

good
NEWS BIBLE

The book of

JOSHUA

Bible Society
Trinity Business Centre
Stonehill Green, Westlea
Swindon SN5 7DG
biblesociety.org.uk

First published 2024 by The British and Foreign Bible Society
Copyright © 2024 The British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS)
Map produced for BFBS by Hardlines © 1997, Revised by BFBS 2017
Additional material © 2017 BFBS

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.
Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994,
2004

The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, Floor 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155 (www.americanbible.org).

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Joshua
ISBN: 978-0-564-03711-7
Typesetting and production management by Bible Society Resources Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The British and Foreign Bible Society

Cover design by Colin Hall

BSRL/2024/0.5M
Printed in Great Britain

Contents

Welcome to the		Chapter 12	44
Good News Bible	4	Chapter 13	46
Introduction	9	Chapter 14	50
Chapter 1	10	Chapter 15	52
Chapter 2	12	Chapter 16	56
Chapter 3	15	Chapter 17	58
Chapter 4	16	Chapter 18	60
Chapter 5	19	Chapter 19	64
Chapter 6	21	Chapter 20	68
Chapter 7	25	Chapter 21	69
Chapter 8	28	Chapter 22	73
Chapter 9	33	Chapter 23	78
Chapter 10	36	Chapter 24	80
Chapter 11	42	Where to find ...	85

Welcome to the Good News Bible

Welcome to this dyslexia-friendly edition of the book of Joshua, using text from the Good News Bible.

If you are dyslexic, you may find most Bibles very difficult to read, because of their small type, long paragraphs and thin paper. This book has been specially designed with the British Dyslexia Association's style guide in mind, so it has the following features:

- Thicker paper, so that type does not show through
- Cream-coloured paper
- Matt paper
- Plain font
- Larger type
- Wider line spacing
- Short paragraphs
- Bold headings

The Good News Bible is a clear, easy-to read translation of the Bible. It uses ordinary, everyday language so that as many people as possible can read and understand it. This has made it a very popular translation, selling over 150 million copies in the UK alone.

The book of JOSHUA

The fight for the Promised Land

What's it about? The book of Joshua tells how the people of God fought for the land that God had promised them.

Who wrote it? The book is named after Joshua, God's new leader of his people. However, some think it was brought together long after the events took place.

Why read it? God kept his promise that his people would be a mighty nation and live in a new land. It took hundreds of years to come about, but God is faithful.

What's it to me? The violence ordered by God makes us wrestle with awkward questions, such as 'Is this fair? Is God just?'

Chapter 1

God Commands Joshua to Conquer Canaan

¹ After the death of the LORD's servant Moses, the LORD spoke to Moses' helper, Joshua son of Nun.

² He said, "My servant Moses is dead. Get ready now, you and all the people of Israel, and cross the River Jordan into the land that I am giving them.

³ As I told Moses, I have given you and all my people the entire land that you will be marching over.

⁴ Your borders will reach from the desert in the south to the Lebanon Mountains in the north; from the great River Euphrates in the east, through the Hittite country, to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.

⁵ Joshua, no one will be able to defeat you as long as you live. I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will always be with you; I will never abandon you.

⁶ Be determined and confident, for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land which I promised their ancestors.

⁷ Just be determined, be confident; and make sure that you obey the whole Law that my servant Moses gave you. Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go.

⁸ Be sure that the book of the Law is always read in your worship. Study it day and night, and make sure that you obey everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

⁹Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go."

Joshua Gives Orders to the People

¹⁰Then Joshua ordered the leaders to ¹¹go through the camp and say to the people, "Get some food ready, because in three days you are going to cross the River Jordan to occupy the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

¹²Joshua said to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and to half the tribe of Manasseh, ¹³"Remember how Moses, the LORD's servant, told you that the LORD your God would give you this land on the east side of the Jordan as your home.

¹⁴Your wives, your children, and your livestock will stay here, but your soldiers, armed for battle, will cross over ahead of their fellow-Israelites in order to help them ¹⁵until they have occupied the land west of the Jordan that the LORD your God has given them. When he has given safety to all the tribes of Israel, then you may come back and settle here in your own land east of the Jordan, which Moses, the LORD's servant, gave to you."

¹⁶They answered Joshua, "We will do everything you have told us and will go wherever you send us.

¹⁷We will obey you, just as we always obeyed Moses, and may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses!

¹⁸Whoever questions your authority or disobeys any of your orders will be put to death. Be determined and confident!"

Chapter 2

Joshua Sends Spies into Jericho

¹Then Joshua sent two spies from the camp at Acacia with orders to go and secretly explore the land of Canaan, especially the city of Jericho. When they came to the city, they went to spend the night in the house of a prostitute named Rahab.

²The king of Jericho heard that some Israelites had come that night to spy out the country, ³so he sent word to Rahab: "The men in your house have come to spy out the whole country! Bring them out!"

⁴⁻⁶"Some men did come to my house," she answered, "but I don't know where they were from. They left at sunset before the city gate was closed. I didn't find out where they were going, but if you start after them quickly, you can catch them." (Now Rahab had taken the two spies up on the roof and hidden them under some stalks of flax that she had put there.)



"Explore the land . . . especially the city of Jericho" (2.1)

⁷The king's men left the city, and then the gate was shut. They went looking for the Israelite spies as far as the place where the road crosses the Jordan.

⁸Before the spies settled down for the night, Rahab went up on the roof ⁹and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land. Everyone in the country is terrified of you.

¹⁰We have heard how the LORD dried up the Red Sea in front of you when you were leaving Egypt. We have also heard how you killed Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan.

¹¹We were afraid as soon as we heard about it; we have all lost our courage because of you. The LORD your God is God in heaven above and here on earth.

¹²Now swear by him that you will treat my family as kindly as I have treated you, and give me some sign that I can trust you.

¹³Promise me that you will save my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families! Don't let us be killed!"

¹⁴The men said to her, "May God take our lives if we don't do as we say!^a If you do not tell anyone what we have been doing, we promise you that when the LORD gives us this land, we will treat you well."

¹⁵Rahab lived in a house built into the city wall, so she let the men down from the window by a rope.

^a *May God... say; or We will protect you if you protect us.*

16 "Go into the hill country," she said, "or the king's men will find you. Hide there for three days until they come back. After that you can go on your way."

17 The men said to her, "We will keep the promise that you have made us give.

18 This is what you must do. When we invade your land, tie this red cord to the window you let us down from. Get your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's family together in your house.

19 If anyone goes out of the house, his death will be his own fault, and we will not be responsible; but if anyone in the house with you is harmed, then we will be responsible.

20 However, if you tell anyone what we have been doing, then we will not have to keep our promise which you have made us give you."

21 She agreed and sent them away. When they had gone, she tied the red cord to the window.

22 The spies went into the hills and hid. The king's men looked for them all over the countryside for three days, but they did not find them, so they returned to Jericho.

23 Then the two spies came down from the hills, crossed the river, and went back to Joshua. They told him everything that had happened, 24 and then said, "We are sure that the LORD has given us the whole country. All the people there are terrified of us."

Chapter 3

The People of Israel Cross the Jordan

¹The next morning Joshua and all the people of Israel got up early, left the camp at Acacia, and went to the Jordan, where they camped while waiting to cross it.

²Three days later the leaders went through the camp ³and said to the people, "When you see the priests carrying the Covenant Box of the LORD your God, break camp and follow them.

⁴You have never been here before, so they will show you the way to go. But do not get near the Covenant Box; stay about a kilometre behind it."

⁵Joshua said to the people, "Purify yourselves, because tomorrow the LORD will perform miracles among you."

⁶Then he told the priests to take the Covenant Box and go with it ahead of the people. They did as he said.

⁷The LORD said to Joshua, "What I do today will make all the people of Israel begin to honour you as a great man, and they will realize that I am with you as I was with Moses.

⁸Tell the priests carrying the Covenant Box that when they reach the river, they must wade in and stand near the bank."

⁹Then Joshua said to the people, "Come here and listen to what the LORD your God has to say.

¹⁰As you advance, he will surely drive out the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Gergashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. You will know

that the living God is among you ¹¹ when the Covenant Box of the Lord of all the earth crosses the Jordan ahead of you.

¹²Now choose twelve men, one from each of the tribes of Israel.

¹³When the priests who carry the Covenant Box of the LORD of all the earth put their feet in the water, the Jordan will stop flowing, and the water coming downstream will pile up in one place."

¹⁴⁻¹⁵It was harvest time, and the river was in flood.

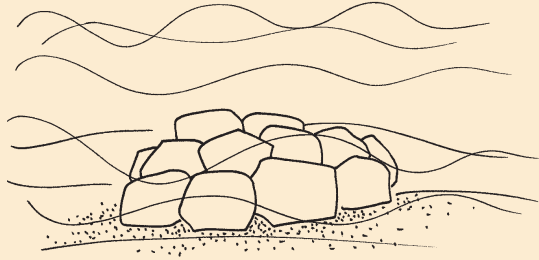
When the people left the camp to cross the Jordan, the priests went ahead of them, carrying the Covenant Box. As soon as the priests stepped into the river, ¹⁶the water stopped flowing and piled up, far upstream at Adam, the city beside Zarethan. The flow downstream to the Dead Sea was completely cut off, and the people were able to cross over near Jericho.

¹⁷While the people walked across on dry ground, the priests carrying the LORD's Covenant Box stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan until all the people had crossed over.

Chapter 4

Memorial Stones are Set Up

¹When the whole nation had crossed the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²"Choose twelve men, one from each tribe, ³and command them to take twelve stones out



“Twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan” (4.9)

of the middle of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests were standing. Tell them to carry these stones with them and to put them down where you camp tonight.”

⁴Then Joshua called the twelve men he had chosen, ⁵and said, “Go into the Jordan ahead of the Covenant Box of the LORD your God. Each one of you take a stone on your shoulder, one for each of the tribes of Israel.

⁶These stones will remind the people of what the LORD has done. In the future, when your children ask what these stones mean to you, ⁷you will tell them that the water of the Jordan stopped flowing when the LORD's Covenant Box crossed the river. These stones will always remind the people of Israel of what happened here.”

⁸The men followed Joshua's orders. As the LORD had commanded Joshua, they took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, one for each of the tribes of Israel, carried them to the camping place, and put them down there.

⁹Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, where the priests carrying the Covenant Box had stood. (Those stones are still there.)