

Aids to the study of Joshua: Read Joshua through at one sitting with a Bible atlas with which you can trace the movements of the armies, the places, and names. Try to grasp the military strategy inherent in the first half of the book and the political strategy in the second half. You will find it interesting to see the relationship between Joshua and parts of the Pentateuch. Compare Joshua 14:1-4 with Numbers 34:13-14; sketch the division of the land by the tribes (Why were certain tribes located where they were, and what relationships are implicit in their locations? See Genesis 49. Carefully compare Joshua 24 with the treaty covenant formulary discussed in Deuteronomy.

Beyond the Bible, in classical literature, the "Fall of Jericho" by Jean Fouquet (ca. 1420-1481) shows the battle taking place in a typical Dutch or mid-European countryside and town of the fifteenth century. An important eighth-century manuscript, the Rotulus of Joshua (scroll), is a series of miniatures of events in the book which have the biblical text interspersed within the pictures themselves. It might be considered a forerunner of the "Comic-strip Bible." And you will remember many spirituals that depict scenes from this book... "Joshua fought the battle of Jericho", etc.

Further Study in Woudstra, Martin: JOSHUA, (Eerdmans) and Schaeffer, Francis: JOSHUA AND THE FLOW OF BIBLICAL HISTORY. The MacMillan Bible Atlas is the most extensive Bible atlas available. Its maps cover nearly every possible aspect of the Bible's history but it is not conservative in its treatment of the text.

2. A very partial analytical outline of Joshua

Theme: Completing the promise of God as the Israelites take the land and renew the covenant.

I. Preparation for Conquest 1:1 --5:12

A. Spiritual preparation...1

1. Joshua's commission 1:1-9
2. Commitment to the Law 1:10-18

B. Military preparation, 2

1. Sending the spies 2:1
2. The reaction of Jericho 2:2-7
3. The account of Rahab 2:8-24
 - a. her position in the city
 - b. her concepts of Israel and Jehovah
 - c. the hiding of the men
 - d. the matter of truth
 - e. the deliverance of the house
 - f. her position in Matthew 1:5
 - g. accounts of Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25

Both f and g
are beyond the
immediate
scope.

C. Physical preparation 3:1--4:24

1. the challenge 3:1-12
2. the crossing 3:13--17
3. the memorial stones 4:1-24

D. Ethnic preparation 5

II. Enactment of Conquest 6:1 --12:24

A. The central campaign 5:18-8:35

1. Jericho 6
2. Ai: the abortive attack 7
3. Ai and Bethel 7-8