

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF JOSHUA

1. Born into the tribe of Ephraim. Along with Levi and Benjamin, the only serious rival to the tribe of Judah.
2. Original name seems to have been Hoshea (salvation).
3. Selected by Moses to be his personal assistant.
4. Leads the battle against the Amalekites who attack the Bnei Yisrael just after they have crossed the Reed Sea.
5. Renamed Yehoshua (God is salvation) by Moses before setting off on the spying expedition to Canaan.
6. Returns from scouting the Land of Canaan with a positive report. With Caleb of Judah, the only man to do so.
7. Receives semicha from Moses in front of the people; he will lead them into Canaan.
8. As soon as the people have crossed the Jordan, all males born since leaving Egypt are circumcised.
9. Then, he commemorates Pesach for the third time: i) Year 0 (**Ex. 12**); ii) Year 1 (**Num. 9**); iii) Year 40 (**Josh. 4**).
10. Captures Jericho and keeps his promise to Rahab and their family. They are spared.
11. [**TB Megillah 14b** – *Rahab converts; marries Joshua. From the Tenach, Joshua had no sons. So, if he had children, they must have been daughters. Jeremiah and Baruch were among Rahab's descendants*].
12. Has a setback at Ai. The culprit is revealed and executed, as is all his family. Takes Ai with clever subterfuge.
13. Holds a special ceremony near Shechem, on Mts Ebal and Gerizim, where he reads all the Torah (Teaching) - probably the Book of Devarim - to all the people, i.e., men, women, children and strangers (non-Israelites).
14. The Hivites of Gibeon trick Joshua into making a defence pact. Joshua honours the agreement.
15. The League of the South (Jerusalem, Hebron, Lachish and two other cities) are defeated at Bet-Horon.
16. The League of the North (led by King Jabin of Hazor) are defeated at the Waters of Merom (N. of Kinneret).
17. In all, Joshua defeats 31 kings and takes their cities.
18. He sets up the Tent of Meeting, which houses the Ark of the Covenant, at Shiloh, in the territory of Ephraim.
19. Divides up the land amongst the 13 tribes, i.e., including the tribe of Levi.
20. Sets up 6 cities of refuge – Kedesh (Naphtali), Shechem (Ephraim), Hebron (Judah), Bezer (Reuben), Ramot-Gilead (Gad) and Golan (Manasseh). i.e., three on either side of the R. Jordan.
21. The fighters from Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh return to their homes in Trans-Jordan.
22. Two valedictory addresses to the people at Shechem.
23. Unlike his predecessor, there were no complaints about or mutinies against Joshua.
24. Dies at 110, c. 80 years after leaving Egypt. The Israelites had at least 24 years of peace under his leadership.

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### Two major issues outstanding:

- **Did not complete the conquest. Why?**
- **Unlike Moses, did not leave a successor to lead the people. Why?**