



The book of Joshua

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

The book of Joshua is named after its author. However, some critics claim that this book was not written by Joshua, but by someone else during the 7th and 6th century BC. On the other hand, some writings of Jewish traditions, such as the Talmud, claim that Joshua is the author. And, regarding the objection of Joshua's death narrated in the text, the Talmud argues that this part was added by the priest Eliezer or another close witness to the events narrated in this book. Additionally, there is internal evidence that probably supports the fact that Joshua wrote it. For instance, the use of "We" (Joshua 5:6). Joshua, son of Nun, is the successor of Moses.

Date

As for the date of the writing of this text, it must be said that we cannot give a precise date. However, it is clear that it was written during Joshua's lifetime. There is no evidence to support the idea that this book was written after Joshua's death by other people or a group of texts compiled by other people. However, the date of writing can be dated after 1399 BC.

The main theme and target audience

The book of Joshua is written in continuity with what was written by Moses in the book of Deuteronomy. It continues where the books of the law are completed. This book is subdivided into two main categories. The first twelve chapters recount the process of the conquest of the Promised Land and the other twelve chapters deal with the question of the distribution of the land, Joshua's last acts, and his death. The main idea of this book is that God, in order to fulfill his promise to give the land to his people, intervenes on their behalf by giving them victory over the nations that opposed them.

Outline of the book of Joshua

1. Preparation for the entry of the people into the Promised Land (Jos. 1:1-5:15)
2. The conquest of the Promised Land (Jos. 6 :1-12-24)
3. Distribution of the Land (Jos.13:1-24:28)
4. The speeches of Joshua (Jos. 23 :1-24 :28)
5. Death of Joshua (24 :29-33)