

Structure of the book

I. Editorial introduction: transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua	1:1-18
A. Report of YHWH's word to Joshua	1:1-9
B. Report of Joshua's word to the Israelites	1:10-18
1. To the officials of the people	1:10-11
2. To the Transjordan tribes	1:12-18
II. Report of the Conquest and distribution of the land	2:1-21:45
A. The Conquest of the land	2:1-12:24
B. The Distribution of the land	13:1-23
1. Nine and a half tribes	13:1-21:45
2. Cities of Refuge	20:1-9
3. Cities of the Levites	21:1-45
III. Report of the return of the Transjordan tribes and the renewal of the covenant	22:1-24:33
1. Report of the return of the Transjordan tribes to their lands	22:1-34
2. Report of the renewal of the covenant	23:1-24:33

The phrase, "and it came to pass after the death of" (Josh 1:1 and Jud 1:1) shares the historian's editorial presentation.

Chapters 2-12 seem to suggest a swift and complete conquest. E.g. Crossing the Jordan river, Destruction of Jericho and Ai, the submission of Gideon, the summary statement of chapter 12.

Josh 10:40 So Joshua defeated the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings; he left no one remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

Josh 11:16 So Joshua took all that land: the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland,

Josh 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

Problems

However, no mention is made about Shechem or the central hill country, coastal plains or major cities in the Jezreel Valley. In fact Israel often failed to drive out the Canaanites because the opponents were too well protected (Josh 13:2-6; 15:63; 16:10; 17:11-13; 17:16-18).

Jericho: Probably the oldest settlement in Palestine from 9000 BCE. During the Late Bronze Age (1550-1200 BCE), Jericho was largely abandoned and no fortification system was found (cf. Josh 6:24). After Jericho was abandoned during the LB Age, it was not reoccupied until the 7th cent. BCE.

Ai: Just like Jericho, this site was abandoned during 2400-1200 BCE. The name Ai in Hebrew means the "ruin".

The purpose of the book is to portray that it was God who fought and gave the land to Israel (Josh 10:14, 42).

What is the so-called "Deuteronomistic History"?

Josh 22:5	Deut 6:5	Deut 10:12	Luke 10:27
<p>Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to <u>love the LORD your God</u>, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with <i>all your heart</i> and with <i>all your soul</i>."</p> <p>ἐξ ὅλης τῆς διανοίας ὑμῶν καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ψυχῆς ὑμῶν</p>	<p>You shall <u>love the LORD your God</u> with <i>all your heart</i>, and with <i>all your soul</i>, and with <i>all your might</i>.</p> <p>ἐξ ὅλης τῆς καρδιάς σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ψυχῆς σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς δυνάμεώς σου</p>	<p>So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to <u>love him</u>, to serve the LORD your God with <i>all your heart</i> and with <i>all your soul</i>,</p> <p>ἐξ ὅλης τῆς καρδιάς σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ψυχῆς σου</p>	<p>He answered, "You shall <u>love the Lord your God</u> with <i>all your heart</i>, and with <i>all your soul</i>, and with <i>all your strength</i>, and with <i>all your mind</i>; and your neighbor as yourself."</p> <p>ἐξ ὅλης [τῆς] καρδιάς σου καὶ ἐν ὅλη τῇ ψυχῇ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλη τῇ ἰσχύϊ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλη τῇ διανοίᾳ σου,</p>

Read Luke 10:25-37 and 2 Chr 28:8-15

2 Chr 28:15 Then those who were mentioned by name got up and took the captives, and with the booty they clothed all that were naked among them; they clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them; and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kindred at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

Matt 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.