

JOSHUA: READY FOR BATTLE
Joshua 1:1-9
“IT IS TIME TO BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS”

BOOK OUTLINE OF JOSHUA

INVADING THE LAND (CHAPTERS 1-5)

CONQUERING THE LAND (CHAPTERS 6-12)

DISTRIBUTING THE LAND (CHAPTERS 13-24)

INTRODUCTION: We cannot overemphasize the importance of godly leadership. “It does not matter how fast you run your leg of a race if you drop the baton on the handoff.” Fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham, which occurred roughly 500 years before Joshua was given leadership of the people of Israel, required good leaders to keep the people on mission. Joshua learned from Moses, was recognized as a warrior in Israel, (Exodus 17:9-14) and spent time with Moses learning about communion with the Lord. (Exodus 24:13-18) (Exodus 33:11)

BACKGROUND: Joshua is the acknowledged author of this book, written somewhere around 1400 BC. His name means “Jehovah is Salvation.” This book will teach us how to trust God for victory over our enemies and to possess all that the Lord has granted us. This book also presents a theological challenge to many who ask why would God command such destruction of human lives. We also need to discover why the Canaanites were singled out for this judgment; why were these actions not considered genocide.

I. DON’T LET MOURNING OR GRIEVING THE PAST KEEP YOU FROM THE FUTURE GOD HAS FOR YOU. (Joshua 1:1-2)

A. Moses was one of the greatest leaders who ever lived. The people were devastated by his death, and mourning such a great loss was entirely appropriate. (Deuteronomy 34)
However, the mission was not yet accomplished, and the people needed to refocus on the Lord who was still alive and well! Some people become “paralyzed” with grief, and do not move on with their lives. *Is grief keeping you from growth or going where God is leading?*

II. OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE USUALLY PART OF THE SAME PACKAGE. (Joshua 1:2-4)

A. The Jordan River that God created stood between God’s people and God’s promises. In such situations, we should trust God to remove the obstacle. (Joshua 1:2)

B. It would take steps of faith to possess the land that was already promised to Israel. They never occupied all of the Promised Land, just as many believers today never take possession of what the Lord has provided for them. (Joshua 1:3-4)

III. LEARN TO TRUST THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF THE LORD. (Joshua 1:5-7)

- A. Joshua was promised victory over his foes all the days of his life. We should have the same confidence in the Lord that empowers us to be victorious in Christ. (Joshua 1:5) *Have you embraced the truth that the same Spirit who empowered Moses and Joshua lives in you?* (John 14:15-24) (Romans 8:11) Are you allowing your feelings to block God's truth about Him never leaving you or forsaking you? (Hebrews 13:5)

IV. STRENGTH AND COURAGE ARE NEEDED TO DO GOD'S WORK. DO YOU HAVE BOTH? (Joshua 1:6-9)

- A. These words about strength and courage are repeated often in Scripture to prepare God's servants for challenging tasks. The Lord will provide what we need if we show up for duty! (Joshua 1:6) (Deuteronomy 31:6) (1st Chronicles 28:20) Joshua 10:25)
- B. We need to be very courageous when it comes to obeying the commands of Scripture. Falling off to the left or the right can be equally painful. Stay in the center of God's will! (Joshua 1:7)
- C. Meditate on God's word at all times. Read it and then constantly think about what you have read so you can make proper application to your life. God will then cause you to be fruitful (prosperous) and have good success. We are commanded to be faithful, which equals success in God's Kingdom. Biblical prosperity is not the same as financial prosperity, and some people have "bad success."
- D. Joshua was consistently reminded to be strong and courageous and not to let fear or frustration stop him from doing God's will. Obeying that command was possible because of the promise of the Lord's presence. We have the same blessed assurance for our assignments from our Lord Jesus Christ! (Joshua 1:9)

BATTLE PLAN FOR SUCCESS

OBEY EVERYTHING GOD COMMANDS YOU TO DO

STUDY AND MEDITATE IN THE WORD OF GOD CONSTANTLY

TAKE THE NEXT STEP OF FAITH

BE STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS BECAUSE THE LORD OUR GOD IS WITH YOU!

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