

# TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



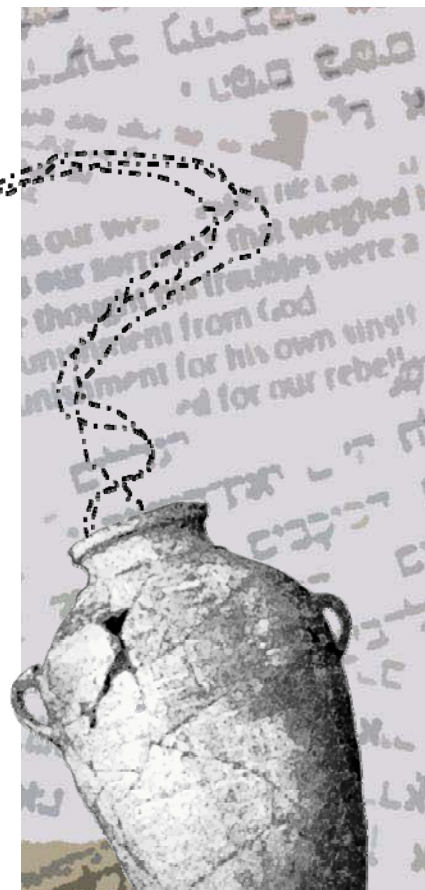
## Joshua - The Making of a Hero

We all love a hero, but have you ever noticed how hard they are to find? All the hopeful candidates seem to eventually fall short. In Joshua, we are given a refreshing hero, who is actually a well timed picture for us of the Christ to come. Even his name gives us a heads up of what is to come. Originally Hoshea (meaning salvation), he was later named Joshua by Moses which means "the Lord saves." In its Greek form, the name Joshua is Jesus. God is letting us know, some 13 or 14 centuries before the birth of Christ, that He is coming to lead the way into the Promised Land.

Moses was undeniably a great man. He had seen God face to face, and yet, or maybe therefore, remained a humble servant as he led the people that God had entrusted to him. But Moses was a man of the Law and would not enter the Promised Land. Joshua, as a picture of Christ, succeeded in bringing God's people into the land of rest. (Heb. 3:12-4:8) That makes him the ultimate hero we can hang on to. He is the kind of man we want to follow. He the kind of person I want to be.

At nearly every turn, we see Joshua making a priority of doing things God's way. He submits to the authority God places over him and rises to become that authority when God says it is time. He overcomes fear to do what God has set before him to do. I think of Joshua when I remember how terrified I was when we were driving toward the town where we would tell a judge that we were willing to adopt four kids that we had never met. While my husband was resolutely driving us closer and closer to our own Jordan to crossing, I seriously contemplated opening the door and throwing myself out. It actually seemed to me at the time to be a safer alternative to what we were about to do! As I think about the way I gripped the seat and resolved to carry through with what I knew God had set before me, I wonder if Joshua felt that way too. Was he scared to become the leader of a people whose parents had wanted to stone him and return to Egypt? Was he unsure about conquering giants, or reluctant to take on this new venture at his age? Judging by how many times he was given encouragement, and told not to be afraid, I think he may have had all those feelings. But doing what God wanted him to do was more important than accommodating his fears. He acted courageously.

I think perhaps what he did at Gilgal, shortly after entering enemy territory, was his most heroic display of seeking first God's kingdom of all. A mere mile from the major city of Jericho, he incapacitated his men by having them all circumcised. He was willing to forgo the superficial safety of his vast army in order to be a people right with God. Then, also in enemy territory, he observed Passover. First things first, no matter the cost, no matter the danger. What does it take to become that kind of hero?



*"But we have this  
treasure in jars of clay  
to show that this all-  
surpassing power is  
from God and not from  
us."*

*2 Corinthians 4:7*

### Joshua is found in:

- Exodus 17,24,32,33
- Numbers 11-14,27,32, and 34
- Deut. 1,3,31, and 34
- Joshua
- Judges 2:6-9
- 1 Kings 16:34

Joshua is one of the most untainted and successfully heroes we have in God's Word. He was one of only two of his generation who were allowed to enter the Promised Land. He stepped into his ordained role as leader of the Israelites, and was quite successful in conquering and distributing the land for God's chosen people. But none of that just happened. Many things were set in place by God to train this man into the leader that he was called to be. He had been prepared for the task before him in a variety of ways.

## Humbled

Joshua was born a slave. He was an Israelite in a foreign land. He experienced a harsh world where those in power use and abuse those who are not. Joshua also witnessed the plagues that came upon Egypt, the salvation of Passover, and the impossible escape of an entire nation through a miraculously parted sea. He spent 40 years with daily doses of the reality of God's presence in cloud and fire, water and manna, mountain and tabernacle. He learned humility not only from his years of slavery, but also from his exposure to the saving grace of God, as he observed and learned in the shadow of the faith giant Moses.

What do you think is required to learn humility? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some ways we can see evidence of Joshua's humility in the book of Joshua?

## Empowered

What situation did the Israelites face in Exodus 17:8-13?

How do you think that affected Joshua's confidence in later battles?

Who did Moses send to take care of it?

What are two other ways that Moses empowered Joshua in Numbers 27:19-20?

What did Moses do?

- 1)
- 2)

Have you ever had a mighty prayer warrior that brought victory to what you were undertaking?

Why were these so important?

## Discipled

Joshua may well have been a leader among the Israelites back in Egypt, but now he was Moses' right hand man, a relationship that benefitted both of them.

How did God instruct Moses to disciple Joshua in Exodus 17:14?

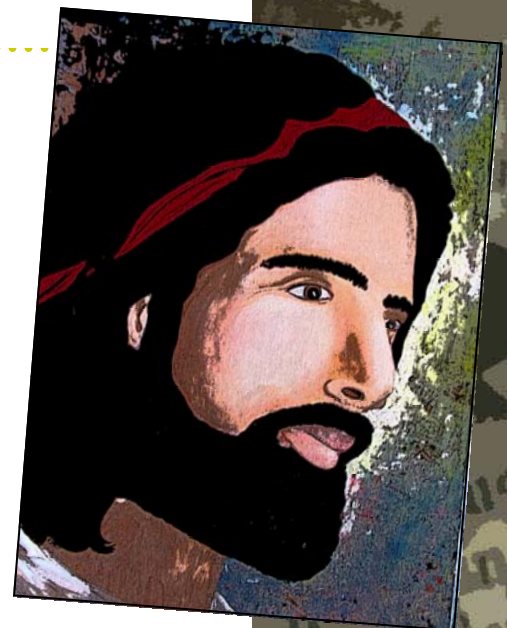
How did Moses rebuke Joshua in Numbers 11:26-30?

How do you think Moses encouraged and strengthened Joshua as he was instructed to in Deuteronomy 3:28?

Write the name of someone that you are currently discipling:

If you are not, write some possibilities that you could pursue developing a relationship with:

What are some ways that you can follow Moses' example with them?



## Stood Beside

Moses was a great mentor, teacher, and father figure to Joshua, but he also had others who played important roles in his life.

What role did Eleazar the priest (Aaron's third son) play throughout Joshua's life?  
Num. 27:21  
Joshua 14:1

Who helps you make Godly decisions?

How grateful do you think Joshua was to have Caleb at his side when they stood against the rebellious people in Numbers 14:6-10?

How do you think standing in the minority, and facing stoning from his own people, shaped Joshua's character?

What conversations can you imagine Joshua and Caleb having during the ensuing 40 year wait before entering the Promised Land?

Do you think Joshua had the support of a spouse?

If he had one, did she too die in the wilderness, or do you think Joshua's family was included with God's promise to him?



## Spirit Filled

As important as it was for Joshua to have good training and support from the people around him, his most crucial asset in becoming a hero was that God's spirit was on him.

What quality did God look for in choosing Joshua to succeed Moses in Numbers 27:18?

According to Deut. 34:9, why did the people listen to and obey Joshua?

Throughout his leadership, what fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22 do we see Joshua exhibit?

What role did the Spirit play as Joshua dealt with the sin of Achan in Joshua 7?

Joshua was the human agent of God's wishes for the land of Canaan. What happened in Joshua 5:13-15 to remind Joshua that the claiming of the land was for God, and not for Israel?

## En - Couraged

According to the dictionary, courage means the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear or being deflected from a chosen course of action. It's not necessarily the absence of fear, just the ability to do what needs to be done in the face of it.

What are some things that Joshua had good reason to fear?

What are some things that could have discouraged him?

What words did Moses use to encourage Joshua

in Deuteronomy 31:7-8?

Who took over speaking words of encouragement to Joshua in Joshua 1:1-9?

What was the response of the people to the orders Joshua gave in Joshua 1:10-18?

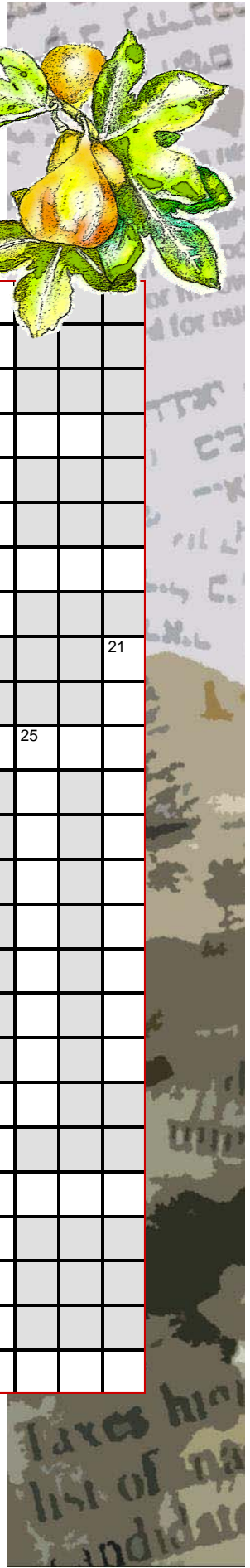
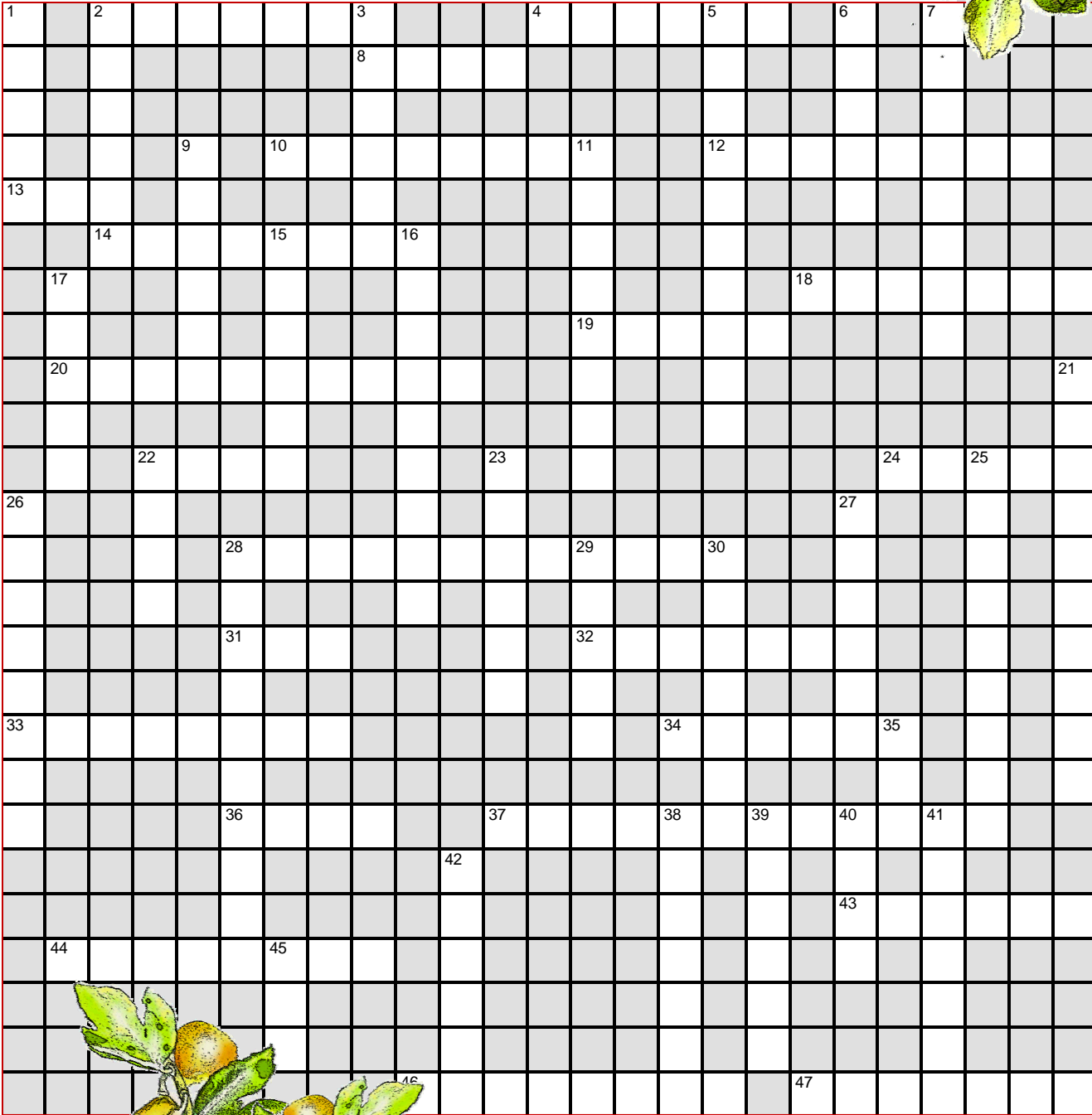
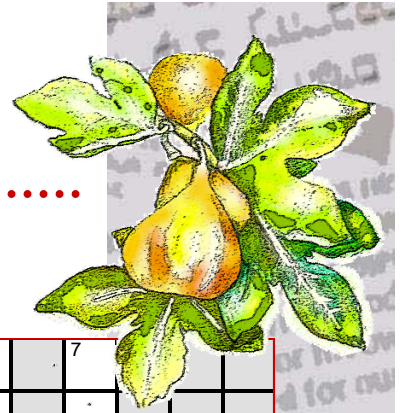
Why is it important for a leader to show a courageous confidence?

Do the words you speak to people tend to be more encouraging or discouraging?

What do you base that on?



# PUZZLE PAGE



# Clues

## Across

- 2 set up a large stone as a \_\_\_\_\_ Josh 24 (7)
- 4 circumcised the Israelite men here Josh 5 (6)
- 8 carried a single cluster of grapes Num 13 (4)
- 10 only he and Caleb \_\_\_\_\_ Num 14 (8)
- 12 the Israelites did this to him Deut 34 (8)
- 13 number of spies he sent out Josh 2 (3)
- 14 instructed to do this day and night with the Book of the Law Josh 1 (8)
- 18 followed God's unusual military tactic here Josh 6 (7)
- 19 came to those who did not obey him Josh 1 (5)
- 20 one of two of his \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the land Num 14 (10)
- 22 the commander of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to him Josh 5 (4)
- 24 honored the deal his spies had made with her Josh 6 (5)
- 28 brought back to Kadesh along with figs Num 13 (12)
- 31 stood still while he battled Josh 10 (3)
- 32 he was given the town of \_\_\_\_\_ Serah Josh 19 (7)
- 33 chosen so that people would not be without this Num 27 (8)
- 34 went along with other tribe leaders to explore this Num 13 (6)
- 36 wanted Moses to \_\_\_\_\_ Eldad and Medad Num 11 (4)
- 37 he was \_\_\_\_\_ by Moses Num 27 (12)
- 43 number of men he went on spy mission with Num 13 (6)
- 44 made one for the Israelite people Josh 24
- 46 manna ceased the day after this was celebrated Josh 5 (8)
- 47 his tribe Num 13 (7)

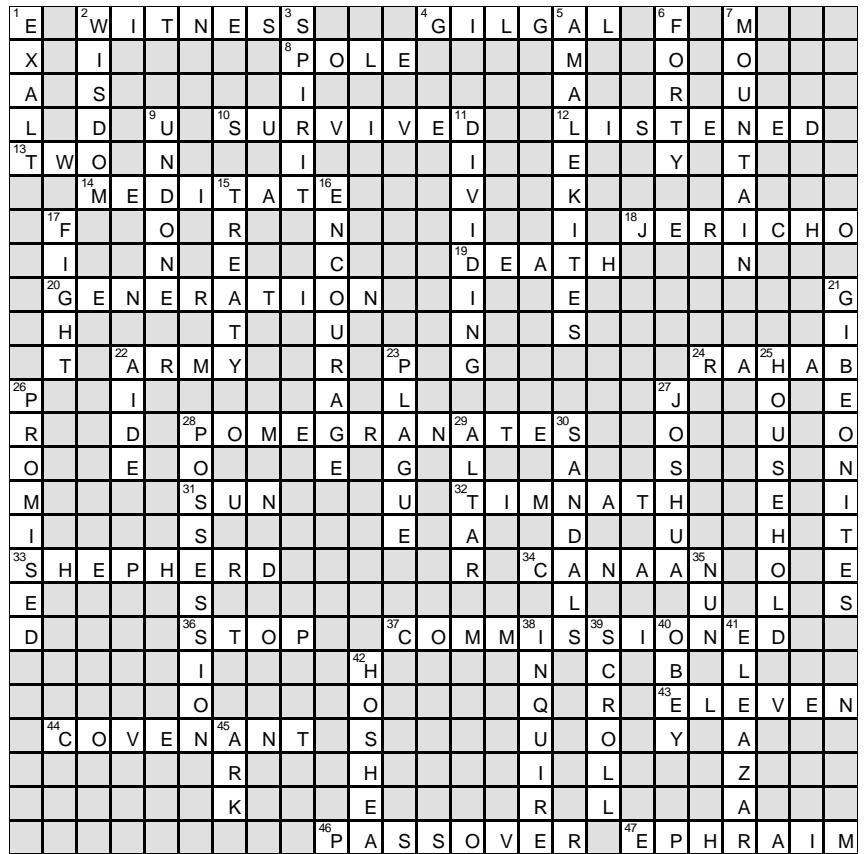
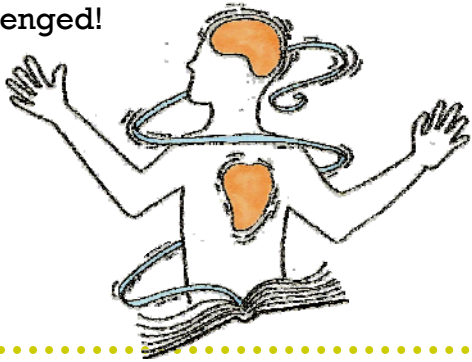
## Down

- 1 God said He would do this to him Josh 3
- 2 he was filled with this spirit Deut 34 (6)
- 3 was in him Num 27 (6)
- 5 fought these people while Moses had raised hands Ex 17 (10)
- 6 years he waited to enter the Promised Land Num 14 (5)
- 7 went here with Moses Ex 24 (8)
- 9 he didn't leave anything \_\_\_\_\_ Josh 11
- 11 he finished \_\_\_\_\_ the land Josh 19
- 15 made one with the Gideonites Josh 9 (6)
- 16 Moses did this to him Deut 3:28 (9)
- 17 Moses said that God would do this for him Deut 3 (5)
- 21 trusted his honor Josh 9 (10)
- 22 he was one to Moses Ex 24 (4)
- 23 those who spread a bad report were struck by one Num 14 (6)
- 25 his would serve the Lord Josh 24 (9)
- 26 he would bring the people into the land God had \_\_\_\_\_ Deut 31 (8)
- 27 died at the age of 110 Josh 24 (6)
- 28 challenged people to take \_\_\_\_\_ of the land Josh 18 (10)
- 29 built one on Mt. Ebal Josh 8 (5)
- 30 took them off on holy ground Josh 5 (7)
- 35 his father Ex 33 (3)
- 38 was deceived because he did not \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Josh 9 (7)
- 39 Moses made sure he heard what was written on this Ex 17 (6)
- 40 told to be careful to do this Josh 1 (4)
- 41 stood before this priest Num 27 (7)
- 42 another name for him Num 13 (6)
- 45 sent with the priests into the Jordan Josh 3 (3)

*Puzzle answers:*

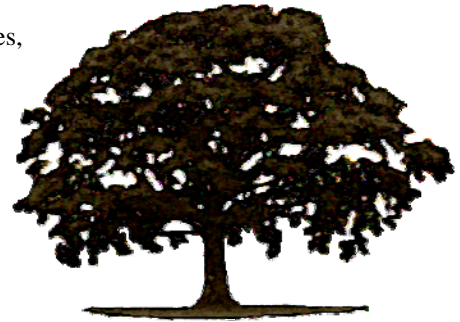
## Sources:

I recommend that you go to iTunes and get the free download of Scott Sager's lecture at ACU's 2009 Summit. He gives an excellent talk about how his church used the book of Joshua as a model to give meaning and mission to their church body. Be ready to be challenged!



For more studies,

go to:



**Down Victory Road**  
[www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)

## Map

Using the maps in the back of your Bible, color and label each of the tribal territories.

What are the cities marked with a red +?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

