

JOSHUA CHAPTER 1

Joshua's Great Commission: Teaching for New Leaders / Teachers

vs 1 God did not speak to Joshua as **Leader** until **after** Moses' death – so Moses was **NOT** retired! In the Hebrew this book begins with 'And' (ve) showing its connection to the Pentateuch – there is no break in the History of Salvation.

- Note**
- The first 4 Books of Pentateuch: Gen / Ex / Lev / Numbers (**FIRST SECTION** of the Bible) all deal with Israel **OUTSIDE** of the Promised Land.
 - The next 8 Books: Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kgs, 1 & 2 Chronicles form the **SECOND SECTION** of the Bible
 - Deuteronomy fits this section
 - all of these deal with Israel **(in)** the Promised Land.
 - Deuteronomy reminds them of their previous history **and** the lessons they must learn from it. It also proclaims **THE LAW** as the Rule for Chosen People.

- Note**
- The death of Moses was a big blow to the Chosen People. He was the only leader they knew.
 - They knew the power of his intercession with God.
 - They witnessed his miracle-working powers.
 - On the human level they never needed him more than now – to reach the goal of their journey through the wilderness – and to take possession of their inheritance.
 - Without much military experience they had to take on seven “nations” in Canaan. cf Acts: 13:19 They had plenty to think about as they mourned Moses for 30 days: Deut 34:10

vs 2 Joshua is a very new leader when God tells him it is time to **cross the Jordan** – yet Moses had been a very new leader when God sent **him** to Egypt to take on the Pharaoh, the most famous and powerful world leader at that time.

VIP It's not your youth or inexperience that God looks for. No! It's your **obedience** to Him and your surrender to His Divine Will. He can accomplish anything on Earth if He even has **ONE** person totally surrendered to Him. cf 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 1:27
'Nothing is impossible with God' Mark 9:23; Luke 1:37; Matthew 18:26; Jeremiah 32:17; Genesis 18:14; Job 42:2; Romans 8:31

VIP The death of a great person – leader or saint – does not **BLOCK** God's work! God is not tied to **ANY** instrument. His work spans **all** History and He can use anyone He chooses, for whatever reason He wants. **He is Lord!**

VIP God's priority is to save as many as possible from **EVERY** generation: 1 Tim 2:4

- Don't miss the point that Joshua did not push himself forward and 'take the reins' immediately after Moses' death. A **LESSER** person would have done that. No! Joshua waited until **God** gave **the order** for him to move. He had been trained under a good Master (Moses) and therefore knew the importance of **WAITING ON GOD**: Is 40:31, 30:18 / Ps 27:14

1:2 It was Moses' **DEATH** that was the **Appointed Time** to enter and take possession of the land.

- it is at this crucial moment that God assures Joshua that He will continue to be good to His Chosen People – **And** He will **KEEP** His promises to them.
- Notice **“you and all of this people with you” vs 2**

1:3 **“Every place you tread with the soles of your feet, I will give to you”**
Sitting back and “waiting for God to work miracles” on their behalf was **NOT** going to get them the Promised Land... only those parts they **CLAIMED** by their own action! (cf Deut 34:2, 3)

- so it is spiritually! Our Christian inheritance is given to us by Jesus – **yet** only what you conquer will be yours!

- **2 Cor 10:4-5** Rom 8:37: Those who won't “fight the good fight” don't win the prize: 1 Tim 6:12; 1 Jn 2:13; 4:4; 5:5; Rev 2:7, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 12:11

(NB)

This journey of faith to the Promised Land began with **Abraham**: Heb 11:8-10
 - He **obeyed** the call of God and set out on the journey of Faith to a land which was **promised** him by God – hence its name: **Promised Land**. cf Gen 12:1- Abraham had to separate himself from the pagan world around him and put his trust in God beyond reason to reach his destiny... cf Romans ch 4; 2 Cor 6:14 - 2 Cor 7:4f Abraham became the father (origin) of all those who believe.

The journey is one of obedience to God's Will.

VIP

Jesus showed us that some people **say** they will go... but don't: Mt 21:30
 We need great discernment with people – things are **NOT** what they **seem**...

- **Now** we the descendants of Abraham must walk in his footsteps **TO EXPERIENCE** God's Goodness to them... and **understand** God's choice of them... and co-operate with God.
- They will not come into **REST** until Canaan is conquered. Deut 12:9 / Heb 3:7 – 4:11
 We will see later that Israel did not **experience** the **REST** offered by God.
- Many Christians do not enter into the **REST** of Union with God either.

Mt 11:28-30: **"I will give you rest... But shoulder my yoke"!** (cf Mat 11:28-30)

Why is this? Eph 6:12 **our enemies are NOT flesh and blood...**

- We are opposed by the "world, flesh and devil" – all trying to pull us away from our Union with God... so we must **overcome** the world, flesh and devil: **1 John** (please study 1:John!)
- This victory is **not** won easily: **Ex 23:29-30**... its little by little / sip by sip... because we must "Possess our possessions". We must **consolidate** our victories. cf Obadiah vs 17.
Mt 12:43-45 → demons return to unoccupied places.

(NB)

This constant battle to achieve **Final** victory keeps us **DEPENDENT** on God – for we must be weaned off **SELF**- reliance.

- Also our souls must be built-up and made ready for the big battles ahead...

Before we begin - Divine Assurance

OUR CHARTER FOR THE FUTURE

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|---|--|
| <p>1:6 Be strong and stand firm... for you are the man...
 1:7 Keep the WHOLE Law... never swerve to the left or right
 1:8 The Law (the Divine Will) must be always in your life... meditate on it...
 1:9 THEN you will prosper... Be fearless, confident, go where you will BECAUSE the Lord your God is with you!</p> | <p>} faithfulness
 to the
 Word of God</p> |
|---|--|

GOD's AGENDA

So (i) All that Moses did was **FOUNDATIONAL** to what Joshua could do.

(ii) **God's order** was to be **set up** and **maintained** if **God's help** was to continue: Lk 1:73-75 (Benedictus)

For us: We are more privileged than them: the Law is written on our hearts. Heb 8:10; Jer 31:31-34

Jesus is **our** model and example: 1 Pet 2:21

Jesus **is** the Word Incarnate: **He is the Law in human flesh**... He fulfilled it perfectly.

We are under the **Law of Christ**: 1 Cor 9:21

1:5 "I will be with you AS I WAS WITH MOSES... I will NOT leave you, nor forsake you" (Jer 1:19)

God speaks to Joshua here – **NOT** just as a private person – but as **the LEADER** of God's Chosen People – the instructions given to **Him** were also for **THEM**.

No one will be able to stand in your way: cf Deut 7:24 In Deuteronomy **Moses** addressed the **whole** people – God repeats it now to Joshua when he needs to hear it again. cf Acts 18:9-10

For us: This is even **more** true: Jesus addressed the **WHOLE** New People of God in Mt 28:28

“And behold, I am with you always... even to the end of the age”: Acts 2:39

Mt 18:20 **“For when 2 or 3 gather in my name I am there in the midst of them”** cf Heb 13:5-7

“The **Lord Himself** is my Helper”: Ps 118:6

Rom 8:31 **“If God is FOR us, who can be against us?”**

- God’s promise to those who proclaim His Word and teach His Word: Ex 4:12
“I will help you and teach you what to say”.
- Since God **alone** knows the obstacles ahead of us, He **alone** can support us and encourage us and He alone can bring us through to victory.

- Ⓝ • These assurances are given to Joshua – and **to us** – **because** the times ahead will be very challenging.
- The enemies waiting for Joshua were **THE SAME** as those that the 10 spies **refused** to face back in Num 14.
- We gain nothing by running away from our issues – we merely delay our stay in the wilderness and we **must** – at some stage – face our giants if we are to take **POSSESSION** of the Holy Will of God, which brings all happiness with it.
- Only when we are armed with the Divine Will and the Divine Word can we have the Victory over our “demons” – our inner challenges.
- So, we are up against our issues **and** the demonic forces who want us **To Fail!**
So, we need to be **RESOLUTE** and have courage and fortitude to take to the “Narrow Way”:
Mt 7:13-14
- Ⓝ • To achieve victory we must give **Primacy** to **obedience** and God’s Will and God’s Word.
- For the great task ahead, it is more important to realise that we have the Presence and Power of God with us... than to look at the problems.
- Our choice: magnify the problem (by looking down ↓) or magnify the Lord (by looking up ↑).

Response to God: Obedience 1:10-18

1:10 **Perfect Obedience!** He put God’s Word into action. He didn’t call a **Conference** to discuss what to do. cf St Paul after his conversion: Gal 1:16 **“I conferred not with flesh and blood”** Paul put God’s message into action also. Procrastination is not the way of the saints.

Ps 119:32 **“I run in the path of your commandments for you have set my heart free”**

Heb ch 3-4 **“Today if you hear his voice do not harden your hearts”**

Heb 10:7 **Jesus’ position: “Behold I come to do your Will, Oh Lord!”**

- Notice that Joshua used his God-given authority to direct the leaders...
- Notice Paul’s advice to Titus – a younger teacher/leader.
Titus 2:15: **“These are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you”**
 - **So** the new teacher/leader must **use** the authority given to them by God; otherwise there will be no growth or development in anyone – teacher or students.
 - Mt 7:28-29 tells us that Jesus’ teaching **made a deep impression on the people BECAUSE He taught with authority...** not like the Scribes... leaning on the opinions of other teachers (Rabbis!)

1:11 • “Get provisions ready” **For in 3 days you will cross the Jordan...** on the 3rd Day!
The 3rd day is God’s day – Victory Day – resurrection day... the day on which the miracle of the Manna will **STOP FOREVER!** The wilderness journey will be **over** at long last.

- They will from then on be known as **THE PEOPLE** of **THE LAND.**

Today • **We** have been warned to make provision for dreadful future events. We must be ready and “Go with God” wherever He sends us / or takes us.

Notice • They were going to cross the Jordan River yet Joshua didn’t tell them to prepare **BOATS** or **RAFTS** to carry the old / sick / young! No! All they needed was **VIATECUM**: food for the journey.

- For the challenges ahead of us, then, all **we** need is: 1) Food of God’s Word
2) Food of Eucharist
3) Food of God’s Will

... although the prophets have told us to get food for the body in also – as Joshua did.

Ⓝ 1 Tim 6:12 Like Joshua and his people we, too, must **“fight the good fight of the Lord”**

- Like him, too, we won’t overcome any “Canaanites” unless we are in God’s Divine Will.
- We won’t have true peace of conscience... or substantial rest in the soul – or lasting joy in the heart **UNTIL** Rom 6:6 **“our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery to sin”**

And Col 3:1 **we have been brought back to TRUE LIFE IN CHRIST”**

This is what gives us the ability to speak and lead with **authority**.

Ⓝ Laziness is lethal when one is faced with a long time of trials and difficulties – as is facing us in **the Tribulation**. Absolute surrender to God is required... only total dependence on God will enable us to be His **good** servants in a world that has rejected Him.

1:12:18 Joshua insists on the 2½ tribes keeping their word to Moses regarding conquering Canaan before settling into the territories in Transjordan that they claimed for themselves.