

## VII. Authorship and date of Joshua

### A. Authorship

1. There is no definite answer as to who wrote Joshua, but a good guess would be Joshua himself.
2. In chapter 24, we are told that Joshua wrote on a document the covenant that was made at Shechem between the Israelites and the Lord where the covenant was renewed.
3. If he wrote that he certainly could have written the rest of the book.
4. And who better to write the rest of the book than Joshua, Moses' successor.
5. He could have written the whole book except 24:29-33 which is about his own death.
6. The Talmud says that Joshua wrote his <sup>own</sup> ~~own~~ book and that he also wrote the last 8 verses in Deut.

### B. Date

1. If Joshua wrote it, it would have to be completed shortly before his death.
2. Joshua was 110 years old before he died.
3. Most people think that at 1449 B. C. that Joshua was at least 40 years old.
4. After the Exodus, you have certain things which have to take place.
  - i. One of those things is the 40 yrs wilderness wanderings.
  - ii. Then you've got the conquest of Canaan which took 7 years.
    - a. How do we prove this.
    - b. Joshua 14: ~~6-10~~
      - 1) Caleb comes to Joshua and says, "Joshua, when we were at Kadesh Barnea, I was 40 years old. The Lord has preserved me for 45 years so that I can get this land."
      - 2) Now when Caleb is speaking to Joshua, the land has been conquered so the conquest has already taken place.
      - 3) The Lord has preserved him alive 45 years from Kadesh Barnea to this time.
    - c. Turn to Deut 2:14
      - 1) It took 38 years for all the men 20 years old and upward. *to die*
      - 2) Starting at that point, they are going to conquer.
    - d. Thus,  $45 - 38 = 7$  years to conquer the land of Canaan.