

## *JOSHUA 1*

### *Be Strong and Courageous*

#### *Yahweh Charges Joshua*

1 After the death of Moses the servant of Yahweh, Yahweh said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

2 Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. 5 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.<sup>1</sup> 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. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous**. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.

#### *Joshua Charges Israel*

10 And Joshua commanded the officers of the people,

11 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 Yahweh your God is giving you to possess.

#### *Joshua Charges the Eastern Tribes*

12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said,

13 Remember the word that Moses the servant of Yahweh commanded you saying,

Yahweh your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.

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<sup>1</sup> **Hebrews 13:5-6** 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 So we can confidently say, The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?

14 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, 15 until Yahweh gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that Yahweh 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 Yahweh gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.

*The Eastern Tribes Charge Joshua*

16 And they answered Joshua,

All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may Yahweh your God be with you, as he was with Moses! 18 Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. **Only be strong and courageous.**

### *Biblical Worldview*

1. With two and a half tribes east of the Jordan, it will be difficult to keep Israel unified.
  - a. This is a major theme of Joshua (see Josh 22).
2. God's people need the leadership of godly men.
  - a. Will Yahweh work through Joshua just as he did through Moses?
  - b. **Joshua 1:17** 17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may Yahweh your God be with you, as he was with Moses!
  - c. **Numbers 27:15-17** 15 Moses spoke to Yahweh saying, 16 Let Yahweh, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of Yahweh may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.
3. The godly leaders of tomorrow must be developed today.
  - a. Moses has prepared Joshua for this moment.
  - b. It is Yahweh who chose Joshua to succeed Moses.
    - (1) **Numbers 27:15-23** 15 Moses spoke to Yahweh saying, 16 Let Yahweh, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of Yahweh may not be as sheep that have no shepherd. 18 So Yahweh said to Moses, Take Joshua the son of Nun....
  - c. The Holy Spirit is in Joshua.
    - (1) **Numbers 27:18** 18 So Yahweh said to Moses, Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit....
  - d. Moses publicly commissioned Moses.
    - (1) **Numbers 27:18-19** 18 Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. 19 Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight.
    - (2) **Numbers 27:22-23** 22 And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, 23 and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the Lord directed through Moses.
  - e. Moses invested Joshua with authority.
    - (1) **Numbers 27:20** 20 You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. ...21 At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.
  - f. As leader, Joshua must consult Yahweh through Eleazar the priest.
    - (1) **Numbers 27:21** 21 [Joshua] shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before Yahweh.
4. To successfully lead God's people in spiritual warfare, one must:
  - a. Study and commit to God's word.
  - b. Act decisively when they receive a command from God.

5. As believers, we need to be challenged/charged/motivated at key points in our lives.
  - a. The charge may come directly from God (Josh 1:1-9).
  - b. The charge may come from our superiors (Josh 1:10-15).
  - c. The charge may come from our subordinates (Josh 1:16-18).
  - d. We need to be open to receiving a charge from God or from those whom God sends into our lives.
  
6. We need spiritual strength and courage to fulfill our life's mission.
  - a. God's presence is the only source of spiritual strength and courage.
    - (1) **Joshua 1:5-9** 5 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. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous**. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.
    - (2) **Joshua 1:17-18** 17 Only may Yahweh your God be with you as he was with Moses! 18 ...**Only be strong and courageous**.
  - b. If we follow God's plan he has communicated in the Bible, he will be with us.
  - c. Joshua fulfilled his mission, and by God's Spirit, we can, too.

*Notes*