

*On Eagles' Wings<sup>1</sup>*  
*-in the Promised Land-*

- In Verse -

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1. Exodus: 19, 4: God said to Moses: "I brought you here on eagles' wings"

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## PREFACE

This second edition is a retitled version of “People of the Bible - in the Promised Land”-2001. The illustrations and some commentaries have been omitted and some minor changes have been made to the text of Chapter four.

The book deals primarily with material from the Holy Bible – the Books of Joshua, Judges, I and II Samuel, and I Kings – which cover the period beginning with the conquest of Canaan, and ending with the death of King Solomon. There is, however, some coverage, in Chapter IV, of events following the death of Solomon and the division of the kingdom of Israel. That section is written in much less depth and detail.

This authentic work is written in easy-to-read verse, using contemporary English.

The material that is taken directly from the Biblical text is printed in regular type. The original meaning is always preserved, even if different words are used. When the text is augmented – for example by descriptions of appearances of people - it is footnoted as “author’s image”. These augmentations are also printed in regular type. However, there are verses that originate with the author – for example, prologues and epilogues; these are printed in italics, to distinguish them from the Biblical text.

Most of the commentaries in the footnotes are not original with the author. They were selected from various Biblical sources.

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*Moses was dead -  
he who had the Hebrews led.  
Moses - powerful prophet God had sent,  
Himself to represent,  
who'd been God's choice to be His  
Voice.*

*Giver of laws, leader of men,  
who had brought Commandments Ten,  
who taught the laws that God had sent,  
by God meant  
to be the cornerstone -  
seeds sown from His Holy throne.  
Moses was dead,  
and a different time now lay ahead  
for a people newly bred.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup>Except for Joshua and Caleb ( Numbers 14:24 ) who were the only survivors of the slave generation.

## CHAPTER ONE

*Joshua*<sup>1</sup>

### **The Conquest of Canaan**

#### *Prologue - The Fulfillment*

*The Hebrews - crushed in Egypt, hopeless slaves,  
were by Godly miracles saved.  
They were freed through Moses when hope fled,  
then were by the Lord God led  
through the hostile wilderness  
where they lived in much distress.  
There, for forty long and weary years -  
they were filled with fears, wept many tears.  
They were fed on hope and manna bread,  
and were by Moses taught God's Laws,  
and His commandments, every clause.*

*When the elders passed away,  
the younger - made of different clay -  
who'd learned the laws and how to pray  
were ready to obey.*

*For those Israelites of old  
it was a time now to be bold.  
They would have to fight with all their might,  
yet also live by what was right.  
The land to which they would be led  
now lay ahead.*

*T'was known as Canaan,  
the land promised by God to Abraham,  
and to his seed, to meet their need.  
This was a Sacred covenant that was permanent,  
and now the time had come for it to be fulfilled,  
in ways according to God's Holy will.*

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<sup>1</sup>The Book of Joshua

*Inside Canaan lived many pagan tribes unclean,  
with evil practices, cruel and obscene.  
They worshipped idols made of clay,  
to which they would bow and pray,  
or idols carved from stone.  
Living things were thrown  
into a pit of flame till death them claimed.  
Humans too were sometimes burned alive,  
in the hope the pagan tribes would thrive,  
and the Ashteroth religious rites were a blight  
to those upright in God's Sacred Sight.  
This was the land the Hebrews must take,  
conquer in wars that they must make.*

*Now it's Joshua who is God's choice,  
who hears His Holy Voice.  
Joshua - given Moses' place  
by God's grace.  
Joshua - given full command  
to lead them to their promised land,  
where they'd be a people free  
and fulfill their destiny -  
**if** they would obey God's laws  
and fight hard for their own cause.*

*They now have a leader new,  
devout, courageous, to God true.  
When his leadership began,  
he was a strong and hardy man,  
knowing the laws - knowing the right  
with skill to lead and strength to fight.*

*He reflected Moses' glory;  
this underlies his steadfast story;  
from Moses he learned to be wise,  
to see the world through Moses' eyes.*

***Joshua heard God's Sacred Word!  
Joshua - soldier of the Lord!***

### **The Lord Speaks**

To Joshua the Lord God said:  
Moses, my servant now is dead.  
You must do as I command -  
take the Israelites to their land.  
Go over Jordan,<sup>1</sup> go you all,  
in Canaan land<sup>2</sup> I'll you install.  
No one will stand up to you,  
you will all your foes subdue.  
AS I WAS WITH MOSES, SO I'LL BE WITH YOU.  
Wherever you go, whatever you do.  
I won't fail you, nor will I forsake -  
My promises I will not break.  
Be courageous and be strong  
as leader now you do belong.

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<sup>1</sup> The Jordan river.

<sup>2</sup> The land God promised Abraham for the Israelites. Genesis 15:18, Exodus 23:31, Joshua 1:4



To the Book of Laws<sup>3</sup> adhere,  
be not dismayed and have no fear,  
then with confidence you'll lead  
and you will succeed.  
Divide the land among the tribes  
as I prescribed.  
My Blessings go with you!

### **Rahab and the Spies**

Joshua, needing ears and eyes  
sent from Shittim two brave spies -  
men who were resourceful, who were strong<sup>4</sup>  
with memories excellent and long.

These spies would go to Jericho  
to scout the land and report back  
so he could plan his first attack.

After they had explored, hungry and footsore<sup>5</sup>  
they found their way to Rahab's door.  
They had learned she ran an inn  
and they sought to lodge therein.

Rahab let them in, into her inn.  
She wore a dress of crimson red,<sup>6</sup>  
a crimson ribbon on her head,  
her dusky shoulders showing bare,  
through cascading jet-black hair.  
Her dark brown and gentle eyes  
showed her to be kind and wise.  
She helped the spies -

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<sup>3</sup> The Torah.

<sup>4</sup> Author's image.

<sup>5</sup> Author's image.

<sup>6</sup> Author's image.

sent them to her roof, where they were hid beneath a grid  
made of stalks of flax - there to relax,  
to be safe from fear lest their enemy appear.

Jericho's king had been apprised  
that Rahab harboured Hebrew spies.  
His men now thundered at her door<sup>7</sup>  
causing great furor.

Bring them out!  
Bring out those scouts!  
Bring out the men you've sheltered in your inn!  
They've come from the Hebrew high command  
to spy out our entire land!  
We are here at the king's behest  
to arrest those cursed Hebrew 'guests'.  
Give them to us, we say -  
our king will make them pay!

Although Rahab had hid the spies  
now she told the king's men lies.  
She said that  
after dark the spies had gone, on the run;  
she knew not who they were nor whence they'd come.  
She said: pursue them quickly, overtake  
in order your arrest to make.

Rahab spoke then to the spies:  
I understand  
that God has given you this land.  
We live in terror, faint with fear  
because we know that you are near,  
because of all we've heard of you:  
how the God to whom you're true  
dried up for you the Sea of Reeds

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<sup>7</sup> Author's image.

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