

Bible reading

JOSHUA

Joshua is the first of the 'historical books'. The book makes a link between the Pentateuch and the rest of Israel's history. Just as Deuteronomy ends with the death of Moses, so the book of Joshua ends with the death of Joshua. Joshua begins with the words, "After the death of Moses," and the book of Judges begins with, "After the death of Joshua." Joshua is the literary bridge between Israel's wilderness experiences, found in Exodus to Deuteronomy, and the narrative of struggles in the early years of occupying the land, which is found in Judges.

A book of battles against the enemy in which the people of God learn that it is through their God that they win the battles and not through their own military might. The Lord had promised them not only to bring them out of slavery in Egypt but to also give them the Promised Land and to go before them and fight for them. The book of Joshua shows how this came to pass and also shows how their inheritance was shared among them.

1. Give one repeated word, which is a theme throughout the book, and give your interpretation to the question, "Why is this repeated?" (Think of what the author is trying to get across to the readers, etc.)
2. Compare Moses and Joshua. Comment.
3. In application to the examples of Moses and Joshua, what areas do you feel you need to improve on?