

Glimpses of Jesus in Joshua

Joshua 1:1-2 HCSB After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, who had served Moses: **2** "Moses My servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites.

Introduction: Have you ever noticed how ticket agents at the airport don't trust us to be who we claim to be? They want to see photo IDs. When Christ showed up claiming to be the Messiah, a lot of people didn't trust Him, but He had a picture of Himself drawn with remarkable accuracy over hundreds of years in the Old Testament. He appealed to fulfilled messianic prophecy to demonstrate the validity of His claims (John 5:39–47). It was His photo ID. Even in the Book of Joshua, for example, we see at least three glimpses of Jesus.

- 1. Joshua Himself.** Jesus and Joshua shared the same name. *Jesus* is the Greek version of the Hebrew *Joshua*. According to Numbers 13, Joshua was originally called Hoshea, but Moses changed his name. Why? Hoshea in the Hebrew means *May Jehovah Save*. Joshua means *Jehovah Is Salvation*. Perhaps Moses was led to strengthen Hoshea's name to make it more solid, more durable, and more certain as a personal name for the coming Messiah (Matt. 1:21). These two men not only shared the same name; they had a similar task. Joshua took over after the Law-giver had died and led the people into the future that God had planned for them. Bible teacher Paul Van Gorder points out, "The book begins with the words, 'Now after the death of Moses. . . . Moses represented the law. The people could not enter the land of Canaan until Moses was dead. 'What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin's domain, and as a sin offering, in order that the law's requirement would be accomplished in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.' (Rom. 8:3, 4). . . . Joshua led the children of Israel to victory after crossing the Jordan. He was their advocate in time of defeat. It was Joshua who allotted them their portions within the land. All of this beautifully pictures the work of the Lord."
- 2. Rahab's Crimson Cord.** The second picture of Jesus is found in a coil of scarlet roping in Joshua 2. In that chapter, two spies secretly entered Jericho and were hidden by a prostitute named Rahab. She had a crimson cord that she tied to the window of her house, which was on the city wall, so the men could rappel down and escape. She said to them, "I know you're going to capture this city. I know God is with you. Please spare me and my family." In reply, the two spies told her to tie the scarlet cord to the window and to bring her family into that room. It would be the only place of safety during the invasion. What a picture of Christ! This world will be invaded by the judgment of God (Acts 17:30–31), and there is only one place can we find deliverance. Just as the Israelites were told to remain in their houses with the crimson blood of the lamb on the doorposts, just as Rahab was told to remain in her room with the crimson cord in the window, so we must be under the power of the crimson blood of Christ.
- 3. The Captain of the Lord's Host.** We also have a special pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus in Joshua 5. Joshua meets one who calls himself the "Captain of the Lord's Hosts." When Joshua realized he was speaking with the Lord Himself, he asked, "What message do you have for me?" Instead of imparting military advice, the Captain said: "Take off your shoes. The place where you are standing is holy." That harkens back to Joshua 1:3, where the Lord promised to be everywhere that Joshua set his feet. The pillar of cloud may vanish. The column of fire may no longer be seen. But God's presence was just as real as ever. Your living room is holy ground, for Jesus is there. Your bedroom is holy ground. Your office or classroom is holy ground.

Conclusion: Joshua went forth with a newfound confidence, knowing that even if he could not see the Lord, the Lord was hovering near with His divine armies, ready to fight on his behalf, even as our Lord Jesus Christ said as He ascended into heaven, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."