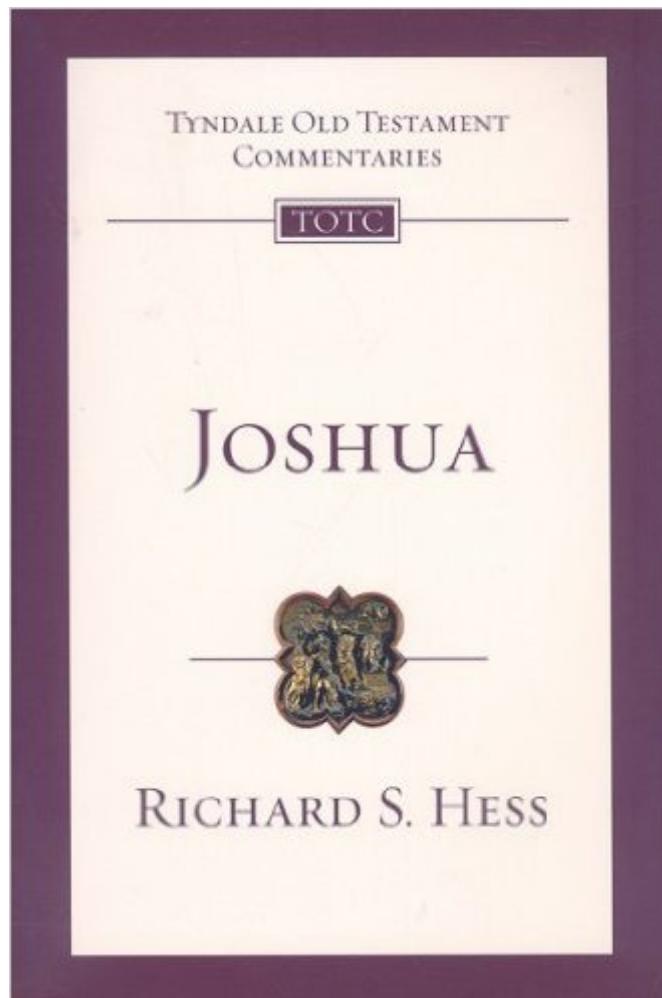


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# Joshua (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)



## Synopsis

The book of Joshua memorializes a transitional episode in Israel's national history. The heroic figure Joshua, imbued with strength, courage and faith, leads the new generation of Israel across the Jordan and into the land of promise, conquering Canaanites and overseeing the allotment of the inheritance among the tribes. But the book of Joshua is foremost a story of God, who works powerfully on behalf of Israel and Joshua, fulfilling his covenant promises. It is God who leads Israel across the Jordan, God who defeats Israel's enemies and God who presides over the apportionment of the land. And so in the final chapter it is God who receives Israel's worshipful recommitment at Shechem. In this Tyndale Old Testament Commentary, Richard S. Hess explores these historical, theological and literary dimensions of the book of Joshua. An exceptional feature of his commentary is his careful consideration of the allocation of the Promised Land and the boundary lists the book of Joshua so prominently displays. And in a day when grave doubts have been raised over the historicity of the "conquest" story, Hess presents historical and archaeological evidence for placing the events of Joshua in the late second millennium B.C. The original, unrevised text of this volume has been completely retypeset and printed in a larger, more attractive format with the new cover design for the series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've been using this commentary to teach an adult Sunday School class. Hess does a great job of

giving insight to the passage without getting lost in the details. This is not a language-heavy commentary, but he does do a good job of noting unusual or repeated Hebrew words. At the end of each section he attempts to apply the truths of the section to the modern reader. The principles he pulls feel a little over-spiritualized at times to me, but it's a sincere effort. I've found this commentary to be extremely helpful in understanding the book of Joshua.

This conservative Christian commentary packs a great deal of insight into a relatively small package. Archaeological background information assists the reader in making sense of the narrative. For example, it is helpful to know that Jericho and Ai were probably small forts with small populations, (The Hebrew word for "thousand" can also mean "squad".) Archaeological data also support the view that the book comes from the second millennium B.C. Names and literary forms in the book are similar to ones found in other documents from that period. Like the book of Deuteronomy, the covenant renewal text in chapter 24 has the basic form of a Hittite treaty from the second millennium B.C. There is good discussion of the tensions in the text between sweeping summaries like Joshua 21:43-45 and other passages that detail the areas not under Israelite control. Moreover, frequent theological connections are made with relevant New Testament passages. I used this commentary in a small group study and was very satisfied.

I did like the writing style, the research, and the explanations used throughout the text. With more use of current research and what many archeologists have found, this would be a very good book to add to your reference shelf on the Book of Joshua.

A general coverage of the book of Joshua, but lacks the in depth links with the Pentateuch that are covered better in the NAC book by David Howard. Also missing is a consistent effort at understanding the *sitz em leben* (situation in life) of some of the dramatic incidents in the book of Joshua. Nevertheless, the footnotes are very helpful for further research. Prof. Bob Bates, Alaska Bible College

The Tyndale Series is my favorite. Joshua is excellent. Written by a British scholar, there is a blend of textual, historical, archaeological, and devotional material.

Not as easy to use as some, but pretty thorough.

Good Christian commentary to Joshua. Easy read.

Helpful background information coupled with insightful theological reflections for contemporary readers. A good book for pastors and students to have on their shelves.

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