



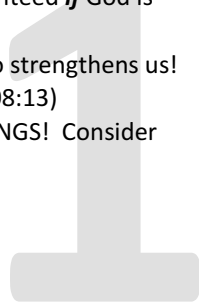
Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 11 (Part 2)

Passage: Joshua - Survey

PROMISES of GOD (Joshua 1:5)

- Joshua first heard these words at his commissioning. (Deut. 31:1-8)
- In the presence of the **GREAT MOSES** (vv. 1-2; Deuteronomy 34:10-12) God promised (through Moses) Joshua that God would go before Him and with him **to** fight the battles.
- This is a promise that God gave to **Jacob** (Genesis 28:15); to **Gideon** (Judges 6:16); to the **Jewish exiles** returning to their land after the Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 41:10; 43:5; **before** they even went **into** captivity).
- The GOOD NEWS (Gospel) of Matthew starts with “**IMMANUEL – God with us**” (Matt 1:23) and ends with Christ promising, “**Lo, I am with you always**” (Matt 28:20)
- The writer of Hebrews (13:5-6) quotes Joshua 1:5 and applies it to Christians today.
- “**No man shall be able to stand before you!**” (See Romans 8:31)
- **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** It means that we can boldly and courageously **arise** and **go forward in the will of God** (consider Numbers 14:39-45) and have the confidence that God is with us.
- Consider Deuteronomy 20:1-4. Victory is only guaranteed **if** God is with us!
- We can do all thing **through** Him (not ourselves) who strengthens us! (Philippians 4:13; Psalm 68:34-35; Psalm 18:29; 108:13)
- When God is with His people they will do GREAT THINGS! Consider Paul.
 - ① Acts 18:9-10
 - ② 2 Timothy 4:16-18



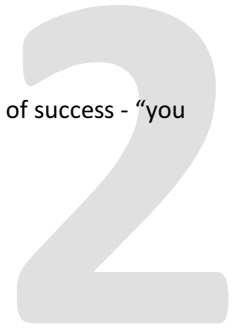
- God commands His people to do GREAT THINGS and does not forsake them. Consider Jeremiah 1:8, 19; 15:15-21

The LORD Is With US!

- Joshua had his battles to fight in his generation.
- We have **our** battles that must be fought.
- Joshua was called to fight and annihilate the enemy.
- To fight **this** battle we **need** God to be with us!
- Unless God with us we battle in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

Be Strong and Courageous (Joshua 1:6)

- **IMPORTANT:** Right after God tells Joshua that He will be with him God **commands** Joshua to be strong and courageous. Verses 5 and 6 are intimately connected.
 - “Blessed is the man who strength is *in Thee* . . .” Psalm 84:5.
 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13.
 - “You can do nothing apart from Me.” John 15:5.
 - See 1 Corinthians 15:10.
- **IMPORTANT:** God is working out His plan. He has made promises to Joshua and His people – **BUT** God’s promises and God’s sovereign will **never** negates our **responsibility** and our **obedience**.
- Word Study:
 - “strong” צָזַק chazaq {khaw-zak’} - “strong”; “harden”; “firm”; “resolute”; “sure”.
 - “courageous” אָמַץ 'amats {aw-mats’} – “strong”; “brave”; “bold”
- Why command Joshua to be strong and courageous?
 - ① What God was asking Joshua (and us as well) was not going to be easy!
 - ② The task **required** resolution and boldness.
 - ③ The enemy was strong.
- **PROMISE:** Again, immediately, God assures Joshua of success - “you shall divide as an inheritance . . .”



Be Strong and Courageous (Joshua 1:7)

- Here God **commands** Joshua to be STRONG and VERY (מְאֹד me'od {meh-ode'}) exceedingly, abundance, exceedingly **DO ALL** the LAW which Moses, **God's servant**, **commanded** you.
- Notice the narrowness of God's command – He commands Joshua to OBEY and to NOT turn to the right or the left. (Deuteronomy 5:32; 12:32; 28:14)
- **NOTICE:** Proverbs 4:27 – to turn to the right or the left is to step into evil!
- God is connecting Joshua's **obedience** to Joshua's success!
- **NT:** Matthew 28:20 – Jesus commands us to teach disciples (Christians) to **do** all that He commanded!
- **NT:** Those who **DO** are **SOLID**. (Matthew 7:24-27)

Be Strong and Courageous (Joshua 1:8-9)

- God was commanding Joshua to make His Word a part of his inner person.
- This is what He commanded Moses concerning the king. (Deut. 17:18-20)
- Obedience is depended on **MEDITATION** of God's Word.
 - ★ **Meditation** carries with it the idea of **THINKING LONG and HARD**. It is **SERIOUS** thinking about the Word of God.
 - See Psalm 19:14; 119:15; 119:97;
 - It was never God's intention for His people to take His Word lightly.
 - It is sad to see that anyone else's word is more important and studied than God's Word.
 - YET, God commanded us to MEDITATE DAY and NIGHT.
 - **See Psalm 1:1-3**
 - ★ Again, success and prosperity comes **after** meditation and doing.
 - Success and prosperity is not to be measured by worldly standards, but by God's standards.
- The reason Joshua must be (should be) strong and courageous was because God promised to be with Him.

"Then" (Joshua 1:10)

- The first Hebrew "word" in verse 10 is "וְ". It is really only a letter attached to the word "וְצִוִּי" which means "to command, to direct, to give orders, to order".
- This little word is translated "then" or "so" or "and".
- The **will of God** was absolutely clear.
- It was **not** time to call the leaders together and "talk about" what they as a nations should or should not do.
- It was time to **act**. When God's will is clear we are to **act**.
- Psalm 119:60 – "I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments."
- Joshua had learned that there is **GREAT DANGER** in disobedience and delay in keeping God's commandments.
 - About 40 years earlier Joshua pleaded with God's people to enter the land – see Numbers 14:6-10.
 - The Lord's response was clear – Numbers 14:11-12, 20-23, 26-29, 35
- The writer of Hebrews **warns** us that disobedience has severe consequences! (See Hebrews 3:7-19)
- Whatever we do (and we are to do the will of God) we are to do it with all of our heart unto the Lord, not men! (Colossians 3:23)

Prepare to Move (1:10-11)

- Joshua assembled the leader (officers) by blowing the silver trumpets. (See Numbers 10:1-10)
- Joshua **commands** (he assumes his role as leader).
- **NOTICE** Joshua's **faith** – it is demonstrated in **absolute confidence** in the Word of God. Note the verb tense he uses – "you will".
- Joshua's confidence is in the LORD and not Israel's fighting capabilities.
- Joshua understood that God was going to act but he as the leader of the people had to be sure they, too, made preparations.

Two and Half Tribes' Promise (Joshua 1:12-18)

Be Strong and of Good Courage (v. 18)

- Four times in this chapter we hear these words: vv. 6-7, 9, 18.
 - Joshua had heard these words when he departed 40 years earlier to spy out the Promised Land in Numbers 13:20.

- He heard them again at his commissioning – Deuteronomy 31:7, 23.
- See also Deuteronomy 1:21.
- **WE** are commanded to be brave and strong.
 - Ephesians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 16:13
- If the Lord is for us, who can be against us! (Romans 8:31)

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