



Encouragement

Everyone needs encouragement, especially in these days of Covid-19. Most people are longing for a return to what they consider their normal daily routine that they have not been able to follow for so long. So be encouraged. Israel waited for 40 years in the desert to claim their inheritance promised by God. Those that rebelled and caused the 40-year delay died before God chose to give the marching orders a second time to move into and take over the promised land. In the first chapter of Joshua, God spoke to Joshua and told him it was time to move on to the promised land. *No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.* ⁶ ***Be strong and courageous***, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ ***Only be strong and very courageous***, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. ⁹ *Have I not commanded you?* ***Be strong and courageous***. *Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*” The 3 tribes that stayed on the east of the Jordan encouraged Joshua with these words ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. ***Only be strong and courageous.***”

Notice how many times in Joshua chapter 1 that Joshua was told to be strong and courageous. That message still rings true for us today. We need to be strong and courageous and observe what God is doing for us. Just as Joshua was encouraged by God's message so should we find encouragement in God's word today.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians chapter 4:1. Therefore my beloved brethren whom I long to see.....*stand firm in the Lord. 4. Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. 5. Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. 6, ...let your request be known to God. 8. Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, it there is an excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.* Chapter 3: 20-21. *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Philippians Chapter 4:13. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.* God knows our needs and He has not forgotten us. Remember to thank God for everything and receive encouragement from Him through his word. Read the book of Philippians often, and receive encouragement from the things written therein. These words were penned by Paul, but they come from God and are preserved for our encouragement, even today.

Johnie N. Jenkins