

## Joshua's Brave Soldiers Conquer the Promised Land

About 8 minutes, from the book of Joshua

Participants (*No need to memorize lines. The aim is to relive key events, not to perform*)

Angel of the Lord

Joshua

Caleb

Prompter Shouts a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes All who want to take part, adults and children; Echoes need no script.

Joshua Oh, help! It is the Angel of the Lord! Mercy!

Angel of the Lord Do not fear, Joshua. Moses my servant is dead.  
Now arise and take the sons of Israel across this Jordan River.  
Conquer the land that I promised to their fathers.

Joshua Yes, Lord. But please go with us.

Angel of the Lord I will be with you.

Prompter & Echoes Be strong and courageous!

Joshua Caleb, prepare to cross this Jordan in battle array into your land.  
God will no longer tolerate the evil idolatry of its inhabitants.

Caleb Finally! 40 years ago Moses sent twelve men to spy out Canaan,  
the land that God promised Abraham to give to his descendants.  
Only you, Joshua, and I came back with courage to conquer it.  
The other spies feared the giant sons of Anak.  
I can hardly wait to face them in battle!

Prompter & Echoes Sharpen your spears!

Joshua Caleb, the spies I sent a few weeks ago to look over the land,  
unlike the spies that Moses sent 40 years ago,  
are eager to drive the idolatrous tribes out of the land.  
Fear is melting the inhabitants' hearts;  
even Jericho's walls are locked tight.

Caleb Our bold spies report that Rahab, a harlot, hid them  
and helped them escape from Jericho at great risk to herself.  
They told her to hang a scarlet cord from a window,  
so we would spare her and her family when we wipe out the city.

Joshua She will be safe, Caleb.  
Now, Priests, take up the Ark of the Covenant and cross the river.  
Do not hesitate because of its flooding.

Caleb Look, Joshua! When the priests' feet touched the water,  
the flood stopped, and the waters are rising up in a heap!  
Our people are crossing!

Prompter & Echoes On dry land!

Joshua Now we have all crossed, and the river is flooding again!  
Men, bring twelve large stones, one for each tribe of Israel,  
and set up a memorial of what God did here.

Joshua Oh, look, Caleb! The Angel of the Lord!

Prompter & Echoes Look out!

Angel of the Lord Do not fear. I have given Jericho to you. March around it for six days; let the priests carry trumpets of rams' horns before the Ark of the Lord. On the seventh day, you will march around Jericho seven times, and when the priests blow the trumpets, all the people will shout.

Joshua Now it is the seventh day, Caleb. We've done as the Lord said. Priests, blow the trumpets. Everybody, shout! The Lord has given you the city, but touch no idols of gold or silver.

Prompter & Echoes Great is the shout!

Caleb Look, Joshua! The walls are falling down! Their warriors are confused.

Prompter & Echoes The city is ours!

Joshua You men who spied out the land, go to Rahab's house, bring her and her family out to safety, as you swore to her.

Prompter & Echoes Then see the city burn to ashes!

Caleb Joshua, the next city we have to capture is Ai.

Joshua It is small, Caleb, so only two or three thousand men need to attack it.

Prompter & Echoes Careful!

Joshua The soldiers are returning. Oh no! Many have died or are injured; Ai's warriors defeated them! Oh Lord God, why have you punished your people this way?

Angel of the Lord Israel broke my covenant; someone took golden idols from Jericho. Have all the tribes and families pass before you; I will show you the guilty one.

Caleb The Lord reveals that Achan of Judah's tribe is the guilty one. He had taken idols of silver and gold, and hidden them in his tent.

Prompter & Echoes God has us stone him to death.

Angel of the Lord Now, Joshua, fear no more. Take all the men and capture Ai.

Joshua We will ambush the city. Some of you will approach it and then flee as before to draw their soldiers out of the city. The rest of you shall be hidden behind the city, and the Lord will deliver it into your hand.

Prompter & Echoes The city of Ai falls!

Caleb The war is only beginning, Joshua. Pagan kings are gathering against us.

Joshua The iniquity of the Amorites has become full, as the Lord told Abraham it would someday; so the Holy One of Israel will fight for us.

Joshua Caleb, who are these men who come to us with worn-out sacks on their donkeys, moldy bread, and worn-out sandals?

Caleb They say they came from afar, and want to make a covenant with us to serve us, and not be treated as enemies.

Joshua I agree to this without first consulting the Lord.

Prompter & Echoes That's a mistake!

Joshua I find that they have deceived us; they are from Gibeon of Canaan, which we were to conquer.

Caleb Shall we slaughter them, Joshua?

Joshua We swore not to harm them. Let them serve us and hew our lumber.

Caleb We continue to battle the many idolatrous Kings of Canaan. We destroy some of their nations; others continue to threaten us.

Prompter & Echoes A thorn in our eyes!

Joshua I am about to defeat these Amorite enemies of God today, but I need more time before dark. Oh Lord, keep the sun shining!

Prompter & Echoes The sun stands still for a day!

Caleb Now I have defeated the giant sons of Anak at last, Joshua! We've driven the pagan tribes out the land that God promised to Israel.

Prompter & Echoes Finally we are at rest!

Joshua Caleb, each tribe has received as its inheritance a portion of the land. I will now designate cities of refuge; anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there, and find refuge from the blood avenger.

Caleb Joshua, I just heard bad news. The Israelites that settled east of the Jordan River set up a huge altar, but Moses told us all to worship in the one place of the Lord's choosing.

Joshua Then we must go against our own brothers in battle.

Prompter & Echoes Civil war!

Joshua First I will talk to them.

Prompter & Echoes Pray for peace!

Joshua I ask why they turned against the God of Israel, making a separate altar. They say they did not build it to offer sacrifices, but as a testimony of their unity before God with all the tribes.

Prompter & Echoes We remain in peace!

Joshua Elders of Israel, I am old and will soon go the way of all people. Choose today whom you will serve: whether the gods that some of your fathers have served, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell, but as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

Prompter & Echoes We will all serve the Lord!

Joshua Now everyone, we're back in today's world. Let's discuss this. Israel's soldiers defeated foes and giants that opposed God. Think a moment. What are some of the giant problems of today that we can defeat with God's help?