

# Joshua Introduction (part two)

Date: 1405-1383 B.C.

People:

1. Joshua
2. Rahab
3. Achan
4. Phinehas
5. Eleazar

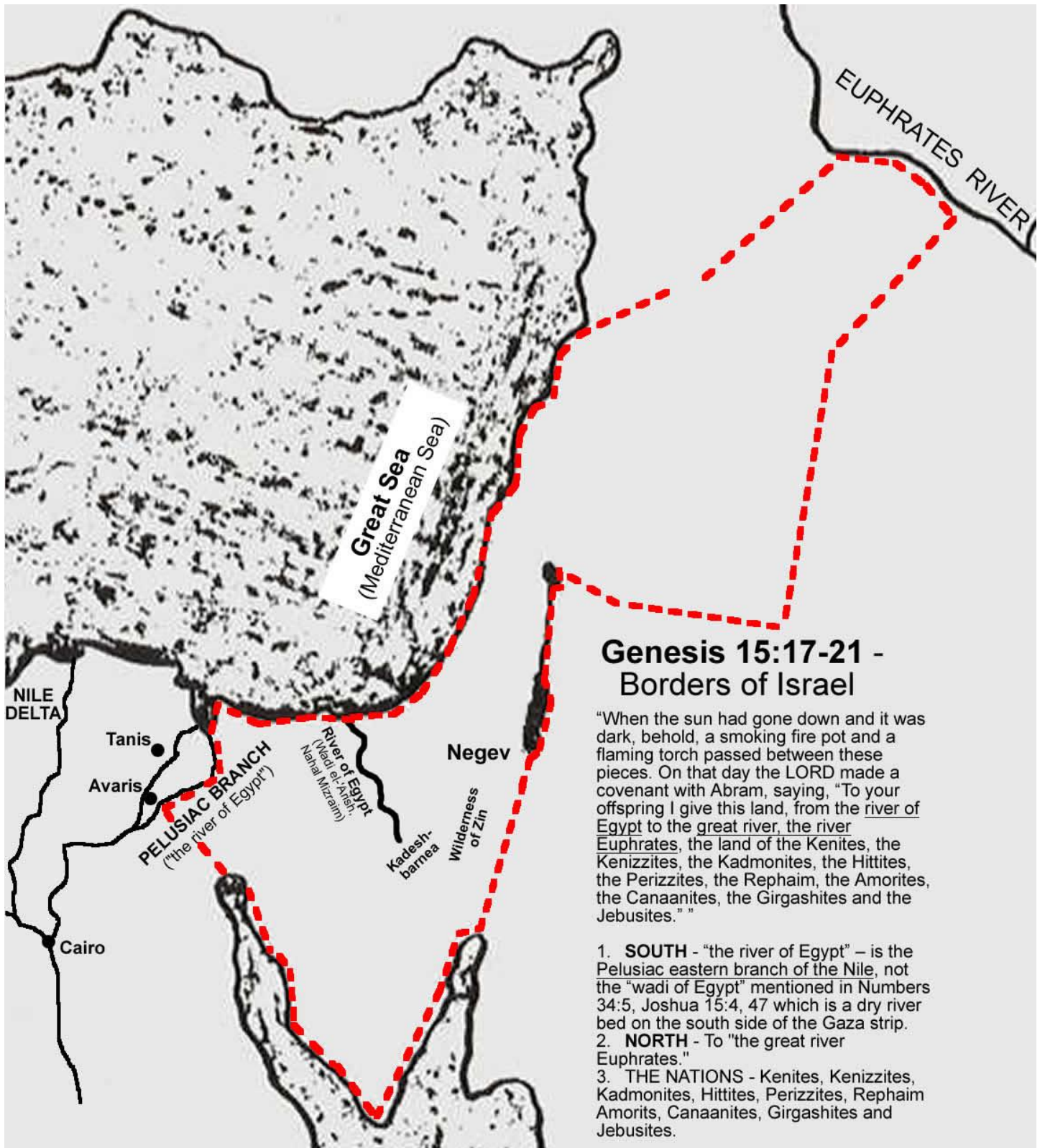
Outline:

1. Chapters 1-4 – Crossing the Jordan River, entrance into the Land,
2. Chapters 5-12 – Entrance campaign, Central Campaign, Southern Campaign and Northern Campaign to complete secure Israel's position in the Land
3. Chapters 13-24 – Dividing up the land; Joshua challenge and good –bye.

The Promise Land:

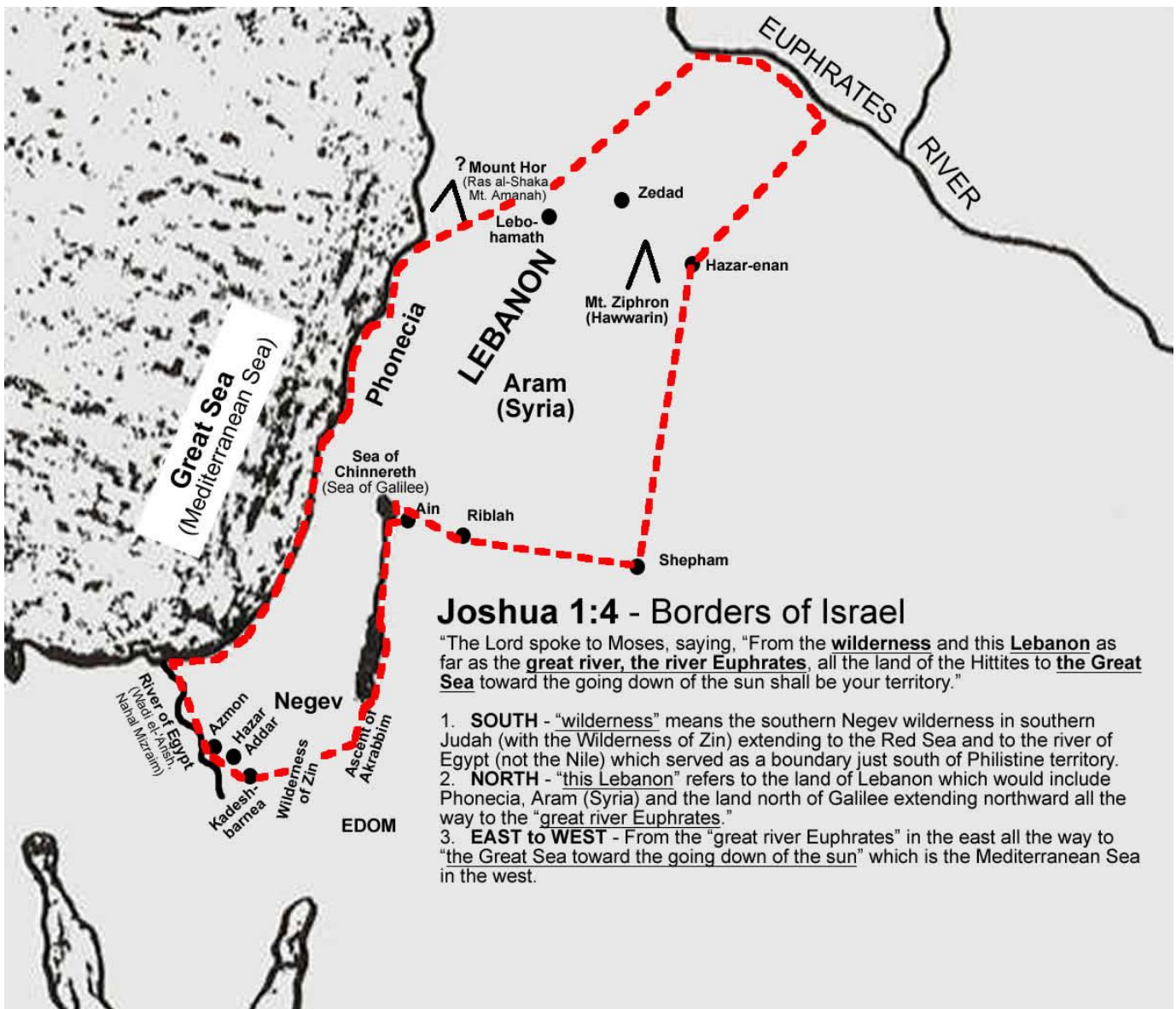
1. Promise given in:
  - a. Genesis 12:1-3, 5-9 – “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”... “When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.”
  - b. Genesis 15:17-21 – “When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.” ”

1. “the river of Egypt” – is the Pelusiac eastern branch of the Nile, not the “wadi of Egypt” mentioned in Numbers 34:5, Joshua 15:4, 47 which is a dry river bed on the south side of the Gaza strip.



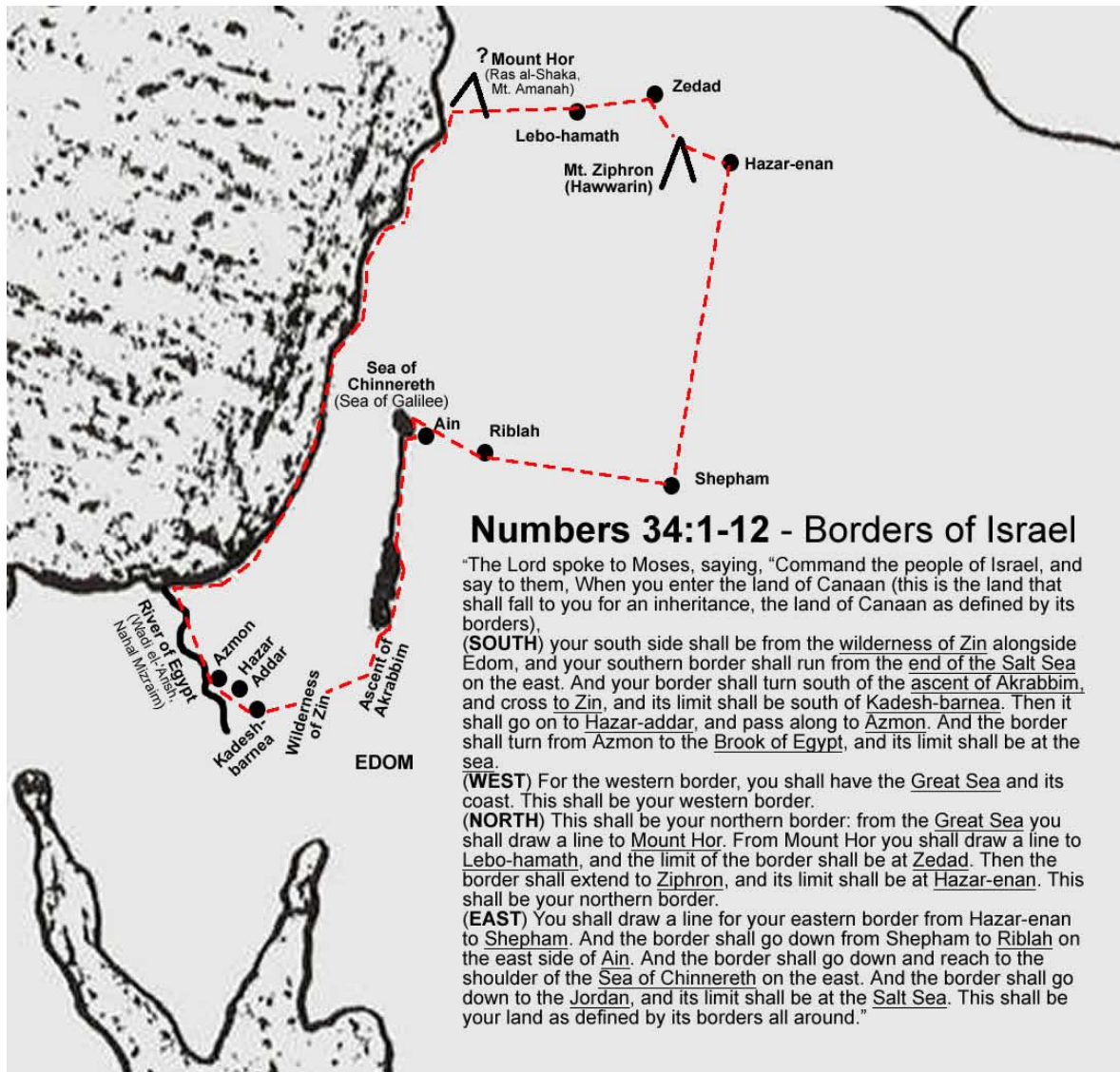
- ii. Exodus 23:31 – “And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.”

- iii. Deuteronomy 1:7 – “Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.”
- iv. Joshua 1:4 – “From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory.”
  1. SOUTH - “wilderness” means the southern Negev wilderness in southern Judah extending to the Red Sea and to the river of Egypt (not the Nile) which served as a boundary just south of Philistine territory.
  2. NORTH - “this Lebanon” refers to the land of Lebanon which would include Phoenicia, Aram (Syria) and the land north of Galilee extending northward all the way to the “great river Euphrates.”
  3. EAST to WEST - From the “great river Euphrates” in the east all the way to “the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun” which is the



Mediterranean Sea in the west.

- c. Deuteronomy 26:1, 9 – “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, . . . And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.”
- d. Numbers 34 – “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders),  
**(SOUTH)** your south side shall be from the wilderness of Zin alongside Edom, and your southern border shall run from the end of the Salt Sea on the east. And your border shall turn south of the ascent of Akrabbim, and cross to Zin, and its limit shall be south of Kadesh-barnea. Then it shall go on to Hazar-addar, and pass along to Azmon. And the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and its limit shall be at the sea.  
**(WEST)** For the western border, you shall have the Great Sea and its coast. This shall be your western border.  
**(NORTH)** This shall be your northern border: from the Great Sea you shall draw a line to Mount Hor. From Mount Hor you shall draw a line to Lebo-hamath, and the limit of the border shall be at Zedad. Then the border shall extend to Ziphron, and its limit shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your northern border.  
**(EAST)** You shall draw a line for your eastern border from Hazar-enan to Shepham. And the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain. And the border shall go down and reach to the shoulder of the Sea of Chinnereth on the east. And the border shall go down to the Jordan, and its limit shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land as defined by its borders all around.”



## 2. Size of the Land

- Promised borders –
- Borders at the end of Joshua –
- Borders in David's kingdom –
- Borders in the Kingdom of Messiah –

## 3. Joshua –

### a. Name

- Originally Hoshea which means "salvation" in the Hebrew.
- Moses changed it to "Joshua" according to Numbers 13:16
- Joshua (*Yehoshua*) means "Yahweh is salvation", where Hoshea (*hoshea*) means "salvation" (*Ye + Hoshea = YHWH + salvation*)
- Joshua –

- Hebrew** - יְהוֹשֻׁעַ - *yēšūā* = Joshua - which corresponds to the
- Greek** spelling Ἰησοῦς - *iesous*, from which, through the
- Latin** *iesus*, comes the
- English** spelling *Jesus*.

### b. Slave in Egypt

- Joshua may have received some military training in Egypt since he was prepared to lead Israel into battle immediately after leaving Egypt.

- c. Military leader in wilderness vs the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16)
- d. Servant of Moses on Mt. Sinai and at the Tabernacle (Exodus 24:13-25:8)
- e. Spy in Canaan for Moses who brought back a positive report along with Caleb
  - i. Numbers 13
  - ii. Deuteronomy 6:23 – “God brought us out of Egypt. He will bring us in and give us the land.”
  - iii. The name Jesus is from a Greek translation of the Aramaic Yeshua
- f. Moses’ replacement
- g. General
- h. National Leader
- i. If Joshua was 35 at the time of the Exodus (Caleb was clearly 40 according to Joshua 14:10), then Joshua would have been 75 in 1406 when Israel crossed the Jordan and 82 in 1399 when the land was divided up. Joshua died at 110 (Joshua 24:29) in the year 1371 after Israel had been in the land 35 years and for about 28-30 years after the conquest wars.
  - i. Joshua, 35 years old in 1446 at the Exodus
  - ii. Joshua, 36 years old in 1445 when fighting the Amalekites
  - iii. Joshua, 37 years old in 1444 as a spy sent with the twelve into Canaan
  - iv. Joshua 75 years old in 1406 when Israel crosses Jordan River
  - v. Joshua 80 years old in 1401 when he burns Hazer
  - vi. Joshua 82 years old in 1399 when he divides the Land
  - vii. Joshua 110 years old in 1371 when he dies after having lived in the Promised Land for 35 years after crossing the Jordan or for 28-30 years of peace enjoying the Promised Land

#### 4. Canaanites

- a. Evil people according to the Lord because:
  - i. Deuteronomy 20:18 – they worshipped false gods
  - ii. Deuteronomy 12:31 – they sacrificed their children to their gods
  - iii. Deuteronomy 18:9-11 – they practiced magic
- b. In Abraham’s day Canaanite sin and social depravity had began:
  - i. Sodom was a Canaanite city (Genesis 19)
  - ii. Canaanites (Ammorites) still had time to repent and restore their minds and their culture to Reality before a total national disaster would take place in 400 years, or 4 generations:
    - 1. Genesis 15:13 – “Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.”
    - 2. Genesis 15:16 – “And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
    - 3. Melchizedek was a priest of God most high living in Salem in the days of Abraham. And, there were other believers at that time.
  - iii. God is just and will punish sin. God is at war with evil. The Lord will make war against societies that are corrupt. This is what a righteous God will do to peoples who corrupt his Reality and destroy his Creation.
  - iv. The Ras Shamra Tablets:
    - 1. These Ras Shamra Tablets are cuneiform text written in Ugaritic language from north of Israel in Syria, many along the coastal cities of the Mediterranean Sea. They were discovered beginning in 1928-1994. They

were written during the height of their power in 1450 BC until its destruction in the 1200's. A total of 1,500 clay texts and fragments have been recovered. These documents include:

- a. poems,
  - b. the Baal Cycle -
  - c. Legend of Keret
  - d. Tale of Aqhat
  - e. 150 describe the Ugaritic (Canaanite) cults and rituals
2. The Ras Shamra Tablets have shed much light on Canaanite religion and culture. Archaeologists discovered these written records ("several hundred clay tablets and fragments"[\[19\]](#)) in northwest Syria at the site of an ancient city: Ugarit. They date from the fourteenth century B.C., the time of the conquest by Joshua. The Canaanites wrote them in the Ugaritic language in cuneiform script. These records reveal that Canaanite culture was extremely immoral and inhumane. The Canaanites commonly practiced prostitution of both sexes, many kinds of sexual perversion, and human sacrifice. These were their *religious* practices.
  3. Wikipedia – Ugarit - "After its destruction in the early 12th century BCE, Ugarit's location was forgotten until 1928 when a peasant accidentally opened an old tomb while ploughing a field. The discovered area was the [necropolis](#) of Ugarit located in the nearby seaport of [Minet el-Beida](#). Excavations have since revealed a city with a prehistory reaching back to c. 6000 BCE.[\[15\]](#) The site is a sixty-five foot high mound. Archaeologically, Ugarit is considered quintessentially [Canaanite](#).[\[16\]](#)
- v. Leon J Wood in "A Survey of Israel's History" writes: "Canaan was advanced in material culture.
1. Cities were well laid out, and
  2. houses showed good design and construction.
  3. Floors of buildings were often paved or plastered.
  4. Drainage systems had been developed.
  5. Workers were skilled in the use of:
    - a. copper,
    - b. lead, and
    - c. gold.
  6. Pottery was among the finest anywhere in the world.
  7. Extensive trade was conducted with foreign countries, including;
    - a. Egypt,
    - b. Northern Mesopotamia, and
    - c. Cyprus.
  8. In technical knowledge, Canaanites were much in advance of Israelites who had spent the past forty years in nomadic conditions of the desert.
  9. In this cultural disparity lay grave danger for Israel: a danger which soon issued in sad reality.
  10. History shows that less developed cultures are normally absorbed by those more advanced.
  11. In years which followed, Israel did not become absorbed by Canaan, but she did experience pronounced influence.

- a. Had this involved only material culture, such as pottery manufacture, city construction, or methods of farming, there could even have been benefit;
- b. but when it came to include ways of thinking, ideas, and especially religious belief and practice, the harm was great."
- vi. The Biblical record of Canaanite's false philosophy, false reality and false religion:
  - 1. Leviticus 18:1-30 –
    - a. Lev. 18:1-5 – “The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God. You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.”
    - b. “Do not...”
      - i. 18:6-20 - Do not have sexual relations with...family
      - ii. 18:6-20 - Do not have sexual relations with people other than spouse
      - iii. 18:21 – Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek...
      - iv. 18:22 – Do not have sexual relations with a man
      - v. 18:23 – Do not have sexual relations with an animal
    - c. Lev. 18:24-25 – “This is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants...for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. AND IF YOU defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you...do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you came...”

## 5. The Book

- a. In the English Bible, Joshua is considered one of the historical books (Genesis through Esther) in our English Bibles which follow the order Jerome chose for his Latin translation made between 382-405 AD called today the Latin Vulgate which itself is in the order of the books in the Greek Septuagint.
- b. In the Hebrew Bible the book of Joshua is in the second of the three main divisions of the Old Testament, namely, the Prophets.
  - i. The **Law**
  - ii. The **Prophets**
    - 1. Former Prophets – Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
    - 2. Latter Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Twelve (the minor prophets)
  - iii. The **Writings** – Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah, Chronicles

## 6. Length of the Conquest 5-7 years in Joshua 1-12:

- a. Josephus writes the conquest of the land took 5 years.
- b. Caleb receives the town of Hebron as his inheritance in Joshua 14:10 at the end of the conquest and says, “And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, just as he said,



**these forty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses,** while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old.”. If Caleb spent 40 years in the wilderness that would agree with the 5 year conquest. If Caleb counted 45 years from the day the Lord spoke to Moses after the spies returned from the Land then Caleb would have been counting his 45 years from 38 years before the crossing of the Jordan since at the time of the twelve spies Israel had already spent two years in the wilderness which the Lord considered part of the 40 years. This would mean Caleb is indicating it took 7 years for him to receive his land after Israel had crossed the Jordan

- c. The period of the book of Judges covers about 300 years.