

**HANDBOOKS FOR
BIBLE CLASSES: THE
BOOK OF JOSHUA**

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Handbooks for Bible Classes: The Book of Joshua by George M. Douglas

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GEORGE M. DOUGLAS

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REV. MARCUS DODS, D.D.,
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THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

INTRODUCTION.

THE subject-matter of this book is the fulfilment of the work which was given to Moses to do, but which had been left unfinished by him, owing to that sin which brought after it the judgment on him and his brother Aaron: 'Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them' (Num. xx. 12). This was followed by the prayer of Moses: 'Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit,' etc. (Num. xxvii. 16-18). The book of Joshua records what Joshua did in this capacity.

It may be divided into three parts: I. The conquest of the land, ch. i.-xii.; though, as a matter of arrangement, if one preferred it, the earlier chapters might be placed separately as an introduction, with the history of the crossing of the Jordan, and the restoration of the people to the full enjoyment of their privileges as the professing Church of God. II. The allotment made of the land to the tribes, including along with this the appointment of the cities of refuge, and the provision of cities for the Levites, ch. xiii.-xxi. Perhaps ch. xxii. may be regarded as an appendix to this, the dismissal of the eastern tribes to their homes, and the jealousy for purity of worship; otherwise it might be classed with the two chapters which follow. III. The jealousy of Joshua for the godliness and obedience of the people, which involved their future welfare; and a few closing verses which tell of the death of him and his companions and fellow-workers, ch. xxiii. xxiv.

The period embraced by the history, excepting these last two