

# THE MESSAGE OF JOSHUA

**Theme:** *God's faithful presence in the conquest and allotment of the Promised Land.*

**Outline:**

**I. Crossing into the Land (c. 1-5)**

- A. Joshua's Charge (c. 1)
- B. Joshua, the spies, and Rahab (c. 2)
- C. Crossing the Jordan (c. 3-4)
- D. Ritual renewal and divine encounter (c. 5)

**II. Taking the Land (c. 6-12)**

- A. Jericho's fall: firstfruits of war (c. 6)
- B. Israel's failure: Achan's sin & corporate guilt (c. 7)
- C. Israel's renewal: Ai's defeat (c. 8)
- D. Israel's Canaanite covenant: the Gibeonite ruse (c. 9)
- E. Defense of Gibeon & conquest of the south (c. 10)
- F. Conquest of the north & list of defeated kings (c. 11-12)

**III. Dividing the Land (c. 13-21)**

- A. It's yours, now take it! (c. 13)
- B. Western territories (c. 14-19)
- C. A land of justice and worship (c. 20-21)

**IV. Serving the Lord in the Land (c. 22-24)**

- A. One nation, under God (c. 22)
- B. Joshua's charge to Israel's leaders (c. 23)
- C. Covenant renewal at Shechem (c. 24)

## **Key Themes:**

### **1. The Lord's abiding presence as the key to strength and courage.**

*No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:5,9).*

### **2. The centrality of the Lord's instructions for succeeding on one's mission and acting with insight.**

*Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success (Joshua 1:7-8).*

### **3. The ability of the Lord to save the "outsider" (Rahab) and the danger of the "insider" falling away (Achan; see chs. 2 & 7).**

### **4. The Lord as divine Warrior and the reality of judgment when iniquity is full.**

*And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel (Joshua 10:42).*

*There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle. For it was the Lord's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the Lord commanded Moses (Joshua 11:19-20).*

### **5. The danger of presumption and failure to inquire of the Lord.**

*So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord (Joshua 9:14).*

### **6. The sovereignty of God in giving His people a place and rest.**

*Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land' (Joshua 1:13).*

## **7. The faithfulness of God in fulfilling all His good promises.**

*Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass (Joshua 21:43-45).*

## **8. The necessity of removing false gods and worshipping God alone.**

*“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:14-15).*

Figure 1: The Campaigns of the Conquest

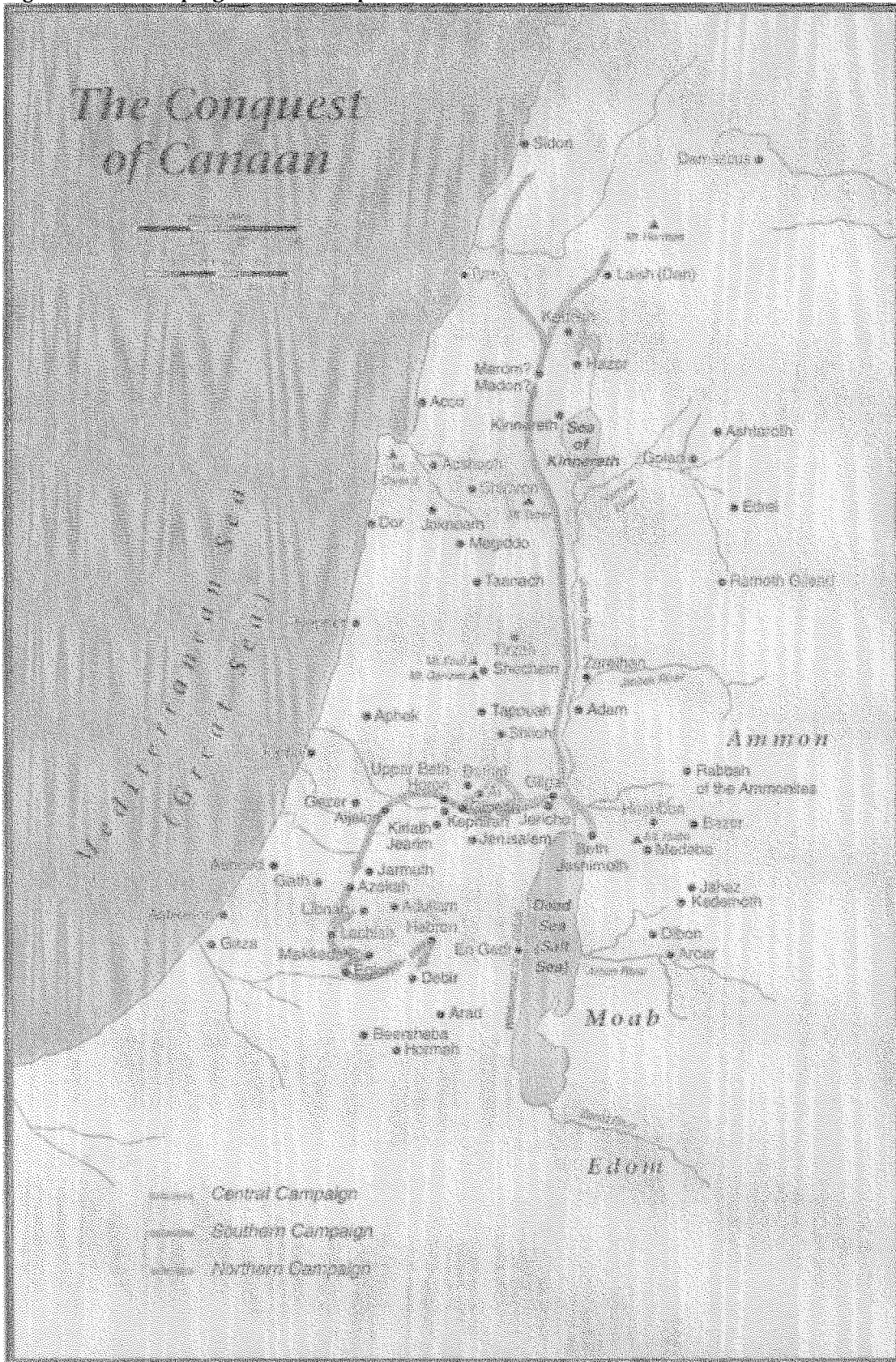
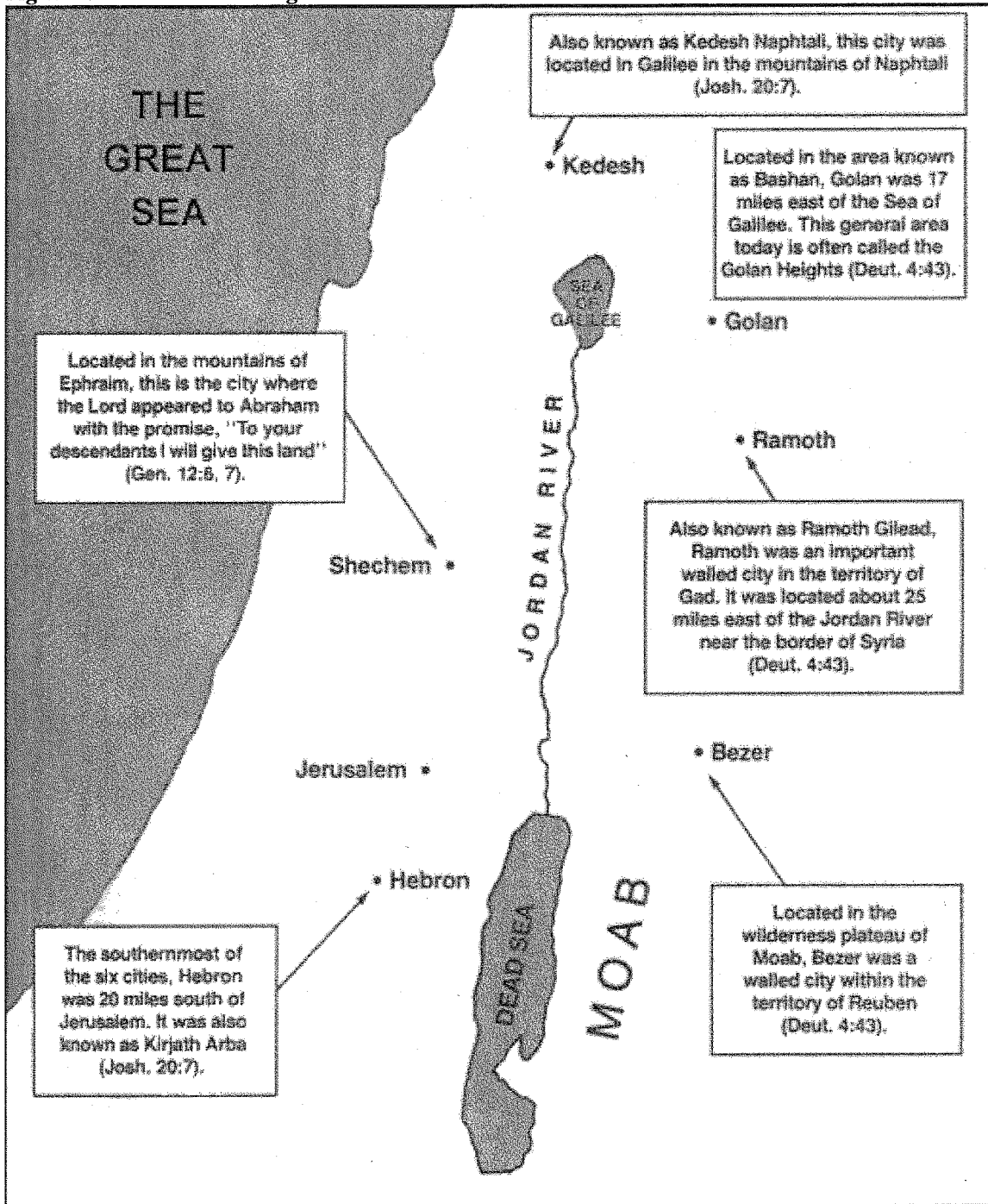




Figure 3: The Cities of Refuge



## Joshua at a Glance

CONQUEST OF CANAAN		SETTLEMENT IN CANAAN					
REFERENCE	11	6:1	13:8	14:1	20:1	22:1	24:33
DIVISION	PREPARATION OF ISRAEL	CONQUEST OF CANAAN	SETTLEMENT OF EAST JORDAN	SETTLEMENT OF WEST JORDAN	SETTLEMENT OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY	CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED SETTLEMENT	
TOPIC	ENTERING CANAAN	CONQUERING CANAAN	DIVIDING CANAAN				
	PREPARATION	SUBJECTION	POSSESSION				
LOCATION	JORDAN RIVER	CANAAN	TWO AND A HALF TRIBES--EAST JORDAN NINE AND A HALF TRIBES--WEST JORDAN				
TIME	c. 1 MONTH	c. 7 YEARS	c. 8 YEARS				

# God & His Judgment

on the Nations (Jer. 18:7-12)

