

People of the Bible

Joshua

Joshua, the son of Nun, was of the tribe of Ephraim. His name and that of “Jesus” are identical in Greek (Mt. 1:21). His name is mentioned in the following Scripture passages:

- Ex 17:8–13: The first reference to Joshua in Scripture is as the military general who defeats the Amalekites while Aaron and Hur hold up the tired hands of Moses.
- Ex 24:13: He is the faithful minister who accompanies Moses at Mount Sinai.
- Ex 33:11: After the LORD would speak to Moses at the tent of meeting, Moses would return to the camp, but Joshua had the privilege of remaining in the tent.
- Num 11:28–29: He is reprimanded by Moses for wanting to silence two prophets.
- Num 13:8,16: He is the spy from the tribe of Ephraim whose name Moses changed from Hoshea to Joshua.
- Num 14:6–9, 30: He is one of two faith-filled and fearless spies who will enter the Promised Land.
- Num 27:18–23: He is a man in whom the Spirit dwells, and he is commissioned for leadership.
- Num 32:12: Like Caleb, he is a man of wholehearted faith in and obedience to the LORD.
- Deuteronomy 31: The LORD commissions Joshua as the successor of Moses.
- Deut 34:9: Joshua is filled with the Spirit of wisdom.

Later, he was appointed by God to succeed Moses as Israel’s commander-in-chief.

Joshua eventually led the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land and directed the Israelites capture of Jericho. He is remembered especially for his final address to the Israelites, in which he challenged them to serve God faithfully (Joshua 24:1-27), concluding with the memorable words, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (24:15).