

JOSHUA

Name

Joshua - the first historical book is named after the central character, Joshua. His name means "_____."

Author

_____ - Nowhere in the book of Joshua or the rest of the Bible is a claim made for the author of Joshua. The Talmud names Joshua as the author but there is no insistence in Scripture where the author of Joshua is stated.

Dates

The conquest of Israel during the days of Joshua took place around the year 1400BC according to the dates of I Kings 6:1. The conquest took 30 years, so the writing of Joshua would have taken place near the year _____. The Amarna Letters (written approx. 1400-1350BC) describe Canaan as a divided land of warring city-states which has fallen into chaos due to a lack of influence from Egypt over the land.

Theme

The theme of Joshua is the _____ of the promises and threats of Deuteronomy. Joshua is the narrative of the fulfillment to the theological presentation of Deuteronomy. God fulfills His _____ by providing military victory and land to His people. Joshua God fulfills His _____ by destroying the nations of Canaan and placing His own people under the ban who failed to obey His Word (Achan). Joshua ends with a plea for the people to continue to serve the LORD God of Israel alone (Joshua 24:20-25).

Genre

Joshua is a book of _____, and it is also a description of the _____ of ancient Israel.

Structure

Joshua is divided into two main portions. The first twelve chapters relate to the military victories of Joshua over Canaan. The second twelve chapters divide the Promised Land among the 12 tribes.

- I. Conquering the Promised Land (1:1-12:24)
 - A. The New Leader of Israel (1:1-18)
 - B. Entering the Promised Land (2:1-8:35)
 1. Rahab and the Spies (2:1-24)
 2. Crossing the Jordan (3:1-4:24)
 3. The Covenant Renewed (5:1-15)
 4. The Conquest of Jericho (6:1-27)
 5. Achan's Sin and the Conquest of Ai (7:1-8:29)

- 6. Covenant Renewal on Ebal (8:30-35)
- C. War in the South (9:1-10:43)
 - 1. Deception of Gibeon (9:1-27)
 - 2. Victory over the Five Southern Kings (10:1-43)
- D. War in the North (11:1-15)
- E. Summary of the Victories (11:16-12:24)
- II. Diving the Promised Land (13:1-21:45)
 - A. The Unconquered Lands (13:1-7)
 - B. The Inheritance East of the Jordan (13:8-33)
 - C. The Inheritance West of the Jordan (14:1-19:51)
 - D. The Cities of Refuge (20:1-9)
 - E. The Cities for Levities (21:1-45)
- III. Concluding Narratives
 - A. The Eastern Tribes Go Home (22:1-34)
 - B. Joshua's Farewell (23:1-24:33)

Main Characters

_____ - God fulfilled His promises and threats from the Law

_____ - the second leader of the nation of Israel who brought them into the Promised Land

_____ - a gentile prostitute who was saved through faith in God

_____ - an Israelite soldier who was condemned due to his disbelief in God

Audience

The book of Joshua was written for _____ who live in Israel. This entire book is a call to single-minded worship of the God of Israel. The narratives and land divisions are supports for the importance of single-minded worship and devotion to the Lord.

JUDGES

Name

Judges - the book of Judges is given the same title in the Hebrew (MT), Greek (LXX), and Latin (Vulgate) Bibles. The title comes from the ____ men and ____ woman who were raised up by God to save Israel from her enemies in the book. The judges did not primarily lead Israel as judicial arbitrators, but they were _____.

Author

_____ - Nowhere in the book of Judges or the rest of the Bible is a claim made for the author of Judges. The book's unusual structure also indicates that it may not have had a single author. The book may have been a compilation of inspired historical accounts of the period.

Dates

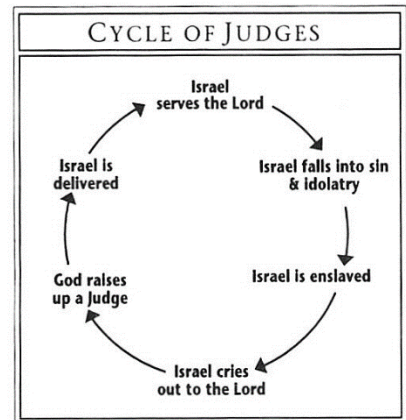
The book of Judges occurs in the generations following the conquest of Israel that ended in 1370BC. Judges ends at approx. _____ with the ministry of Eli as High Priest. The book was written at some point following that time.

Theme

The themes of Judges are the _____ and _____. Judges repeats a clear cycle again and again to illustrate these themes.

Genre

Judges is a book of _____. Liberal scholars try to paint the book as "epic" literature to discount the material. The author of Judges never presents the material in the book as an epic or tale. Judges is presented in the same style as I Samuel or Nehemiah.



Structure

Joshua is divided by the acts of the various Judges sandwiched between an introduction of the spiritual state of Israel and a conclusion of stories which picture the depth of the depravity that characterized this time. The book is not written in _____.

- I. Introduction to the Age of the Judges (1:1-3:6)
 - A. The Spiritual State during the Life of Joshua (1:1-2:10)
 - B. The Spiritual State of the Generations to Follow (2:11-3:6)
- II. The History of the Judges
 - A. Othniel (3:7-11)

The Historical Books

- B. Ehud (3:12-30)
- C. Shamgar (3:31)
- D. Deborah and Barak (4:1-5:31)
- E. Gideon (6:1-8:32)
- F. Abimelech (8:33-9:57)
- G. Tola (10:1-2)
- H. Jair (10:3-5)
- I. Jephthah (10:6-12:7)
- J. Ibzan (12:8-10)
- K. Elon (12:11-12)
- L. Abdon (12:13-15)
- M. Samson (13:1-16:31)
- III. Conclusion to the Age of the Judges (17:1-21:25)
 - A. Micah's Priest and the Migration of Dan (17:1-18:31)
 - B. The Sin at Gibeah and Civil War (19:1-21:25)

Main Characters

_____ - God raised up judges again and again as an act of mercy following the punishment He brought upon His people for their disobedience

_____ - used his left hand to fight back against the Moabite occupation

_____ - the only female judge who admirably fills her role due to the fear of Barak

_____ - a judge of faith who fights back against the Midianites with torches and trumpets

_____ - killed his father Gideon's 70 sons and led Israel into idolatry

_____ - an exile who became a judge, defeated the Ammonites and made the most foolish vow in the Bible

_____ - the judge of strength against the Philistines who fell to his own lust

Audience

The book of Judges was written for _____ who live in Israel. The book teaches the Israelites the tragic consequences of sin.

*The cycle of Judges is taken from the Ryrie Study Bible.

RUTH

Name

Ruth – the book of Ruth is given the same title in the Hebrew (MT), Greek (LXX), and Latin (Vulgate) Bibles. The title comes from _____ who was used by God to bring grace to the life of her mother-in-law Naomi and was blessed to be included in the family tree of King David and Jesus Christ.

Author

_____ – Nowhere in the book of Ruth or the rest of the Bible is a claim made for the author of Ruth.

Dates

The book of Ruth occurs at some point in the second half of the time period of the _____. It is possible that _____ was judging in the southwest of Israel while the events of Ruth took place in the southeast.

Theme

The themes and purpose of Ruth have been highly debated by Old Testament scholars over the years. Some have seen the book as simple record of the ancestry of _____ with a focus on Ruth 4:18-22 as the grand conclusion. Some believe this book was written as a rebuke against _____ in Israel to lead others to become more welcoming to foreigners. I take the book as an illustration of how God is _____ to His people in the midst of _____ and _____ days.

Genre

Ruth is a historically accurate _____. It is a simple, clear short account of a household during the time of the Judges.

Structure

- I. The Sojourn in Moab (1:1-18)
 - A. Famine and Death Surrounds Naomi (1:1-5)
 - B. God's Grace through Ruth's Pledge (1:6-18)
- II. The Return to Bethlehem
 - A. The Reception and Response to Naomi (1:19-22)
 - B. God's Grace through Ruth's Labor and Boaz's Care (2:1-23)
- III. The Provision in Bethlehem
 - A. Naomi's Scheme to Provide for Ruth (3:1-9)
 - B. Boaz's Redemption of Ruth and Naomi (3:10-4:12)
 - C. God's Grace in a Grandson for Naomi (4:13-17)
 - D. God's Grace in a King for Israel (4:18-22)

Main Characters

_____ - a lovely child of God is made bitter by life circumstances and restore by God's grace

_____ - a gentile is used to bring God's blessing to His people

_____ - a man of valor who brings God's grace to the lowest

Audience

The book of Ruth was written for the people of Israel as they struggled under the weight of their own _____, the effects of the _____, and the pain caused by _____.