

## Author of the Book of Joshua

1. Jewish tradition holds to the belief that the bulk of the book was written by Joshua himself.
  - a. minor additions added by Eleazer after Joshua died (24:29),
  - b. Phinehas after Eleazer died (24:33).
2. The Talmud, the Jewish commentary of law and tradition says, "Joshua wrote his own book."
3. Support for Joshua's authorship:
  - a. The author was an eyewitness of the events that happened in the book as in 5:1, 6
    - i. The use of the first person plural "we" and "us" indicates the one writing was a participant in the events.
    - ii. The pronoun of the Hebrew text in 5:1 is "we," not "they."
      1. KJV and NIV translate the pronoun "we"
      2. NASV follows the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew text done by Jews for Ptolemy II Philadelphus) in the 200's BC and translates it "they."
  - b. The author was Jewish according to Joshua 5:6. The writer was one of the sons of Israel who believed he was entitled to the Promised Land.
  - c. The book of Joshua claims Joshua was the author of certain parts of the book as in Joshua 8:30, 32; 24:26
  - d. The author was a contemporary of the people and events in this book having lived through this phase of history:
    - i. Joshua 4:9 and 7:26 - When Joshua was being written, The memorial stones still stood when this book was written.
    - ii. Joshua 5:9 - contemporary names of places were still operative.
    - iii. Joshua 6:25 - Rahab was still alive
    - iv. Joshua 8:28-29 - destructive evidences of victory still existed.
    - v. Joshua 9:27 - the Gibeonites were still serving Israel.
    - vi. Joshua 10:27 - hiding places were still known.
    - vii. Joshua 13:13 - certain people were still living with Israel.
    - viii. Joshua 15:63 - the Jebusites still inhabited Jerusalem.
    - ix. Joshua 16:10 - certain Canaanites were living and serving Israel.
    - x. Joshua 23:9 - the writer documented Joshua's final speech.
    - xi. Joshua 13:4; 19:28 - Tyre had not yet conquered Sidon. Tyre conquered Sidon in the 1100'sBC Which means the author was unfamiliar with this future event.
  - e. There are precise details provided in this book that strongly indicate the author was a eye witness and a participant in these events.

### Points:

1. The place for the book of Joshua:
  - a. Genesis – Deuteronomy record the time leading to the Land - Promise
  - b. Joshua records God blessing and giving the Land – Blessing and Fulfillment
  - c. Judges – 2 Chronicles records Israel living in the Land – Disobedience and Losing
  - d. Isaiah – Malachi records the judgment and promise of restoration – Punishment/Promise
2. Outline of the book:
  - a. Joshua 1-5 – invading the Land
  - b. Joshua 6-12 – conquest of the Land
    - i. 6-9 – Central Campaign
    - ii. 10 – Southern Campaign
    - iii. 11-12 – Northern Campaign

- c. Joshua 13-21 – division of the Land
  - d. Joshua 22-24 – living in the Land
3. Why destroy the Canaanites?
- a. Canaanites were not innocent people. According to Leviticus 18-22 they were totally depraved. In Genesis 15:16 God had said it would take 400 years for their sin to be complete and it had reached that point.
  - b. Canaanites knew of and had a chance to respond to the God of Israel. Rahab did in Joshua 2:9-14. Rahab was allowed to live in the Land with Israel along with her family.
  - c. God is not just merciful, but he is also a God of judgment and war.
  - d. The Canaanites were given extra time to respond:
    - i. During the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness
    - ii. During the years of conquest and the years following because they were not all driven out at once.

