



MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## JOSHUA 1:10-18

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<sup>10</sup> And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, <sup>11</sup> “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.’ ”

Joshua 1:10-11 (ESV)

THE ISREALITES WERE TO PREPARE. THEY WERE TO PARTICIPATE BY TAKING POSSESSION OF THE LAND THAT GOD WAS GIVING THEM.

PROVISIONS = INTENTIONAL CONTRAST TO THE EXODUS

<sup>12</sup> And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, <sup>13</sup> “Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, ‘The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.’ <sup>14</sup> Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, <sup>15</sup> until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

Joshua 1:12-15 (ESV)

CONTEXT IS FOUND IN NUMBERS 32:1-23

ALL OF ISRAEL HAD TO PARTICIPATE TOGETHER. ONLY THEN WOULD THEY EXPERIENCE GOD’S ULTIMATE GIFT OF REST.

REST = EDENIC IMAGERY

<sup>1</sup> Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. <sup>2</sup> So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation, <sup>3</sup> “Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, <sup>4</sup> the land that the LORD struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.” <sup>5</sup> And they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan.” <sup>6</sup> But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, “Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here? <sup>7</sup> Why will you discourage the heart of the people of Israel from going over into the land that the LORD has given them? <sup>8</sup> Your fathers did this, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land. <sup>9</sup> For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the people of Israel from going into the land that the LORD had given them. <sup>10</sup> And the LORD’s anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying, <sup>11</sup> ‘Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me, <sup>12</sup> none except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.’ <sup>13</sup> And the LORD’s anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone. <sup>14</sup> And behold, you have risen in your fathers’ place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the LORD against Israel! <sup>15</sup> For if you turn away from following him, he will again abandon them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all this people.” <sup>16</sup> Then they came near to him and said, “We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, <sup>17</sup> but we will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel, until we have brought them to their place. And our little ones shall live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. <sup>18</sup> We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance. <sup>19</sup> For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on this side of the Jordan to the east.” <sup>20</sup> So Moses said to them, “If you will do this, if you will take up arms to go before the LORD for the war, <sup>21</sup> and every armed man of you will pass over the Jordan before the LORD, until he has driven out his enemies from before him <sup>22</sup> and the land is subdued before the LORD; then after that you shall return and be free of obligation to the LORD and to Israel, and this land shall be your possession before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.

<sup>16</sup> And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. <sup>17</sup> Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses! <sup>18</sup> Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

Joshua 1:16-18 (ESV)

ALL ISRAEL MUST FOLLOW GOD’S LEADER.

### **SUMMARY:**

YHWH IS LEADING HIS PEOPLE INTO THEIR INHERITANCE. THEY WILL BE HIS PEOPLE, WITH HIS LAW, WITH HIS LEADER IN THE LAND THAT HE GIVES THEM. ONLY THEN WILL THEY EXPERIENCE REST. THE ONLY WAY THAT THEY WILL EXPERIENCE THIS IS IF THEY OBEY THE LORD IN UNITY.

### **APPLICATION:**

WE TOO ARE TASKED TO JOIN GOD IN HIS WORK AS A UNIFIED PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE LEADER GOD HAS APPOINTED INTO THE REST THAT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE.

### **REST**

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Hebrews 4:8-11 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

Revelation 14:13 (ESV)

## UNITY

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1–6 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:3–8 (ESV)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some examples of God’s plan for your life that you are ready to follow or need to prepare for?
2. How do you trust God’s promise and power when you face challenges or changes in following His plan?
3. Who are some brothers and sisters in Christ that you are committed to help or need help from in your journey of faith?
4. How do you share your resources and responsibilities with them, and support and encourage them?
5. How do you show your loyalty to Jesus Christ as your leader and Lord?
6. How do you submit to His direction and instruction, and pray for His success and protection?
7. How do you defend God’s honor and position, and deal with those who rebel against Him or disobey Him?