

Joshua Lesson 1

Joshua Chapter 1

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: <http://www.kjvbiblestudies.net>

Email: mail@kjvbiblestudies2.net

We begin a new study on the Book of Joshua this week.

Introduction: If you look at the Book of Genesis, the nation of Israel was born. In the Book of Exodus Israel was chosen. In the Book of Numbers, the Nation was proven. In the Book of Leviticus it was brought nigh by the blood. In Deuteronomy it was instructed. Now in the Book of Joshua it faces conflict and conquest. The book of Joshua completes the redemption of Israel that was began in Exodus. Exodus showed the redemption out of Egypt; Joshua shows the redemption into the Promised Land.

God gave the children of Israel the land in an unconditional covenant. *Gen 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.* Joshua was the successor to Moses. He was born a slave in Egypt. He was 40 years old at the time of Exodus out of Egypt and 80 years old when he received the commission from Moses to lead the people out. He lived to be 120 years old.

Joshua was a great warrior, and only he and Caleb were men that started out in the wandering and ultimately entered into the Promised Land. Only the two of them came back with a positive report of the land when the 12 spies were sent in to spy out Canaan. In the first 12 chapters of Joshua, we will see the people entering the Promised Land. In chapters 13-21, we will see the land divided.

Israel was camped near the upper part of the Dead Sea just opposite the side of river where Jericho lay. It had been 40 years since the Israelites had left Egypt, and it was now spring of the year, called the month of Abib (our April).

I. The Commandment of God to Joshua

Josh 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

We see that the book opens right after the death of Moses. His death was a heavy loss unto Israel because he had been a great leader. Through him the people had been delivered from the cruel bondage of slavery over in Egypt.

Moses was a great leader and his death was viewed as a great loss.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 7:1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Human leaders eventually die, but Praise God, our God and Father lives forever.

Deu 34:8 And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

We see that the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for many days. His loss was great, and God now needed a strong leader to step forward to lead the people.

Moses was a great man. While he made some mistakes as all men before him (and after except for Christ), he was still viewed as a great man by God. God called him "the servant of the Lord". There is no greater title that God could give us. Joshua was the Minister unto Moses. We see the work of God does not stop by the death of Moses. No matter how great a man may become, God can continue His work after that servant's death.

Moses could not bring the children into the land because God would not allow it. Moses represented the Law, and the Law can not save us. The Law is a revealer of our true condition, not a redeemer. The Law was never a Savior. The problem wasn't the Law with Moses, but just like us, the problem is us. The Law is a revealer of our fallen nature before a Holy and Righteous God.

Gal 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

Gal 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Gal 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Joshua was a type of Christ in typification. He was a Savior to the people at this time and led them to the promised land. Only Jesus can lead us to Heaven. It is important to realize that the Promised Land WAS NOT a type of Heaven because heaven is not a place of conflict and conquest. Heaven is received as a gift of the grace of God. Rather, the Promised Land represents the place to which believers are brought right here in this world today. We still face battles, but by the help of God, we overcome and conquer.

Just like God was with Joshua, He is with you and I today. This should encourage us to never give up, but go forward in our Christian walk just like Joshua and Israelites did at this time. It is important to note that Joshua did not rush into things, but waited on God's timing to begin leading the people. Elijah was a man who was patient and followed God's directions.

1 Ki 17:3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

1 Ki 17:4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

1 Ki 17:5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

1 Ki 17:6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

1 Ki 17:7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

1 Ki 17:8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

1 Ki 17:9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

When God took care of Elijah, Elijah had to go where God told him when he told him. Joshua waited on the call of God. We need to be sure that we are going at God's pace in our lives, not two steps ahead or four steps behind.

II. Death of Moses

Josh 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

This was the appointed time for Joshua to lead the people over Jordan. The commission was from God and directly to Joshua. When a man is called into the ministry, it is a direct call from God, and only that man can truly know that call. Joshua was to go over with all the people as head of the nation.

Josh 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

God wanted it to be clear that the land was a free gift to the people. Like salvation, the people did not earn the land, God just gave it to him. Many today want to do something to make God impressed with them so that they can earn salvation. Unfortunately, we will never be saved with this type of attitude. It is all of grace, not of our works.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eph 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Just like the people did nothing to merit the heritage, we have done nothing of ourselves that allows us to become the sons of God, and joint-heirs with God through Christ.

III. Boundaries of Blessing

Josh 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

God gave the people the boundaries of the land. Today, Israel does not possess one-tenth of the land promised, but they will one day. When God makes a promise, He makes it come to pass.

Gen 10:32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

There are physical boundaries, and a man or woman has a boundary of life. We will not live one second longer than God has allotted for our lives. Our bounds are set. What a warning to be sure we use each day fully to glorify God, because today may be our last day on earth.

IV. Promise of God's Presence in Battle

Josh 1:5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Josh 1:6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

God promised to be with Joshua and give him victory. Notice how many exhortations there are in the first chapter to "be strong and of a good courage." He tells Joshua to not fear, be strong and courageous. Don't get rattled when things don't go right. I am God and I will fight your battles for you. Jesus has made that promise to you and I when we take his yoke upon us.

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

What a promise from God that he will give us rest and carry our burdens. Note all the promises in verses 5 and 6.

- I will be to you as I was to Moses
- I will never forsake thee. I'm sure this verse inspired Paul when he said:

Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

•I will not fail you. We have those same promises of God in regards to salvation today.

God promised to drive out the Canaanites little by little.

Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee.

Exo 23:30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

By God delivering them little by little, the nation had to depend wholly on God. When God provides for us day by day, we have to keep looking to him. And I promise you he will never fail to provide for your needs. We need to depend less on self and more on Christ.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

V. Command to be Strong and Courageous

Josh 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

We see that Joshua was to be guided totally by the written law and word. No man prior to Joshua had been commanded to regulate his conduct by the words of a book. Abraham did obey God's voice in keeping the commandments and Moses acted by Divine authority, but each received their instructions directly from God.

Joshua and all men who follow after him, must be governed by "This book of the Law" which means ALL THE BIBLE. To Joshua, this meant the first 5 books of the Bible, because that is all they had. Joshua was not to turn from the left hand nor to the right. We have many today that want to steer their own course. In

2002, a leading denomination was quoted in the paper saying we should have greater tolerance for homosexual children. I don't really have a problem with being sensitive and trying to reach a child who has strayed from God. We should work with them and try to get them to repent and get right with God. Homosexuality is a sin and like other sins it can be forgiven.

What I have a problem with is that they went on to say that there was no condemnation directly of homosexuality in the Bible. Now that is veering left or right, because my Bible openly condemns the sin. Few cities have been destroyed totally because of sin, and Sodom and Gomorrah were wiped off the earth for the sin of homosexuality. We need to not be harsh and mean to homosexuals, but they need to be dealt with love and compassion to show them the error of their ways and to see how God views sin.

Joshua was promised that he would prosper if he stayed with the Word of God. You and I have that promise today too. Joshua was to not let the word depart out of his mouth. He was to meditate on God's law day and night.

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

J. Vernon McGee said this about how the people were to follow God's Word.

There were no written Scriptures before Moses, and God communicated to Moses by speaking with him face to face. But Moses had faithfully recorded all that God had given to him so that the first five books of the Bible were available to Joshua and the people of Israel. In it God had given them all they needed to know to enter the land. They were not to depart from it. They were to meditate on it and observe to do it. ¹

VI. Joshua to be Guided by Word of God

¹ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

Josh 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

We see that God would be with him wherever he went. Jesus is with you and I that know him as Savior today, and I believe we have guardian angels that watch out for our welfare. And the church has been given a promise that we can take to the bank just like the promise God gave to Joshua.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

VII. Joshua Commands the Officers

Josh 1:10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying

Josh 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

We do not see any delay in Joshua following the command of God. He was like David who said in Psalms 119:60

Psa 119:60 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

When God gives us a job and it is clear what that job is, we should not delay and say "Let's pray about it and be sure it is God's Will." We need to always be sure, but if it is clear, we need to be on about the work.

Psa 119:32 I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

We see Joshua commanding the officers... Did he have the right to do this? Of course he did. God had said in *Josh 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*

There are no more important orders than those given of God. Joshua was to

lead the people and he was right to exercise power and control over the officers. Joshua believed God, and you and I need to believe Him too. God had encouraged Joshua and told him to step out. The Word of God was to be his authority and he was to meditate in it day and night. He was to do all that was written in the Word. That is the same formula of faith that you and I need to follow today.

Joshua commands the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River in three days. We see him take charge immediately because he was commissioned from God to guide the people. God's method is to choose his vessel and then put it into action. When he called out Moses in Egypt, he told him in **Exo 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.** God himself gave the words to Moses. Here he commands Joshua to lead the people without fear.

Jer 1:19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

I know God will be with us like this today if we will but look to Him for daily guidance and provision. We need to be like Joshua where we can have the power of faith mentioned in Hebrews 13:6

Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Joshua shows wisdom in first gathering the heads of the tribes to a conference. He wanted to know how many faithful men he had that he could count on and to seek their counsel and advice. We show maturity when we realize that there is wisdom in counsel of Godly men and women. We should talk things over and see if someone else has faced this problem or perhaps has a word of warning or counsel.

The most important thing about Joshua was his obedience and faith in God. He did what God said and did not doubt God. When He said go, Joshua went right then. We need to have a tender heart that we too may go at God's beckon and call to the work he has for each of us. Joshua did not complain about the difficulties that lay ahead or make up excuses why he could not do the task. He showed promptness and obedience. God's desire for us is to follow his commandments.

VIII. The Word Was Commanded

Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt

meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Josh 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Josh 1:10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

Josh 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

The command from God was to Joshua, and Joshua gave the command to the officers who then gave the directions to the common people. You and I must learn this exercise of Divinely given authority in our lives. We need to have unquestioning obedience if we want to have the success that God's people experienced in Joshua's day. We are given many verses in the New Testament as ministers of the gospel to exhort and rebuke with all authority.

2 Tim 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Titus 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

We are also commanded to submit to those in authority who God has placed over us to protect and Guide us.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

IX. Commanded to Prepare Victuals for the Journey

Josh 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

Up until this time God had furnished Israel with manna to eat from heaven. As they wandered in the wilderness, there was nothing for them to eat. My family and I watched a show on the learning channel the other night about the attempts they made to recover Noah's Ark there in the wilderness area of Turkey. There

was virtually nothing out there, just barren land and rocks. The area around Sinai and Egypt was much like Turkey, and if no food had been given, the people would have perished in the wilderness. But God took care of them, just like he will you and I.

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Just like we need physical food to survive, it is crucial that we do not perish for lack of spiritual food.

1 Pet 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

1 Pet 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

We are truly a pilgrim in this land, and we need to get all the spiritual food we can every day to build up our souls against the wiles of Satan. He's always busy trying to trip us up, and the only way we can stay ahead of him is to stay in the Word. We are no match, but Christ is the one Satan can not defeat.

Our victuals are furnished by God.

1 Tim 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

2 Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Tim 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

When Christ was tempted to turn the stones into bread, he told Satan that we don't live by bread alone.

Luke 4:3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

X. Promise of Three Days to Pass Over Jordan

Josh 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

Notice that he did not say they would try or perhaps they might go over. The scriptures say YE SHALL PASS OVER THIS JORDAN. When God says it, we can believe it. The people had confidence, not in themselves or the leaders, but their confidence was in God. I'm sure many of you have seen those humorous signs in some businesses that read "In God we Trust.. All others pay cash." I don't think we ought to have so little confidence in man, but I do believe we had best put our trust in God.

Psa 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

You know the ownership of the promised land was unconditional. God gave it to them. But the possession of the land was conditional. They did have to go over and take possession. Israel had to do it God's way and they could have it. Salvation is much the same way. God has purchased redemption for all mankind by offering his only begotten Son on Mt. Calvary. But only those who will receive the free gift of redemption will enter into Heaven. Just like the people had to obediently follow Joshua to come into the promised land of Canaan, we must follow Christ. We have to see ourselves as sinners without hope, turn in faith to God and repent of our sins, we will be saved.

I do want to repeat that Canaan (the promised land) is not a typification of heaven. Canaan was full of battles and trials. Heaven will be full of joy and bliss, no more heartache, no more pain. Canaan more accurately pictures the Christian life after salvation here on earth. Many battles still, but God will deliver us through every one.

There is some special significance to the number 3 in the number of days until they crossed Jordan. It was the number of days that Christ lay in the tomb before he was resurrected.

Mat 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Can we overcome the flesh that burdens us down every day? We can only by looking to God for Grace to help.

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
Rom 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.
Rom 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:
Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
Rom 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Rom 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

To be true overcomer's, you and I must have two things. Faith and obedience.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

XI. Joshua Reminds Tribes of Their Agreement

Josh 1:12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying,
Josh 1:13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

We see several things about these verses. First, God did not beg for their compliance as a favour. He didn't ask if they would be willing to serve or appeal to them on behalf of the brethren. No special words were given that the other tribes would be encouraged if they helped God. God did not even remind them of their promise to Moses, but rather the commandment that Moses gave to them.

God hath given you rest and given you the land. When God makes a promise, he does not defer to deliver. Man promises lots of things that he may or may not do. I'm thankful that God is true and totally dependable.

Matthew Henry had some interesting comments about the preparations by Joshua.

Joshua issues out orders to the people to provide for a march; and they had been so long encamped in their present post that it would be a work of some difficulty to decamp. The officers of the people that commanded under Joshua in their respective tribes and families attended him for orders, which they were to transmit to the people. Inferior magistrates are as necessary and as serviceable to the public good in their places as the supreme magistrate in his. What could Joshua have done without officers? We are therefore required to be subject, not only to *the king as supreme, but to governors as to those that are sent by him*, 1 Pt. 2:13, 14.

By these officers, 1. Joshua gives public notice that they were *to pass over Jordan within three days*. These orders, I suppose, were not given till after the return of the spies that were sent to bring an account of Jericho, though the story of that affair follows, ch. 2. And perhaps that was such an instance of his jealousy, and excessive caution, as made it necessary that he should be so often bidden as he was to be strong and of a good courage. Observe with what assurance Joshua says to the people, because God had said it to him, *You shall pass over Jordan, and shall possess the land*. We greatly honour the truth of God. 2. He gives them directions to prepare victuals, not to prepare transport vessels. He that bore Egypt upon eagle's wings would in like manner bear them into Canaan, to bring them to himself.

XII. Men Were to Pass Before Their Brethren Armed

Josh 1:14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;

Josh 1:15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

We see that the men of battle were to go forth. Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manassah were to spearhead the army of Israel. This was done like Moses had spake to them.

Josh 4:12 And the children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spake unto them:

This may have sounded a bit dangerous, but the people were strong in faith and went out. You and I in the church today must go out to battle in the streets of our

city. And we are to send missionaries to go out in the streets all over the world. This is pleasing to God, because we are fulfilling the Great Commission to the Church.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

How long should we keep going? Until our Lord returns and takes the church out of this old wicked world.

Isa 6:11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

This day may be coming sooner than we think.

XIII. Promise to Obey

Josh 1:16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

Josh 1:17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

It says that they hearkened unto Moses in all things. As they looked to Moses, we look to our great High Priest, Jesus Christ for guidance today. We know in verses 5 through 9 that Joshua received assurance that God would be with him. The people could have stayed back and argued after the death of Moses, but rather they obeyed God and followed the man Joshua that God gave to lead them.

J. Vernon McGee in his commentary on Joshua had some interesting thoughts on these verses. He said "Crossing the Jordan River was symbolic of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Under no condition, however, does it set forth our physical death. We often sing the old song "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand." To begin with, Jordan is not a stormy stream; neither do you and I stand on the stormy banks. Christ alone was nailed to that cross, and hanging there, bore all the storms of judgment of sin. When the storms of judgment fell on Him, they fell on us. The River Jordan speaks of sanctification, and the death of Christ was for our sanctification." I want to add that he paid all the sin debt, he alone. None of us will ever do enough to God to stand before him and boast.

Rom 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

XIV. The Law Was Enacted.

Josh 1:18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

The people decided that if any would not follow the commandments, they would be put to death.

Our attitude should be so full of faith towards God when it comes to the church and to spreading the Gospel. As they said, we should also be strong and of a good courage.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

