

### Tanach in a Day, 9:30 AM: Yehoshua: From Slaves to Israelis

R' Mordechai Torczyner – torczyner@torontotorah.com

Parenthesized page numbers refer to the Artscroll Stone Tanach



### 1. Talmud, Nedarim 22b

אמר רב אדא ברבי חנינא: אלמלא חטאו ישראל לא ניתן להם אלא חמשה חומשי תורה וספר יהושע בלבד, שערכה של ארץ ישראל הוא Rav Ada b'Rabbi Chanina said: Had Israel not sinned, they would have been given only the five chumashim, as well as the book of Yehoshua for it speaks of the value of the land of Israel.

#### **Background**

2. Talmud, Bava Batra 15a

. יהושע כתב ספרו. והכתיב: וימת יהושע בן נון עבד ד'! דאסקיה אלעזר. והכתיב: ואלעזר בן אהרן מת! דאסקיה פנחס.
"Yehoshua wrote his book." But it says, "And Yehoshua ben Nun, servant of Gd, died!" Elazar concluded it. But it says,
"And Elazar ben Aharon died!" Pinchas concluded it.

3. Rashi to Yehoshua 19:47

:וילחמו עם לשם - לאחר זמן בימי עתניאל בן קנז ובימי דמות מיכה כמה שנאמר בספר שופטים: 'And they fought with Leshem' – Later, in the time of Otniel ben Kenaz and Michah's idol, as recorded in Shoftim.

4. Don Isaac Abarbanel, Introduction to Neviim Rishonim, pg. 7

וכאשר עיינתי בפסוקים ראיתי הדעת הזה שיהושע כתב ספרו רחוק מאד, לא בעבור מה שנאמר בסופו "וימת יהושע", כי אם בעבור הכתובים שיעידון יגידון שלא כתבם יהושע. אמר בהקמת האבנים בתוך הירדן "ויהיו שם עד היום הזה"...

When I examined the verses, I saw that this view that Yehoshua wrote his book is very unlikely – not because it includes, "And Yehoshua died," but because the text testifies and informs that Yehoshua didn't write it. It says, regarding the establishment of the stones in the Jordan, "And they have been there until today."

#### **Overview**

Chapter 1 Yehoshua takes over

Chapters 2-5 First steps Gaining Confidence in Yericho; Crossing the Yarden; Becoming Israeli

Chapters 6-12 War War with Yericho; Debacle and Comeback; Fraud of Givon; Wars

Chap's 13-21 Distribution of Land The East Side; Yehudah/Shimon; Ephraim/Menasheh; Final 7; Refuge and Levi

Chap's 22-24 The End The 2.5 tribes go home; Yehoshua's last speeches; Epilogue

## Gaining a National Identity

5. Alvin Powell, *How to build a nation*, https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/12/how-to-build-a-nation/

Francis Fukuyama, who in 1992 famously predicted "the end of history" because liberal democracies and free market economies suggested an endpoint in the evolution of government, said that external forces can erect the skeleton of state in an embattled country, creating police forces, administrative structures, and taxing authorities. But nation-building goes further and involves a shared sense of national identity, built on elements that tie people together — such as shared culture, language, and history — that cannot be imposed from without.

6. Pew Study: What it takes to truly be 'one of us' - http://www.pewglobal.org/2017/02/01/views-of-national-identity-by-country/

- 7. Professor Ernest Gellner, *Thought and Change* pg. 169 Nationalism is not the awakening of nations to self-consciousness; it invents nations where they do not exist...
- 8. Midrash, Mechilta d'R' Yishmael Bo, Pischa 5 ומנין שלא שנו את לשונם שנ' כי פי המדבר אליכם (בראשית מה יב) ואו' ויאמרו אלקי העברים נקרה עלינו וגו' (שמ' ה ג) ואומר ויבא הפליט ויגד לאברם העברי (בראשית יד יג)

How do we know they did not change their tongue? "For you see that my mouth speaks to you," "And they said: The Gd of the Hebrews has appeared to us," "And the refugee came, and told Avram the Hebrew."

# <u>Implementation</u>

9. Origins Yehoshua 5 (527) – Returning to our roots

10. Culture Yehoshua 9 (537) – Foreign relations with Givon

11. Ideals Yehoshua 7 (531) – The Collective