

Joshua

The next books of the bible we will look at, in the order presented by the Tanakh, are Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings. They are a history of the happenings between Moses through Solomon. But not a factual history as we might think of today. Remember this was primarily written down during the Babylonian exile and after. It is colored by the writer as is even our own history.

Everyone of the older generation learned about the civil war in school. In the midwest, at least, it is colored with Abe Lincoln leading the virtuous north against Robert E. Lee and the south. One thing I never learned in school is that Robert E. Lee never owned slaves. Another thing I never learned in school is what the north did to his personal property. He owned the property overlooking the existing Washington monument. The northern government decided to make the idea of returning home less appealing by burying the unknown soldiers in his wife's rose garden. Then the government confiscated his property and it is now Arlington cemetery. Not so virtuous on the north's part but war is hell.

That being said, in my opinion Joshua is a very hard book to read. It is the account of many genocides by Joshua and his armies to gain the entire area of Canon. I can only hope that this was written at a time and to cast what was then a virtuous shadow on Joshua. I found this as one explanation: *It must be remembered, however, that the book of Joshua does not address itself to the abstract ethical question of war as a means for gaining human ends. It can only be understood in the context of the history of redemption unfolding in the Pentateuch, with its interplay of divine grace and judgment. Of that story it is the direct continuation.*

Joshua also lays out the exact division of the land to the twelve tribes, where the Levites will live and where folks that killed someone else accidentally can flee to.

This land was valuable at the time as a trade route. To get anywhere worth going you needed to go through Canon. More wars have been fought over this land over the centuries than any other piece of land.

THE 12 TRIBES OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

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Joseph's sons are Manasseh and Ephraim. Joseph did not get a section of land but his two sons did.
Levi did not get a section of land either but his descendants are the priestly people. They have places they can live and study.

