

Joshua

The Commander

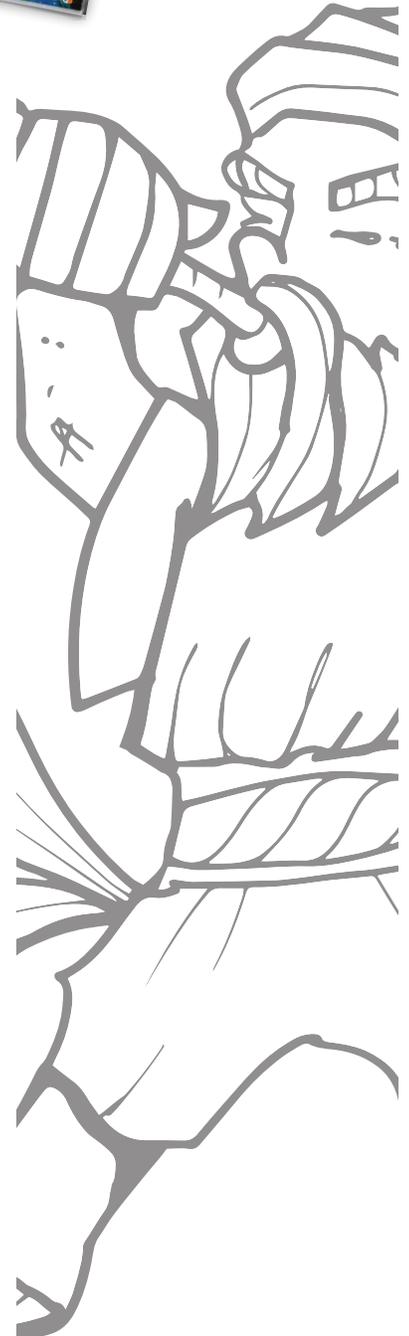
Who was this person?

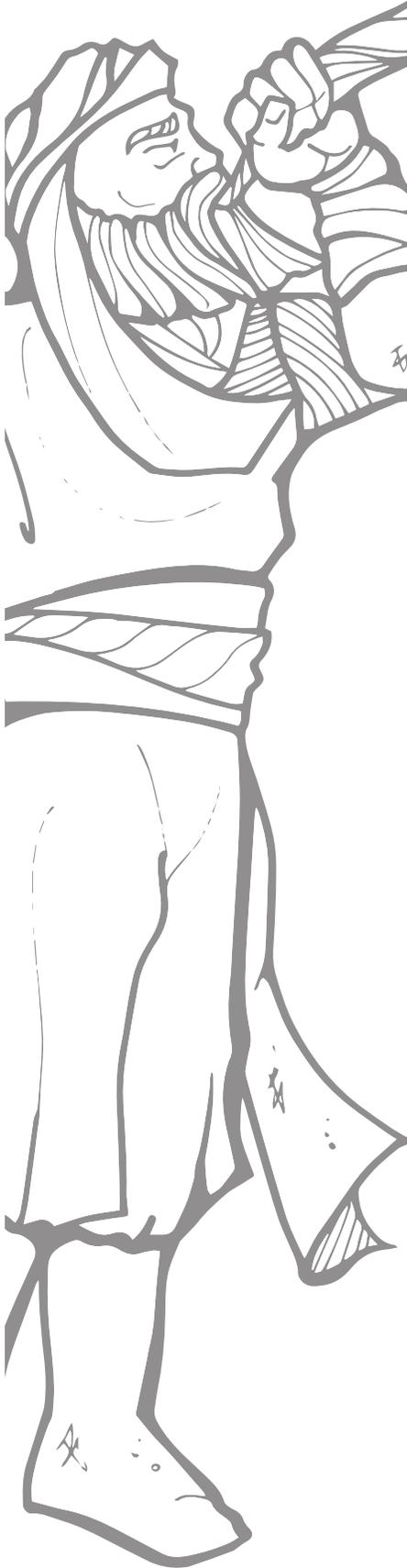
- Joshua is known to have lived some time between about 1550 and 1440 B.C.
- Joshua was an assistant to Moses, and became the one to take over Moses' role when he died.
- Joshua was one of the 12 spies who were sent to explore Canaan (the Promised Land), and he was one of two spies who believed that God would give them the victory.
- Joshua made a covenant for the people of Israel and at a place called Shechem he read them the decrees and laws, and recorded them in the Book of the Law of God. He challenged the Israelites to be true to God and to not forsake the Lord and turn back to foreign gods. After giving this lesson and setting up a large stone under an oak tree near the holy place of the Lord, Joshua told the people that this stone would be a witness for what the people had heard, and that they would stay true to God and serve Him only. Joshua then dismissed the people, and each got their own inheritance. God had blessed them all with rest and peace. (Joshua 24:16-28)
- Joshua was the one who actually led the people of Israel in conquering Canaan, and at 110 years of age he was buried in the land he had inherited. (Joshua 24:29-33)

What is this person known for?

- Joshua was known for surviving 40 years in the wilderness.
- Joshua, along with Caleb (a leader from the tribe of Judah), were sent out to explore the land of Canaan, which God had said he would give to the Israelites. They brought back a good report to the people and believed that God would help them succeed in reaching the Promised Land. (Numbers 13)
- Joshua and Caleb were the only men from their generation who were allowed to go into the Promised Land.
- Joshua is an example of an excellent leader. He was confident in God's strength and listened to God's voice. He was a man of courage when others came against him. He was willing to seek God for advice and wisdom.
- God promised to be with Joshua, like he was with Moses, as Joshua journeyed and led the people of Israel (Joshua 1:9). Joshua

Making The Bible Come Alive





1:5 says, “No one will be able to stand their ground against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.”

- Joshua was known as an obedient and trustworthy leader. Joshua showed great obedience to God’s law. God told him, “Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do.” (Joshua 1:7-9) God also told him to keep His Word (Book of the Law) always on his lips and to meditate on it day and night, doing everything that was written in it. (verse 8)

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD’S STORY?

- **To remind that God is our instant source of help.** The Old Testament book of Joshua begins with a new leader that has been given a very tough, almost impossible task of leading the nation in taking over the land of Canaan. God is showing us today that even though the challenge ahead of us may seem difficult and we may feel like we cannot do it, with God’s help we can see all that He has promised us, if we trust Him, follow His leading and stay totally committed to Him. (Psalm 1:1-6)
- **To remind us to always keep our focus on God.** Joshua, before he died, reminded the people how important it was to obey God, and that they had a choice whether they continued to serve God or would turn back to their foreign gods/idols. This is a lesson we still need to hear today. It is easy to be pulled back to our own ways if we take our eyes off of God, don’t remain in His Word, and mediate on Him day and night. We must keep our focus on God at all times, and not allow other people or other beliefs to steer us in the wrong direction. (Colossians 3:2; Matthew 6:33)
- **To remind us that God will equip us.** Joshua is a Bible character who shows us what it means to be a strong leader. Strong Christian leaders must always be listening to God and ready to move quickly when He speaks. When God gives us instructions, we must carry them out. Strong Godly leaders are those who stay in tune with God and with what He wants from them. Just as God did with Joshua, He will let us see success and know what it means to prosper, when we keep our eyes on Him. (Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 6:10)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Take the children to Joshua 24:15 and together read this verse: “But if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve . But as for me and my family we will serve the Lord”. This was a challenge Joshua gave to the people. Talk with the children about the importance of their entire family serving God and walking in His ways. Discuss what difficulties people can face when their house is divided and some believe in God but others don't. You could give each child a prayer book (small note pad) where they can begin to list the people they want to pray for in their family and extended family who need to know God and have a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus.

- Help kids understand the importance of praying for one another, even when it may be their mother or father.
- Help them consider their own lives and what they should change: their thoughts, their actions, their friend choices, etc. so they can follow God better.
- Challenge the children to spend time daily in God's Word. Teach them to know how they can meditate on God's Word, not just quickly reading it but thinking about it, and going back to it over and over, re-reading the same portions and asking God to speak to them from His Scriptures.
- Read Joshua 1:10-18. Talk with the children about what a good leader is like, how they instruct people, challenge them, encourage them, give them the plan of what is going to happen, etc. Joshua was a good communicator, telling the people what needed to take place and how they should live as they continued to journey towards the Promised Land.

