

# Old Testament Eras

## *Joshua*

### ***Introduction***

We've started most lessons in this course with an introduction that asked you to write down the first thing that comes to mind when you think of a particular Old Testament figure. That was pretty easy with people like Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Moses. But from here on out, some of the Old Testament Eras we focus on will draw our attention to people who may not be so familiar. What comes to mind when you think of Joshua?

### ***The Lord Fulfills His Promise Of The Land***

If you're interested in reviewing the gist of a Bible book quickly, the People's Bible commentary series can help you quite a bit. In the introductory material for each book you'll find an outline of the book. For the book of Joshua, the overall theme given for the book is "*The Lord Fulfills His Promise Of The Land.*" The 4 sections below each begin with one of the 4 subthemes provided for the book of Joshua. Before we begin, take a look at the books theme and 4 subthemes. What purpose(s) do you think this book served in the faith life of the Old Testament believer?

### ***Preparations For Taking The Land (Joshua 1:1-5:12)***

1. Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8. In what ways did God prepare his people for the leadership transition that was about to take place?
2. In what ways did God prepare his people for their leader?
3. Now read Joshua 1:1-9. In what ways did God prepare Joshua to lead his people in their conquest of the Promised Land?

### *The Land Is Captured (Joshua 5:13-12:24)*

4. Read Joshua 5:13-15. As God's people approach Jericho, reality must have been setting in. "God's promise of our own land will come through battle!" For what reasons is this short section so important to keep in mind when reading the following 8 chapters?

### *The Land Is Allotted (Joshua 13:1- 21:45)*

5. When reading through the Old Testament, every once and a while you'll come across a section just packed with names and locations that may not mean much to you. Spend 5 minutes scanning through chapters 13 to 21. As you do, imagine you are familiar with the names and places. (For example: "The territory of Wisconsin, all the towns of Brown County and half of Oconto County...") In what ways, would these sections have been incredibly important for God's people as they capture the Promised Land?
6. In what ways might we study a section of Scripture like this one to help us get more out of it?

### *The Heirs Of The Land Respond (Joshua 22:1-24:33)*

7. Read Deuteronomy 13:12-15. Does it help shed any light on the events recorded in Joshua 22?
8. Turns out this was a big misunderstanding! Read verses 15-29. In what ways will this misunderstanding serve as a blessing going forward?

### ***Apply it***

Read chapter 23. Write down 2 things from Joshua's farewell speech that will be a blessing to you this week.

## ***Systematic Theology***

*If we have time*

In systematic theology, we strive to find everything the Bible says about a particular topic. Systematic theology is often broken up in to 5 to 6 categories. Prolegomena, Theology, Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, and Eschatology. Portions of Scripture from Joshua show up in the indexes of our systematic resources! Look for anything from the book of Joshua.

### ***Prolegomena (The “before conversation”)***

### ***Theology (The study of God)***

### ***Anthropology (The study of man)***

### ***Christology (The study of the Christ)***

***Soteriology (The study of salvation)***

***Eschatology (The study of the last things)***

***Next Week's Old Testament Era—Judges!***

If you'd like to preview our lesson on the era of Judges during the week, take a read through the book of Judges. If you don't have time to read the whole book it would still be helpful to page through it. Even if you only read the headings!