

# The Book of Joshua

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## Student Syllabus

ACADEMIC  
PACKET

RESOURCES FOR GROUPS  
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS



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#### **ABOUT THIRD MILLENNIUM MINISTRIES**

Founded in 1997, Third Millennium Ministries is a non-profit Evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to providing:

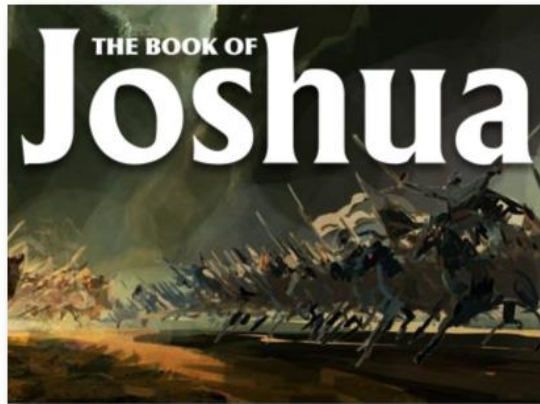
#### **Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.**

Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

Over the years, we have developed a highly cost-effective method of producing award-winning multimedia lessons of the finest content and quality. Our writers and editors are theologically-trained educators, our translators are theologically-astute native speakers of their target languages, and our lessons contain the insights of hundreds of respected seminary professors and pastors from around the world. In addition, our graphic designers, illustrators, and producers adhere to the highest production standards using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques.

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The book of Joshua covers the period of Israel's history from the conquest of Canaan to just after Joshua's death. Although certain events in the book can leave modern audiences feeling more than a little uncomfortable, it helps to remember that God promised to be with Joshua in all that he did, especially in leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, establishing Israel's tribal inheritances, and calling God's people to remain faithful to the terms of God's covenant. This course teaches about the background, purpose, contents, and application of the book of Joshua. It is based on the lecture series, [\*The Book of Joshua\*](#), produced by *Third Millennium Ministries* and is hosted by Dr. Seth Tarrer, with contributions from a variety of professors.

## **PROFESSORS**

In this course a wide variety of professors from different backgrounds and different denominations participate in the making of the videos. That list has been given at the bottom of this syllabus.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **GOALS**

In this course, we would like to accomplish the following:

1. We hope that you will make use of all the instructional elements of the course to learn about the background, purpose, contents, and application of the book of Joshua.
2. We hope you will grow in your trust in the Lord and in your commitment to Him, as you learn from the history and teachings of the book of Joshua.
3. We hope that you will apply the teachings of the book of Joshua to your own life, living more consistently by faith in God and in submission to His will.

## OBJECTIVES

When you have done the following, it will show that the goals are met:

1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests, demonstrating that you can identify key information regarding the background, purpose and design of the book of Joshua, as well as the primary events, major themes, original meaning, and modern Christian application.
2. Answer the application questions in the study guides, expressing your trust in God and your willingness to submit to His will, and showing that you are living more consistently by faith in God and in submission to His will.

## THE FACILITATOR

This course is designed to be studied in a group with a facilitator, supervisor, or mentor. If you do not have a facilitator, you may wish to speak with your pastor or some spiritual leader in your church. The facilitator should read the "General Guidelines for Facilitators."

## OTHER MATERIALS

Besides this syllabus, there are other resources you will need for this course. They should be available in the same place, or same folder, where you found this file. If not, talk to your facilitator.

## CREDIT

Third Millennium does not offer credit for their courses. However, the materials are offered freely to any institution that would like to use them. If the student would like to seek credit for the course, he needs to find an institution that will supervise his studies and give him credit. He should consult with them to see about their requirements and expectations.

## THEMATIC OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

1. An Introduction to Joshua
2. Victorious Conquest (1:1-12:24)
3. Tribal Inheritances (13:1-22:34)
4. Covenant Loyalty (23:1-24:33)

## GENERAL EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

The guidelines for assignments below are meant to be suggestions. Each group or academic institution may customize the course according to the needs of their students. For example, some may prefer to require the additional reading, while others may not. The same applies to the optional written project. Furthermore, some may prefer to meet once a week, while others prefer to meet more often or less often. Some groups may prefer to restructure the assignments to fit a regular pattern of classes, possibly a period of eight weeks, for example.

Don't worry about the details now, since they will be given to you as you go through the assignments of each session, but in order for you to know what to plan for, the suggested assignments can be summarized as follows:

## **The Lectures**

1. Watch the video lectures (or listen to the audio, or read the text version).
2. Complete the study guides for each section of each lesson. This includes writing notes on the lesson while using the outline provided, answering the review questions, and answering the application questions.
3. Take the tests on each lesson. These will be administered in the classes. (For credit, they must be graded by the authorities of the academic institution where the student is seeking credit.)

## **Optional Additional Reading**

Read the additional reading. This may be done in two different ways, according to the agreement you have with the facilitator or academic institution. Option 1: Read the selected additional reading provided for this course, and take the test on it. Option 2: Read at least 300 pages of additional reading that you select from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." In this case, you should turn in a written report on each book or article, using the "Form for reading reports." (For credit, these reports must be turned in for evaluation.)

## **Optional Written Project**

Write an 8-10 page project, following the instructions found below. (For credit, this must be turned in for evaluation.)

## **GRADES**

We recommend calculating the final grade as follows, depending on the option selected:

- a) Without the additional reading or written project:

Each test is 25%.

- b) Including the additional reading, but without the written project:

Each test is 20% (total: 80%).  
The additional reading is 20%.

- c) Including the written project, but without the additional reading:

Each test is 20% (total: 80%).  
The written project is 20%.

- d) Including both the additional reading and the written project:

Each test is 15% (total: 60%).  
The additional reading is 20%.  
The written project is 20%.

## SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH SESSION

These plans are only suggestions. Your facilitator may decide to modify them, as he talks things over with the group.

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### INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

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The first meeting is a brief orientation for the course. There is no homework before the first meeting. The student will receive the materials he needs and talk over plans for the course.

NOTE: If the group is studying a series of courses, we recommend that you take advantage of the last session of each course to make arrangements for the following course, thus avoiding unnecessary extra meetings.

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### LESSON 1

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Watch the first video lesson (or listen to the audio or read the text) in the series from *Third Millennium*, "The Book of Joshua." The first lesson of this series is called "An Introduction to Joshua." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the lesson.

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#### SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the first video lesson, called "Authorship and Date." (The video time is from the beginning to 20 minutes and 14 seconds, 00-20:14.)

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 1.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

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#### SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section two of the video lesson, "Design and Purpose" (20:15-56:32), using Study Guide 1.2.

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#### SECTION 3

1. Follow the same procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Christian Application" (56:33-1:17:55), using Study Guide 1.3.

2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

NOTE: If you are going to do the additional reading, we recommend that you begin to do part of it now, to avoid reading a lot at the end of the course. See the assignments below.

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## LESSON 2

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Study the second lesson of the video series, called "Victorious Conquest." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

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### SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of this second video lesson, called "Preparations for Victory" (00-13:18).
  2. Use Study Guide 2.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.
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### SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Victories over Two Cities" (13:19-38:19), using Study Guide 2.2.

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### SECTION 3

Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Victories over Two Alliances" (38:20-53:08), using Study Guide 2.3.

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### SECTION 4

1. Repeat this procedure for section 4 of the video lesson, "Christian Application" (53:09-1:12:31), using Study Guide 2.4.
2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

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### **LESSON 3**

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Study the third lesson of the video series, called "Tribal Inheritances."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

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#### **SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the third video lesson, called "Initial Boundaries" (00:17:41).
  2. Use Study Guide 3.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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#### **SECTION 2**

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Specific Allotments" (17:42-42:44), using Study Guide 3.2.

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#### **SECTION 3**

Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "National Unity" (42:45-54:39), using Study Guide 3.3.

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#### **SECTION 4**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 4 of the video lesson, "Christian Application" (54:40-1:13:39), using Study Guide 3.4.
2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.



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## LESSON 4

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Study the fourth lesson of the video series, called "Covenant Loyalty."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

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### SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the fourth video lesson, called "Covenant Warnings" (00-27:56).
  2. Use Study Guide 4.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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### SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Covenant Renewal" (27:57-53:03), using Study Guide 4.2.

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### SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Christian Application" (53:04-1:17:53), using Study Guide 4.3.
2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

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## ADDITIONAL READING

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### Option 1:

1. Read the following:
  - a. The Book of Joshua in your Bible.
  - b. Robert Jamieson, *Commentary on Joshua* (series Jamieson, Fausset and Brown)
  - c. John Calvin, *Commentary on Joshua*.
2. Use the study guides to help find the most important points.
3. Prepare to take the test in class on these readings.

Note: Some groups may prefer to require only certain portions of the above readings.

### Option 2:

1. Read at least 300 pages of additional reading, selecting for yourself from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." Find resources related to the topics of this course.
2. Fill out a separate written report on each book or article, using the "Form for Reading Reports."
3. Prepare to share what you are learning from your reading and *turn in your written reports*.

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## OPTIONAL WRITTEN PROJECT

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Some groups may require a written project. If so, we recommend an essay of 8-10 pages, using the following guidelines:

Write an 8-10 page project, analyzing a brief passage from the Book of Joshua. Follow the specific steps given below, as well as the general "Guidelines for Writing an Essay" found in the academic packet.

### Specific Steps

1. Select a brief passage, say from 4-10 verses, from the Book of Joshua. Choose a passage that may seem a little difficult to understand at first, something that stirs your interest.
2. Write down the questions that occur to you regarding the meaning of the passage. For example: What words do you not understand? What phrases seem perplexing? Is there something that seems to contradict some other passage of the Bible? Is there something that seems to go against your understanding of theology?
3. Begin to look for answers to these questions. Read different translations of the passage. Look at the surrounding context. Look up cross references that may shed light on the passage. Use a dictionary to look up words.
4. Study the historical background of the passage. The video lectures of this course provide a lot of background information, but you can also find additional information in the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." Consider the overall historical context of your passage. How does this fit into the history of the whole Bible? How does it fit into the general plan of redemption?
5. If you have already studied Hebrew, look up the passage in Hebrew and find the difficult words in a Hebrew dictionary. Look up cross references to see parallel passages or passages that deal with similar subjects.
6. If you have electronic software, such as *Logos* or *BibleWorks*, you can use these tools for your research. There are other software tools that are free, such as *E-Sword* or *Gateway*. See the "Recommended Extra Reading" to find these resources.
7. Find commentaries that you can trust and read their interpretation of the passage, still focusing especially on the questions you have written down. You may not agree with the commentaries, but they can be helpful, especially after you have already done your own thinking about the passage. Again, see the "Recommended Extra Reading" to find resources.
8. Make sure you keep good notes on your research. If you are quoting from some source, or even taking ideas without quoting exactly, you must write down the author, name of book, place of publishing, publishing company, year of publishing, and the page or pages where you got your ideas or your quotes.
9. Write a rough draft of the project.
  - a. Be very careful to study and follow the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."
  - b. Make an outline and begin writing. Make sure you include an introduction that stirs interest in the study.
  - c. Explain the questions that you are especially researching. In the main body, you should include possible

answers to your questions that others offer, then give your own conclusions. Back up your opinions with biblical evidence and linguistic resources.

d. Try to discover the message of the passage for the believers who would read it at the time it was written, and try to apply the same message to people today. What practical importance does it have?

e. Take into account how the passage relates to Christ and the plan of salvation.

d. Include a conclusion, summarizing your answers.

e. Make sure to add footnotes where you have used ideas from another source, and a bibliography at the end.

10. Write the final version of the project. Check again to make sure you are following the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."

11. Read and re-read the project until it flows clearly and is easy to understand. Correct any spelling errors or grammatical errors.

### **List of Contributors to *The Book of Joshua***

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