CAPITOL COMMISSION
Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders

MOPray

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ALL WELCOME

Weekly Bible Study Schedule | Tuesday, January 28, 7:00-7:45 AM | HHR #3
Capitol Commission is NON-PARTISAN and MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL

Introduction

Chapter one is divided into two sections for our study: verses 1-9 and 10-18. The former records God speaking to Joshua about His promises made to Abraham and his descendants. He reminds Joshua that the same promises made to Abraham and Moses will continue through him. The latter illustrates conversation between Joshua and his officers to carry out God's instruction with confidence and trust in God's promises.

The central theme is God will fight Israel's battles. Victory is not in their weapons or strategic military prowess, although that was important, it is trust and faith in God's promises and in meditating on and living by the Scriptures. God's charge to battle the Canaanites was for a specific time against a specific people in a specific war. And yet the principle that God will fight the battles of life we face remains true. The battle is in the spirit, mind, emotions, and body.

> *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.* Ephesians 6:2

Joshua's leadership marks the fulfillment of God's promise to take possession of the Promised Land.

God Commissions Joshua

1:1-2 – After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead"…

To Israel, Moses was a great leader to celebrate, to Joshua he was more. Moses was his mentor, his trusted friend. Now that Moses is missing a part of Joshua is missing. Perhaps something or someone is missing from your life. Grieving from loss is hard. For some it is a shorter time for others longer. We remember, miss, long for, cry and laugh over the one we grieve. Stages for grieving and grief care are necessary, and this important conversation is for another day. Is there a painful memory that has you stuck? What raging waters are you facing? What giant is staring you down?

…Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.

The time for sufficient mourning for Moses is over. It is time to arise and take action. It was time for Joshua and the new generation of Israel to step into a new season of life. Joshua exercised giant sized faith 40 years earlier and now, it is time for him to do it again as he boldly leads Israel through the raging Jordan River.

Is God is calling you forth to step into a land of "wonder"? It is a land of promised blessings. It is time for you to occupy the best God has for you. It is time to cross the Jordan into a new land of opportunity. One of my favorite questions to ask: "What is possible from here?" Where ever your here is, I encourage you to ask the question: "What is possible from here?" If there is anything I know it is that all things are possible with God.

> *Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."* Matthew 19:26

Promise Made Promise Kept

1:3-5 – I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

God gives Joshua three promises to encourage him and remind him of God's covenant with Abraham.

1. **"I have given you"**

The land was already Israel's. God's promise was made long before Joshua. Israel owned the land by promise, it is now time to own it by possession. But not so fast. The battle is against the Canaanites: seven nations, walled cities, militaries with ample weapons, horses and chariots, skilled at war, and known geographical and topographical land mass.

A feat not possible with natural forces but possible with God. It takes great courage to face the giants in the land. Joshua had courage to face and fight the giants 40 years prior – does he still have the courage to face and fight the giants while at the helm. He has seen the giants; he has climbed up the walls of Jericho; he has heard the stories of the mighty Canaanites, will it produce faith or fear? God knew Joshua needed courage. His courage came from faith in the God of promise. God was bigger than the giants.

2. **"No one will be able to stand against"**

The Canaanites in the land will stand against Israel but they will not remain standing. God will fight their battle because there is a battle to be fought. Interestingly, if the first generation of Israel under Moses' leadership would had driven out their enemies during their life-time this new generation would be enjoying the land flowing with "milk and honey". If we will fight the enemies of our soul, and conquer the strongholds of sin our children will not have to clear the land in the same way. Yes, they will have their own battles but we would not hamstring them with our gremlins. Sin has no power over us, it has been broken through our union with Christ in His death and resurrection.

God has given you victory over the giants in your life; Satan is defeated but the battle ensues and will until the day of his judgement. There is a world system that is at odds with God, His word, and ways. Satan's power has been stunted by the work of Christ on the cross, therefore we can resist temptation and not go the way of deception.

3. **"I will be with you…I will not fail you or abandon you"**

Under Moses' leadership God is present when He: delivered the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt; led Israel across the Red Sea, showed up in the burning bush at Mt. Sinai; manifested His presence in the Ark of the Covenant which hosted the Ten Commandments. Israel traveled with the tabernacle as they followed the cloud by day and fire by night.

God continues to dwell inside the follower of Jesus in the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 3:16

In time of war, in time of peace, in time of plenty, in time of empty, in time of sickness, in time of death, in time of disappointment, in time of depression, in any-time, any-where, any NOW; God is present. He will never leave His people.

> *For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."* Hebrews 13:5

1:6-8 – "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

The text offers a formulaic repetition of faith and courage. The phrase: "be strong and courageous," is found in verses 6, 9,18. It is connected to the battle and meditating on the Scripture.

God's call to Joshua to be strong and courageous was not just for him, it was for Israel. His choice made a difference for the whole community. Think beyond yourself. Look around you, be courageous for the people in your life. You already have what you need to be strong and courageous. Followers of Jesus have the power of God's presence to be courageous in the midst of fear. It takes courage to do what is hard.

The Lord promised Joshua success for the task at hand. The way to success is to read the Scripture, and to heed the instructions of the Lord. More than driving out the Canaanite nations, meditating on the Scripture provided guidance to live distinctly from the pagan nation. When we apply the Scripture to our lives we reap success. Tuck the Word of God in your heart, think about the Scripture and what it is saying to the circumstances of your life. God will guide you by His Word. He wants you to succeed.

1:9 – This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever yo