# Getting to know Joshua

#### A. Introducing Joshua the man

- He was a soldier who led the armies of Israel Exodus 17:8-16
- He was the faithful servant of Moses Exodus 24:13; 33:11
- He was the spy who, along with Caleb, acted in faith Numbers 13-14
- He was set aside to replace Moses Numbers 27:12-22; Deuteronomy 3:28; 31:1-8

#### B. The historical context

- God promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation, give him the land as a possession and bless his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3, 7).
- In Egypt Israel became a great nation (Exodus 1:6-7).
- God acted on this promise (Exodus 2:23-25; 3:5-10) and renewed it through Moses (Exodus 6:6-8).
- God rescued them from the hands of their enemies (Exodus 12:31-40) and promised to give them the land (Exodus 15:13-18).

# C. The purpose of Joshua

# • Joshua is a History Book

- $\Rightarrow$  It is part of one continual history of Israel (Joshua-Judges-Samuel-Kings) – 800 years of history from the conquest to the exile.
- $\Rightarrow$  It is relates historical events not fables or myths.

#### Joshua is a Theology Book

- $\Rightarrow$  God is the true hero of the history books He acts in natural and supernatural ways to fulfil His purposes.
- $\Rightarrow$  He acts according to His word He keeps His promises and he carries out His threats (Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Joshua 24:14-27).

# Joshua is a Pastoral Book

- ⇒ It was intended to encourage the people of God in the midst of all the disappointments of history – including the exile. God always acts according to His word and we can trust Him.
- $\Rightarrow$  It was written fro our practical instruction (Romans 15:4).

# D. Joshua is a "Type" of Jesus

- "A type is a real object, event, person or place, which was divinely ordained by God to be a prophetic picture or shadow of the good things which He would bring about in Jesus Christ."
- Joshua is the Hebrew form of the name Jesus "YHWH saves".
- God often works in two's Joshua completed the work of Moses; Elisha ("God saves") completed the work of Elijah; Jesus perfected the work of John the Baptist.
- Jesus is the captain of the armies of the Lord who conquers God's enemies and leads his people into the full blessing of God's salvation.
- *"Land"* is key word it symbolizes the blessings of rest and prosperity given to God's people by His grace. Christians are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

#### Structure

- Entering the land (1-4)
- Taking the land (5-12)
- Possessing the land (13-21)
- Retaining the land (22-24)