water carriers for the altar — Joshua 9:22–27

VI. The oath honored later: Saul punished for breaking it (2 Samuel 21)

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 20:10–15 2 Samuel 21

LESSONS

- Appearances deceive; decisions made without asking the Lord lead into lasting entanglements.
- A promise made, even under deception, should be kept.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "The Wiles of the Devil"
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 9

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Accents from Abroad* (W. Ross Rainey)
- *Worship and Remembrance, Volume 4* (Daniel Smith)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 9 →

10 · The Southern Campaign and the Long Day

Joshua 10

MacDonald shows God fighting for Israel at Gibeon with hailstones and a lengthened day, and Joshua sweeping through the southern cities.

I. Five kings attack Gibeon; Joshua comes to help — Joshua 10:1–7

II. "Fear them not": God's word before the battle — Joshua 10:8

III. Two miracles — Joshua 10:10–14

- A. Discriminating hail that killed only the enemy — Joshua 10:11
- B. Sun and moon "stood still": descriptive language for a miraculously lengthened day — Joshua 10:12–14
- C. The book of Jasher, perhaps "the Book of the Upright," not inspired — Joshua 10:13

IV. The five kings in the cave — Joshua 10:16–27

V. The southern cities taken — Joshua 10:28–43

- A. Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron and Debir
- B. Joshua swept through; each tribe had to finish the work in its own inheritance

LESSONS

- God's promises are meant not to slacken our efforts but to quicken and encourage them.
- We should glorify God in His miracles, not try to soften them.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "When the Sun Stood Still"
- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Joshua 10
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 10

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Studies in 1 Timothy* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 10 →

11 · The Northern Campaign

Joshua 11

MacDonald records the defeat of the northern kings at the waters of Merom and a summary of the conquest from Seir to Hermon.

I. The northern confederacy at Merom — Joshua 11:1–5

II. Victory and obedience — Joshua 11:6–9

- A. Horses hamstrung and chariots burned, as the Lord commanded

III. Hazor burned; cities on mounds spared for settlement — Joshua 11:10–14

IV. Complete obedience brings complete victory — Joshua 11:15

V. Review of the whole conquest — Joshua 11:16–20

- A. Only Gibeon made peace; Jerusalem remained until David

VI. The Anakim destroyed except in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod — Joshua 11:21–22

VII. "The land rested from war": major battles over, mopping up remained — Joshua 11:23

LESSONS

- Complete obedience brings complete victory.

RELATED READING

- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Joshua 11
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "God's Word Tested and Proven"
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 11

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Papers on the Pentateuch* (William Kelly)
- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 11 →

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12 · The Defeated Kings

Joshua 12

MacDonald lists the kings conquered east and west of the Jordan as thirty-one witnesses of God's faithfulness.

I. Under Moses, east of the Jordan — Joshua 12:1–6
   A. Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan
   B. Their land given to the 2½ tribes

II. Under Joshua, west of the Jordan — Joshua 12:7–24
   A. Thirty-one kings defeated
   B. God's promise kept: no man able to stand before them (Deuteronomy 7:24)

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 7:24

LESSONS

- Every defeated king is an instance of God's faithfulness to His word.

RELATED READING

- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon) — Snaddon on Joshua 12
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 12

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Accents from Abroad* (W. Ross Rainey)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Revelation: A Complete Commentary* (William R. Newell)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 12 →

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13 · Land Remaining and the Eastern Tribes

Joshua 13

MacDonald notes the land still unconquered in Joshua's old age and the inheritance already given east of the Jordan.

I. Joshua old; much land still to be possessed — Joshua 13:1–7
   A. Areas in the southwest and northeast still held by the heathen — Joshua 13:2–6
   B. The land to the Euphrates promised but never yet occupied

II. The 2½ tribes east of the Jordan — Joshua 13:8–33

A. Reuben Joshua 13:15–23, Gad Joshua 13:24–28, half-Manasseh — Joshua 13:29–31

B. Gad's land once Ammonite, but taken earlier by Sihon — Joshua 13:25

III. Balaam among the slain — Joshua 13:22

A. "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23)

IV. Levi has no tribal inheritance; the Lord is its inheritance — Joshua 13:14

A. Joseph's two sons keep the number at twelve (Genesis 48:5)

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 23–25 Numbers 32:23 Deuteronomy 2:19 Genesis 48:5

LESSONS

- The Lord does not forget the harm done to His people.

RELATED READING

- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 13
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on Joshua 13 and Caleb

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Bible Gems: Gospel Light* (Milton Haack)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 13 →

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14 · Caleb Claims Hebron

Joshua 14

MacDonald begins the division of the land west of the Jordan with eighty-five-year-old Caleb asking for the mountain of the giants.

I. Division of the land by lot — Joshua 14:1–5

A. Location by lot, size by population (Numbers 26:53–56)

II. Judah first, the largest tribe — Joshua 14:6

III. Caleb's request for Hebron — Joshua 14:6–12

A. 85 years old, faith, courage and strength unabated — Joshua 14:10–11

B. He had been preserved for 45 years for this

IV. Hebron given to Caleb — Joshua 14:13–15

A. The city later went to the priests; Caleb kept the country around it

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 14:36–38 Numbers 26:53–56

LESSONS

- Caleb saw things through the eyes of faith, not as they appeared; this was the secret of his abiding strength.
- He would not retire until he possessed his possessions.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "Caleb the Wholehearted"
- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson) — Wilson, "Caleb and Mount Hebron"
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 14

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

- *Bible Gems: Gospel Light* (Milton Haack)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 14 →

15 · Judah's Inheritance

Joshua 15

MacDonald describes Judah's boundaries and cities, Othniel's capture of Debir, and the Jebusites left in Jerusalem.

I. Judah's boundaries — Joshua 15:1–12
   A. Hard to trace now, but important in God's sight

II. Caleb takes Hebron; Othniel takes Kirjath-sepher and wins Achsah — Joshua 15:13–19
   A. Othniel later the first judge (Judges 3:9)
   B. Achsah asks for the upper and lower springs

III. Judah's cities — Joshua 15:20–62
   A. Hebron, Beer-sheba and other places of the patriarchs
   B. The counts explained: Simeon's nine cities within Judah's list — Joshua 15:32

IV. The Jebusites not driven out of Jerusalem — Joshua 15:63
   A. Mount Zion not taken until David (2 Samuel 5:6–7)

CROSS REFERENCES

Judges 3:9 Genesis 13:18 Genesis 23:17–20 Judges 1:8 Judges 1:21 2 Samuel 5:6–7

LESSONS

- The places of the patriarchs were a heritage to strengthen faith: the God of Abraham was among their children.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on the inheritance and Othniel

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson)
- *Jerusalem* (Gordon Franz)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 15 →

16 · Ephraim's Inheritance

Joshua 16

MacDonald covers Joseph's double portion and Ephraim's borders, noting the Canaanites left in Gezer.

I. Joseph receives the birthright Reuben forfeited (Genesis 49:4) — Joshua 16:1–4

II. Ephraim's boundaries — Joshua 16:5–9

III. The Canaanites not driven out of Gezer — Joshua 16:10
   A. Failure to drive them out brought grief in later history

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 49:4

LESSONS

- Compromise left unchecked becomes a source of later grief.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 16 →

17 · Manasseh and the Complaint of Joseph's Sons

Joshua 17

MacDonald describes Manasseh's land on both sides of the Jordan and Joshua's answer to the tribes that complained of too little room.

I. Manasseh east and west of the Jordan — Joshua 17:1–11
  A. Five Canaanite fortresses on the north: Beth-shean, Ibleam, Dor, Taanach, Megiddo — Joshua 17:11–12

II. Zelophehad's daughters inherit — Joshua 17:3–6
  A. As God told Moses (Numbers 27:1–7); they must marry within the tribe (Numbers 36)

III. Joseph's sons complain of one lot — Joshua 17:14–18
  A. Joshua: clear the forests and use your numbers — Joshua 17:15
  B. You can drive out the Canaanites, chariots and all — Joshua 17:18
  C. Occupy all the land already given — Joshua 17:17

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 27:1–7 Numbers 36:1–13

LESSONS

- The answer to "not enough room" is often to possess fully what God has already given.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *The Messianic Psalms* (T. Ernest Wilson)
- *Papers on the Pentateuch* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 17 →

18 · The Tabernacle at Shiloh and Benjamin's Lot

Joshua 18

MacDonald shows the camp moving to Shiloh, the remaining land surveyed, and Benjamin's small but choice inheritance.

I. The tabernacle set up at Shiloh — Joshua 18:1
  A. It remained there until Samuel's day

II. Seven tribes still without land; a survey ordered — Joshua 18:2–10

III. Benjamin's boundaries and cities — Joshua 18:11–28
  A. Small but choice, at the heart of the land
  B. Gilgal, Jericho's ruins, Bethel and Jerusalem within its borders

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 28:18–22 Genesis 35:1–15

LESSONS

- Benjamin's land was full of reminders of past, present and future blessing: Gilgal, Jericho and Bethel all taught that the battle was the Lord's.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Church Truths* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Current Messages* (Dan Snaddon)
- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 18 →

19 · The Remaining Tribes and Joshua's City

Joshua 19

MacDonald covers the lots of Simeon and the other six tribes, Dan's migration north, and Joshua's own modest inheritance.

I. Simeon within Judah — Joshua 19:1–9
  A. Jacob's prophecy fulfilled: scattered in Israel (Genesis 49:7)

II. Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan — Joshua 19:10–48
  A. City counts sometimes differ because border towns are named — Joshua 19:15

III. Dan's migration to Laish, renamed Dan — Joshua 19:47–48
  A. See — Judges 18

IV. Joshua receives Timnath-serah last — Joshua 19:49–51

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 49:7 Judges 18

LESSONS

- Joshua took his own inheritance last, after every tribe had theirs.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Life of Christ* (Gordon Franz)
- *Archaeology and the Bible* (Gordon Franz)
- *Dr. Ironside's Bible* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 19 →

20 · The Cities of Refuge

Joshua 20

MacDonald explains the six cities of refuge for the manslayer and sees in them a picture of Christ as the sinner's refuge.

I. Purpose: refuge for one who killed accidentally — Joshua 20:1–6
  A. Safe from the avenger of blood until the high priest's death
  B. Roads kept in repair, signposted "Refuge" (Jewish commentators)

II. The six cities and their meanings — Joshua 20:7–9
  A. West: Kedesh (holiness), Shechem (strength), Hebron (fellowship)
  B. East: Bezer (safety), Ramoth-gilead (uplifting), Golan (happiness)
  C. No place in the land more than 30 miles from one

III. Pictures of Christ
  A. Israel's guilt in slaying the Messiah; Christ the refuge for penitent Israel
  B. The way clear and well marked, accessible to all
  C. No neutral ground: safe in the city or under the avenger (John 3:36)

CROSS REFERENCES

John 3:36

LESSONS

- All men are either safe in Christ or under the judgment of God.
- A crisis is often needed to drive people to the Lord Jesus for refuge.

RELATED READING

- *Worship and Remembrance, Volume 4* (Daniel Smith) — Daniel Smith, "The Cities of Refuge"
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "The Cities of Refuge"
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 20–21

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Articles by John Ritchie* (John Ritchie)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 20 →

21 · The Cities of the Levites

Joshua 21

MacDonald lists the forty-eight Levitical cities and closes with the testimony that not one of God's good promises failed.

I. Forty-eight cities with pastureland — Joshua 21:1–42
   A. Priests: 13 cities from Judah, Simeon and Benjamin
   B. Kohathites 10, Gershonites 13, Merarites 12
   C. Scattered to fulfil Jacob's prophecy and to teach the nation (Genesis 49:5–7)

II. God's faithfulness summed up — Joshua 21:43–45
   A. The land given as promised (Joshua 1:3)
   B. Rest from enemies: every foe they fought was defeated
   C. "Not one word failed" — Joshua 21:45

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 35:2–8 Genesis 49:5–7 Joshua 1:3

LESSONS

- God fulfilled every promise, but Israel did not appropriate every promise.

RELATED READING

- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 20–21
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on Joshua's last days

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Articles by James Gunn* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 21 →

22 · The Altar of Witness

Joshua 22

MacDonald tells how an altar built by the eastern tribes nearly caused civil war until its purpose as a witness was explained.

I. The eastern tribes sent home with honor — Joshua 22:1–9
   A. Over seven years away from their families in the Lord's battles
   B. Endure hardship as good soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3)

II. The altar by the Jordan and the alarm it caused — Joshua 22:10–20
   A. Feared as a rival to the altar at Shiloh
   B. The memory of Peor and Achan: sin defiles the whole camp — Joshua 22:17–20

III. The explanation: a witness, not an altar for sacrifice — Joshua 22:21–29

IV. War averted; the altar named Ed, "a witness" — Joshua 22:30–34

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 25 1 Timothy 6:12 2 Timothy 2:3

LESSONS

- Inquire before declaring war on fellow believers.
- The life that pleases God includes sacrifice and hardship for the sake of others.

RELATED READING

- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier) — Rossier on Joshua 22

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by James G. McCarthy* (James G. McCarthy)
- *Articles by Robert Gessner* (Robert Gessner)
- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 22 →

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23 · Joshua's Charge to the Leaders

Joshua 23

MacDonald summarizes Joshua's first farewell, urging Israel's leaders to obey God and keep separate from the nations.

I. God has fought for you — Joshua 23:1–5

II. Be courageous to keep the law — Joshua 23:6

A. The same words God spoke to Joshua at the start (Joshua 1:7)

III. Keep separate from the nations and their gods — Joshua 23:7–13

A. Intermarriage would make them snares and traps

IV. Not one good thing has failed — Joshua 23:14

A. God drives out the nations little by little (Deuteronomy 7:22)

V. The warning: He will be as faithful in judgment — Joshua 23:15–16

CROSS REFERENCES

Joshua 1:7 Deuteronomy 7:22 2 Corinthians 6:14–18

LESSONS

- We cannot cleave to the Lord and be bound to His enemies at the same time.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on Joshua's last days

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)
- *Articles by J. G. Bellett* (J. G. Bellett)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 23 →

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24 · Covenant at Shechem and Joshua's Death

Joshua 24

MacDonald covers Joshua's farewell to the people, his challenge to choose whom they would serve, and three

burials in Joseph's land.

I. Review of Israel's history from Terah — Joshua 24:1–13
   A. God's sovereignty: "I took … I gave … I sent … I brought"

II. The challenge: choose whom you will serve — Joshua 24:14–15
   A. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

III. "You cannot serve the Lord": not Jehovah and idols together — Joshua 24:16–24
   A. They had idols in their tents even then — Joshua 24:23

IV. The covenant and the stone of witness under the oak — Joshua 24:25–28

V. Three burials — Joshua 24:29–33
   A. Joshua, 110 years old
   B. Joseph's bones, carried from Egypt (Genesis 50:24)
   C. Eleazar the high priest, whose death freed the manslayers

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 31:30–34 Genesis 35:2–4 Genesis 50:24 Exodus 13:19 Exodus 14:19–20

LESSONS

- "God buries His workmen but continues His work."
- A personal decision for the Lord inspires succeeding generations.

RELATED READING

- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside on Joshua's last days

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Articles by James Naismith* (James Naismith)
- *Papers on the Pentateuch* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 24 →

Further reading on Joshua

In the Faithful Men Library

- *The Book of Joshua* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Addresses on the Book of Joshua* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Bible Commentary on Joshua* (H. L. Rossier)
- *From the Editor's Notebook: The Historical Books* (W. Ross Rainey)
- *Bible Characters* (William Kelly)
- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 19 (Expository 1)* (John Nelson Darby)

On plymouthbrethren.org

- "Joshua" (William Kelly, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Joshua" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Readings On Joshua" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "From the Editor's Notebook: Historical Books, Joshua" (W. Ross Rainey, From the Editor's Notebook, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Two Memorials (Joshua 4)" (grainey, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Rahab Perished Not" (David Dunlap, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Chapter 5 A Type of Christ in Joshua" (Daniel Smith, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Chapter 2 The Cities Of Refuge" (Daniel Smith, plymouthbrethren.org)

Every library book that cites Joshua: Scripture index — Joshua

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