

## The Book of Joshua

# 4

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we begin our study of the book of **Joshua**, the sixth book of the Old Testament. This book is closely linked with the previous five books of the Pentateuch. In **Genesis**, we read the story of God’s call to Abraham, to whom came the covenantal promise in **Genesis 13:14-17**:

“Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever...Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

The book of **Joshua** is similar to **Deuteronomy** in style and language. It is quite likely that Joshua acted as Moses’ secretary and later edited **Deuteronomy**, which explains passages such as **Deuteronomy 34**, which record the death of Moses.

The book of **Joshua** itself does not specify its author, nor is the author named elsewhere in the Old Testament, but from earliest times tradition has attributed the authorship to Joshua, which is quite possible. Joshua’s authorship also lends an eyewitness credibility to the account of the conquest of Canaan.

The name Joshua means “The Lord saves” or “The Lord is salvation.” This has special significance, for **Joshua** is a book recording God’s salvation in action. The Greek form of Joshua is Jesus – yes, Jesus’ Hebrew name was Yeshua (or Joshua in the English form)! You will find that Joshua is a strong type of the Lord Jesus – as the “captain of [our] salvation” (**Hebrews 2:10**, KJV) and the one who provides us the “rest” that God has promised (note **Hebrews 4:8-11**).

We will divide our reading of Joshua into two segments:

- **Chapters 1-12**
- **Chapters 13-24**

So pull up a comfortable chair and read **Joshua 1-12**, and notice how God fulfills his promise to Abraham and the promises of his covenant at Sinai.

# Memory Verse

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!