



## Joshua Lesson 1

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2

- Gen 12:7 “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, **‘To your descendants I will give this land.’...**”
- Gen 15:5-6 “... ‘Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them....So shall your descendants be.’ **Then he believed in the LORD;** and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”

3

- Gen 15:13 “....your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where **they will be enslaved and oppressed 400 years.**”
- Gen 15:14 “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and **afterward they will come out** with many possessions.”
- Gen 15:16 “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, **for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.**”

4

First mention of Joshua:

- Exodus 17:9 “...Moses said to **Joshua**, **‘Choose men** for us and go out, fight against Amalek’....”
- Exodus 17:13 “So **Joshua overwhelmed Amalek** and his people with the edge of the sword.”

5

### Joshua's preparation for leadership:

- He accompanied Moses to Mt Sinai where Moses will meet with the Lord. (Ex 24:13)
- He was with Moses at Mt Sinai when Moses received the Law. (Ex 32:15-17)
- He served in the tabernacle in the wilderness. (Ex 33:11)
- Joshua was one of the 12 men chosen to “spy out the land.” (Num 13:16)

6

### Joshua's preparation for leadership:

- Only Joshua & Caleb believed God's promise; the rest wandered for 40 years, grew old, and died in the wilderness (Num 14:30-32).
- Numb 27:18-20 “...the LORD said to Moses, ‘Take Joshua...a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him....Put your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him.’”
- God's instruction to Moses: “But charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he will give them as an inheritance the land...” (Deut 3:28).

7

### The commissioning of Joshua:

- Deut 31:14 God instructed Moses: “...the time for you to die is near; call Joshua, and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, that I may commission him....”
- Deut 31:23 “Then He commissioned Joshua...and said, ‘Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you.’”
- Deut 34 The LORD took Moses up Mt Nebo (34:1) “...And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan.” Moses died, and the LORD buried him; the people mourned for 30 days.

8

### Josh 1:2-3 the LORD tells Joshua what to do:

- **“arise”** = get up! Get moving!
- **“cross this Jordan”** = gives them a challenge that they can't do on their own. Only Joshua & Caleb would have seen the Red Sea crossing!
- **“to the land I am giving them”** = reminds them of the promise that God is giving them the land; God will be doing the conquering.

→ Note: that these are commands; God is giving them something to do!

9

## The Promised Land:

- **Gen 15:18-21** from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates, mentions the peoples of that area
- **Ex. 23:31** - from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines; from the Wilderness to the Euphrates
- **Num 34:1-12 - brook of Egypt (Wadi Al Arish);** & some areas E of Jordan River
- **Deut 1:6-8** - land of Amorites, Canaanites, unto Lebanon & River Euphrates
- **Deut 11:24** - from Wilderness to Lebanon & from Euphrates to Western Sea
- **Josh 1:4** - repeats Deut 11:24 boundaries
- **Josh 13:2-6** - Sidonians, as far as Aphek; all of Lebanon toward the East
- **Ezek 47:13-20; 48:1-7** - mentions the border of Damascus (still future)



10

## Notice what God tells Joshua next:

- v.6 “Be strong and courageous”
- v.7 “be strong and very courageous”
- v.9 “Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed”
- v.18 “only be strong and courageous”

v.9 God said “Have I not commanded you?” Joshua had been told to be strong and courageous, in Deut 31:6-8, 23 –another 3 or 4 times!

11

## How old was Joshua?

- He had to be at least 60 years old, possibly as old as 80 or 90!
- Num 1:2-4 (2nd year out of Egypt @ Sinai): men 20 yrs old or older, selected to fight.
- Num 13:1-3 Joshua & Caleb selected (among 12) to spy out the land; the people are judged for unbelief and would spend the next 40 years in the wilderness.
- Joshua died at 110 years of age. The events of the book of Joshua take place over 30-35 years, Joshua would have been 75-80 years at the beginning of the book.

12

## “Be strong and courageous” is a command!

1. Remember God's promises: v.3-5
2. Know and follow God's word: v.7-8
  - a) “be careful to do according to all the law...” v.7
  - b) “This book of the law shall not depart from your **mouth...meditate** on it”
  - c) “the **book** of the law...do according to all that is **written** in it” v.8 –emphasis on the written word of God. (Deut 31:9-13)
  - v.8 “prosperous...success” = you will be successful in accomplishing what God has called you to do.
3. Know: “the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” v.9  
Heb 13:5 “...**I will never leave you**, nor will I ever forsake you.”  
Mt 28:20 Jesus said, “...**I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.”

13

“Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction....” I Cor 10:11

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans 15:4

14

Take courage (or encourage yourself):

- **Focus our priorities:** what does God want me to do?
- **Remind ourselves of the promises of God:** remind ourselves of how God has worked in the past; be in the Word daily!
- **Don't compare yourself to others:** Joshua wasn't Moses, but he was called. God's plan for you is distinct to you alone!
- **Get moving:** break the task down and get started on what you can do. “Fear not tomorrow, O child of the King; leave that to Jesus, and ***do the next thing.***”
- **Encourage others:** taking your eyes off your own problems gives you perspective.

16

Lessons from Joshua 1:

1. When a great leader is gone, God's plan is not finished. His plan and purpose is bigger than any one person; no one is indispensable.
2. Take courage (or encourage yourself):

15

Lessons from Joshua 1:

1. When a great leader is gone, God's plan is not finished. His plan and purpose is bigger than any one person; no one is indispensable.
2. Take courage (or encourage yourself):
3. The importance of the Word of God; “do not turn from it to the right or left.”
4. Be willing to stand alone, like Joshua did.

17