

# **Study Guide for *Commentary on Joshua*, by John Calvin**

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**Extra Reading for the course:  
"The Book of Joshua"**

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## **Read Calvin's *Commentary on Joshua***

### **Review Questions**

#### **Introducción**

1. Where does the commentary on Joshua fit into Calvin's life and work?
2. What is Calvin's opinion regarding the author of the Book of Joshua?
3. According to Calvin, what is the lesson from the Book of Joshua regarding losing a key leader?
4. According to Calvin, how did the apparent failure to receive the complete inheritance of Canaan at the time of Joshua become a blessing?

#### **Capítulo 1**

1. What is Calvin's teaching about why God fulfilled the promises to inherit Canaan, in spite of Israel's unfaithfulness?
2. According to Calvin, what did God imply when He told Joshua not to let the Law "depart from his mouth"?
3. What does Calvin suggest about the timing of Joshua's command for the officers to prepare to cross over the Jordan (Joshua 1:10-11)? When did he give the command?

#### **Capítulo 2**

1. Does Calvin think Joshua was wrong to send spies to Jericho, showing a lack of trust in God?
2. Does Calvin think that Rahab was a prostitute, or an innkeeper?
3. What is Calvin's view about the lie that Rahab told to protect the spies? Was it a sin?
4. Does Calvin believe that Rahab expressed true faith in the true God?
5. Does Calvin think that the spies showed a lack of faith in God after leaving Jericho, because they went to hide for three days?

### **Capítulo 3**

1. According to Calvin, what lesson can we learn from the fact that the people were to keep a distance from the ark as they prepared to cross the Jordan?
2. What does Calvin say about the dangers of the Jordan river at the time of Israel's crossing?

### **Capítulo 4**

1. Keeping in mind the fact that stones do not speak, what does the monument of twelve stones set up in Gilgal teach us regarding the responsibility of parents?
2. What does Calvin suggest about how the stones left in the river served as a testimony?
3. At what moment did the waters of the Jordan begin to flow again?

### **Capítulo 5**

1. Does Calvin believe that it was a mistake to circumcise all uncircumcised males right after crossing the Jordan?
2. Does Calvin believe that the commander of the army of the Lord that appeared to Joshua near Jericho was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus?

### **Capítulo 6**

1. Calvin says, "...The Lord often, for a time, conceals his own might under \_\_\_\_\_, and seems to sport with mere trifles, that his weakness may at length appear stronger than all might, and his folly superior to all wisdom."
2. Were the Israelites supposed to exhort all whom they attacked to surrender, holding out the hope of pardon?
3. Who disobeyed the command to never rebuild Jericho and suffered the consequences of the curse?

### **Capítulo 7**

1. According to Calvin, why did God charge a whole people with the secret theft of Achan?

2. What is Calvin's evaluation of Joshua's response to losing the first battle at Ai?
3. What is Calvin's warning about finding the punishment of Achan too severe?

### **Capítulo 8**

1. Calvin suggests two possible reasons that God may have ordered Joshua to carry out a strategic plan of attack on Ai, in contrast with what He asked him to do at Jericho. What are those two possible reasons?
2. Does Calvin think that normally it is not correct to use deceit to defeat an enemy in war?
3. Does Calvin believe that it was cruel and unlawful to hang the king of Ai?

### **Capítulo 9**

1. According to Calvin, why did God tell Israel to offer peace to anyone from Canaan who might surrender?
2. Does Calvin think that Israel was right in keeping their oath to make peace with the Gibeonites, even though the Gibeonites had deceived them?
3. Did Israel keep the promise to save the lives of the Gibeonites? How did they treat them?

### **Capítulo 10**

1. According to Calvin, did the Gibeonites confess their fraud and obtain forgiveness?
2. Did Joshua refuse to help the Gibeonites when they were attacked by the five kings of the Amorites, since they had deceived Israel?
3. Does Calvin think that when Joshua 10:13 says that the sun "stood still," it is only a figure of speech?

### **Capítulo 11**

1. Does the Bible say that God hardened the hearts of the Canaanites?
2. How many cities from Canaan made peace treaties with Israel?

## **Capítulo 12**

1. Calvin points out that the summary in Joshua 12 of the kings and territories conquered by Israel show that there had been a complete fulfillment of the promises made to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. How many kings were defeated by Israel at the time of Joshua?

## **Capítulo 13**

1. The southern boundary of the Promised Land was to be a river bordering what country?

## **Capítulo 14**

1. What leaders were involved in supervising the distribution of the land to the tribes of Israel?
2. How was the land distributed to the tribes of Israel? How were the leaders involved?
3. Why was the city of Hebron given to Caleb as a special inheritance?

## **Capítulo 15**

1. From what important city did the tribe of Judah fail to drive out all the inhabitants?

## **Capítulo 16**

1. For what is the tribe of Ephraim criticized in Joshua 16?

## **Capítulo 17**

1. Did any women from the tribes of Israel inherit territory in their name?
2. Why did the sons of Joseph complain to Joshua?

## **Capítulo 18**

1. When the whole congregation of Israel assembled at Shiloh, what did they set up there?
2. After the assembly at Shiloh, how many tribes had still not received their inheritance?

### **Capítulo 19**

1. What was unusual about the territory allotted to the tribe of Simeon?

### **Capítulo 20**

1. Why were all the cities of refuge Levitical cities?

### **Capítulo 21**

1. In general, where were the cities that had been given to the Levites?
2. By the end of the life of Joshua, had the Israelites completely eliminated all the Canaanites from the Promised Land?

### **Capítulo 22**

1. Does Calvin think that the tribes east of the Jordan committed a sin when they built an altar? Why?

### **Capítulo 23**

1. Did Israel separate themselves from the Canaanites and their religious practices?

### **Capítulo 24**

1. Does Calvin think that Joshua was being a weak leader when he told Israel to "choose" whom they would serve?
2. According to Calvin, in his final speech at Shechem, why did Joshua tell Israel that they were unable to serve the Lord?