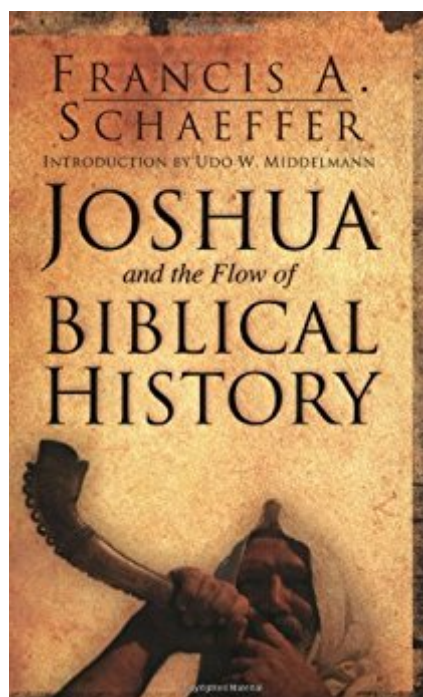


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Joshua And The Flow Of Biblical History



Synopsis

The book of Joshua brings to life real history during the crucial period of transition for the Israelites as they follow God's direction and settle in the promised land. Israel needed discipline in light of their newfound freedom. They faced the responsibility of living as a covenant people while adapting to change. Joshua describes the historic shift from the revelation of God's promises to their realization. God's care of his people becomes obvious, and their struggle with disobedience, selfishness, and fear is very human. Francis Schaeffer's thoughts on the book of Joshua show readers the historic, spiritual, and intellectual nourishment available for the Christian life through the examples of Joshua and his fellow Israelites. In the book of Joshua, Schaeffer finds that God reveals his sorrow over human sin, as well as his gracious love for his people. This is as true for us as it was for those in Joshua's time. This study of the settling of Israel will inspire readers to see the hand of God present in all of history, including today.

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Customer Reviews

The book of Joshua is action packed. Full of battles and intrigue, it is a great book for those who

made it through the books of the law. With that said, Joshua is more than just a collection of the military exploits of the people of Israel as they began to conquer and enter the land of promise. While at the surface that may seem the focus of Joshua, namely revealing God leading His people against the pagan nations of Canaan, right below the surface is a broader message. Noted author and speaker Francis Schaeffer, in his classic book *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History*, takes a biblical theological approach to the book of Joshua, noting how important biblical themes are found throughout the pages of this story on conquest that should not be overlooked. I enjoy books that extract the timeless truths of Scripture in a way that helps me not only understand the basic message, but that digs deep into the beautiful truths just waiting to be gleaned. While Joshua is perhaps not a book one would normally think would have more to offer than battlefield clashes, in reality, the recurring themes of humanity's penchant for sin and God's mercy can be found on every page of Joshua. Furthermore, as noted by Schaeffer, what makes the book of Joshua overwhelmingly important is that it stands as a bridge, a link between the Pentateuch (the writings of Moses) and the rest of Scripture. It is crucial for understanding the unity the Pentateuch has with all that follows it, including the New Testament. With that understanding in mind, the reader will have a new appreciation for the book of Joshua and additionally, they will find themselves paying a bit more attention to the themes presented in Joshua and how those themes related to the greater message of Scripture.

Usually, when I read a commentary for devotional purposes, I read the passage from the Bible first then I consult a commentary with an eye for additional insight or observation and point of application I might have missed. I usually weigh commentaries in that regard with what it brings out from the text. Schaeffer brought out insights to things that I missed not only upon my first reading of the passage, but my previous reading of Joshua also as well. To that end, I thought this work was helpful. For instance, I did not notice before that the memorial of the stones that Jacob commanded Israel to lay was on the Jordan itself from rocks that were on land and also rocks from the Jordan onto dry land in Joshua 4. This seemingly trivial point is explained by Schaeffer as being significant since the stones from the river (assuming it looks different) will stand out on dry land and vice versa as a memorial of God's faithfulness when God once again parting water for Israel. Francis Schaeffer also had a good section on the Abrahamic covenant of God as the background to what was going on in Joshua in terms of receiving the promise land. It's always beautiful seeing the flow of biblical theology being taken into account in interpreting a passage. The book also had a theologically rich chapter that focused on Joshua 8:30-35 on what Mount Ebal and Gerizim meant,

where Schaeffer was able to use it to point to the gospel with the altar on Mount Ebal (the mountain of curses and judgment), of how this symbolizes that there is a need for the cleansing of sins. This commentary also answered a question I had for a while but neglected in finding the answer to.

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