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## Joshua 1

Joshua is God's soldier, called and commissioned by God to bravely lead the people of God into the promise land of Canaan.

Joshua is an impeccable model of obedience and faith, with the exception of the treaty made with the Gibeonites in chapter nine.

1. The book of Joshua stands for the life of faith and victory in contrast to the book of Number, representing unbelief and failure.
2. Joshua is a type of Christ leading his people into the promise land to possess their spiritual blessing.
3. Canaan represents not heaven as some old hymns state for there won't be any giants or enemies in heaven, but the present life of the believer who rests in Christ and takes possession of his spiritual blessing. Heb. 4:8-11
4. The Jordan River does not represent death and arriving in heaven but the death of the Old man and the empowerment of the Spirit to live in the heavenlies as Ephesians tells us. Gal. 2:20, Eph. 5:18, Phil. 1:21

### 1:1-9 The commissioning of Joshua by God.

1:1-2 The general commission of Joshua.

- 1) The commissioning of Joshua took place at the death of Moses the servant of the Lord. Vs. 1a
  - a) The request came from Moses, out of love for the people, a leader who would be there for the people. Num. 27:15-17
  - b) God is the one who chose Joshua, who had been groomed and well prepared. Num. 27:18-23, Deut. 3:28, 31:1-8
  - c) The changing of leaders ended an epoch began a new one.
  - d) The transition would not be easy, for forty years Moses led the people as the religious, domestic, judicial, military and civil head.
    - 1)) The word servant "ebed" means menial serving and is used the highest officials of a king and for all of God's chosen men, it is used so often for Moses that it almost becomes his official title says Keil.
    - 2)) It will be used thirteen times for Joshua.
    - 3)) Joshua had served Moses faithfully as his assistant throughout the forty years. Ex. 17:8-9, 24:13, 32:17, etc.
- 2) The Lord spoke to Joshua. Vs. 1b-d
  - a) Be it by the Urim and Thummin, vision, dream or inward prompting.

- b) Joshua was the son of Nun.  
 \* Appearing ten times in the book.  
Josh. 2:1, 23, 6:6, 14:1, 17:4, 19:49, 51, 21:1, 24:29
- b) Joshua was the assistant of Moses. Ex. 24:13, 33:11, Num. 11:28
- 1)) The word “sharath” is used for a royal household workers, public servants and court officials and the most frequent for service in worship of the Levitical priests.  
2Sam. 13:17, 1Chron. 27:1, 28:1, Esther 1:10, 1kings 19:21, Is. 60:10, Num. 16:9
- 2)) The first times it is used is in the story of Joseph as he became the slave of Potiphar and served him.  
Gen. 39:4
- 3) The Lord told Joshua that He and the people were to go over Jordan. Vs. 2a-e
- a) Moses had failed to represent God properly before the people and could not enter the promise land. Num. 27:12-14
- b) Joshua a type of Christ crossed the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized to enter His public ministry.
- 4) The Lord stated that it was the land He had given to the children of Israel. Vs. 2f-g

\* The land was God’s gift, stated over and over. Josh. 1:3, 6, 11, 15, etc

**1:3-4** The specifics of the commission of Joshua.

- 1) The condition was personal and individual to possess their inheritance, the land, “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon”. Vs. 3a
- a) Faith is believing what God has said or recorded in the Scriptures, this is biblical faith. Heb. 11:1, 6
- b) The blessings in Christ Jesus are appropriated in faith. Eph. 1:3
- c) Believers can and do live sub-standard lives in Christ, limiting the Lord, as Israel did in the wilderness and promise land.
- 2) The certainly of it being their inheritance is marked by the words, “I have given you as I said to Moses”. Vs. 3a-b
- a) God had already given them the land.
- b) God had told the same thing to Moses already. Deut. 11:23-32
- 3) The territory was vast. Vs. 4
- a) “From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates”. Vs. 4-b
- \* The wilderness refers to the Negev in the south, the desert of Arabia

and Lebanon to the Lebanese mountains.

b) “All the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.” Vs. 4c-e

- 1)) The Egyptians and Babylonians referred to the area as “the Hittite country” even after their conquest.
- 2)) The Great Sea is the Mediterranean Sea.

**1:5** The personal promise to Joshua.

- 1) A victorious life, “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life”. Vs. 5a
  - \* The words of verse three to five are similar to those of Deuteronomy reminding us of the close relation between the two books and that Joshua is the fulfillment of Deuteronomy!
- 2) A life directed by God, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.” Vs. 5b-c
  - \* Joshua had witnessed the miracles and signs in Egypt by the hand of Moses.
- 3) A life of confident assurance about God’s faithfulness, “I will not leave you nor forsake you.” Vs. 5d
  - \* Literally, “I will not abandon or drop you or leave you in the lurch”.

**1:6-7** The prompt exhortation to Joshua.

- 1) Be a faithful leader to the people. Vs. 6
  - a) The task will not be easy, “Be strong and of good courage”. Vs. 6a
    - 1)) Is repeated three times. Vs. 6-9
    - 2)) Joshua was replacing Moses!
  - b) The task involves a divine inheritance, “For to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.” Vs. 6b
    - \* The promise was to Abraham. Gen. 15:16-21

- 2) Be a faithful servant of God. Vs. 7
  - a) The test would be to be to obey the word., “Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you.” Vs. 7a-b
  - b) The tragic results of compromise and deviation would limit their lives, “Be do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” Vs. 7b-c

**1:8** The protection against failure for Joshua.

- 1) Knowing and proclaiming God’s word, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth”. Vs. 8a

- 2) Contemplating the word to live it out, “But you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may **observe to do** according to all that is **written in it**”. Vs. 8b-c

\* The word meditate “Hagah” means to recite in an undertone, literally to mutter and the LXX uses the word “meletao” indicating a meditative pondering and audible practice. controlling ones thoughts.

- 3) Understanding it is the only basis for God’s blessings, “For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Vs. 8d-e
- a) Obedience to live right would yield great reward and peace.
- b) The king was to make a copy for himself. Deut. 17:19

**1:9** The confidence of Joshua.

- 1) To remember God had called him and spoken to him, “Have I not commanded you?” Vs. 9a
- a) God had ordered the occupation of the land.
- b) Joshua was God’s field general taking orders to be carried out.
- c) God was about to bring judgment on a God rejecting people, a righteous judgment.

- 2) To remember God warned him about the difficult times that awaited him, “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed”. Vs. 9b-d
- a) The implication every time is that these words appear implies the presence of them.
- b) These are human traits through our fallen ness, no one is exempt.
- 3) To remember Who was with him, “Yahweh Elohim” for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Vs. 9e

**1:10-18** **The commanding of Joshua to the people.**

**1:10-11** The preparations to cross over the Jordan ordered by Joshua.

- 1) Joshua commanded the officers of the people. Vs. 10
- a) The word officers “shotare” in its root means to write, these were overseers, official leaders.
- b) There must always be a leader.
- c) Leaders must delegate authority to officer or leaders who are heads over smaller groups for efficiency.
- 2) Joshua’s commands were very specific. Vs. 11

- a) “Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves’, referring to food. Vs. 11a-c
- 1) The Manna would soon cease and they were to nourish themselves from the fruit of the land. Josh. 5:12
  - 2) The term is used for Esau’s venison. Gen. 27
- b) “For within three days you will cross over this Jordan”. Vs. 11d
- \* The number three is found throughout the Scriptures for the Trinity and the type of the resurrection of Jesus and resurrected life. Josh. 2:16, 22, 3:2, 9:16
- c) “To go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.” Vs. 11e

**1:12-15** The personal reminder to the two and a half tribes to settle the land by Joshua.

- 1) Joshua spoke to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke”. Vs. 12
- a) What is interesting is that these tribes were the first to go into captivity by the Assyrians. 1Chron. 5:26

- b) They stood outside the boundaries God had set.
  - c) They settled for God’s second best or His permissive will, to their own hurt.
- 2) Joshua recalled their covenant. Vs. 13-15
- a) They would settle on the east side of the Jordan, “Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, ‘The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.’”. Vs. 13  
\* Num. 32:20-22, Deut. 3:12-21
  - b) They would be committed to settle the land, “Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them”. Vs. 14
    - 1) The word armed “chamush” means in battle array by fives.
    - 2) They would send their best fighting men, 40,000 of their 110,000, to conquer the land and leave the rest to defend the women and children. Num. 26:7, 18, 34, Josh. 4:13  - c) They would be released from their obligation when the land was occupied, “Until the LORD has given

your brethren rest, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise.” Vs. 15

\* This is fulfilled. Josh. 22:1-4

**1:16-18** The affirmation of the two and a half tribes of the leadership of Joshua and the covenant.

- 1) They declared their commitment to their covenant, “So they answered Joshua, saying, “All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.” Vs. 16
- 2) They declared their commitment to his God ordained leadership, “Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.” Vs. 17
- 3) They declared their commitment to punish any unfaithful person, “Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage.” Vs. 18