

## New Beginnings

Be Strong and Courageous  
Joshua 1:1-9

## Introduction to Joshua

- » The book of Joshua is a story of new beginnings
- » A story of God's grace
- » Canaan as a gift to Israel
- » A fulfillment of divine promises



After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD,  
the LORD spoke to Joshua  
son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

Joshua 1:1

## Context of Joshua

- » Joshua as Moses' successor  
(Deuteronomy 31:23)

## Context of Joshua

- » Moses' death was not just a chronological marker rather it divides Israel's history into two epochs:
  1. Disobedience in the desert
  2. A new generation receives the promise of God (the LORD)

## Context of Joshua

- » Moses' authority continues through Joshua
- » Israel to keep the Torah (Joshua 1:7-8)

Be strong and courageous

Joshua  
1:6a

## The Charge to Joshua

### 1. Encouragement

- 3x "be strong and courageous" (v6,7,9)
- meaning trust and depend on God
- an attitude of dependence
- See Psalm 27:14, 31:24

- » The invitation is based on God's promises – a call to faith
- » Also a call to listen for God's voice in the Torah

- » The two main verbs are "proceed" – to cross the Jordan (v2) and "be strong" (v6)
- » To recognize that the land is "gift" – Israel takes the land but it is essentially a gift from God – "give" (v2&3)

- » The power of gift in our own lives

My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses.

Joshua 1:2-3

## 2. Mission/Purpose

- Cross the Jordan and possess the land (v2)
- Joshua and the nation are given a task

- » There is an 'arc' given to the nation to follow
- » Be God's representatives in the land
- » Which is also the same 'arc' given to us to finish the good works God has given us to accomplish (Ephesians 2:10)

No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

Joshua 1:5

## 3. Assistance

- "I will be with you" (v5)
- "I will not fail you or forsake you"
- God will go before the nation and the land will come to them

- » An amazing promise in light of the scope of the Hittite empire (v4)
- » The promise was meant to inspire the nation - 'nothing is impossible for God'

- » In the challenges we face
  - God provides strength
  - Be strong and courageous
  - Know that God walks with us/supports us

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go.

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful.

Joshua 1:7-8

#### 4. Meditate on the Law

- Do not forget it – keep it in your mind/heart/mouth at all times (8a)

- » Torah as direction / pointing / indication
- » To stay on the right path (v7)
- » When we reduce Torah to simply law we miss a significant part of its meaning

Torah » Nomos » Lex » Legal  
(Hebrew) (Greek) (Latin) (English)

- » Meditate
  - read the Torah
  - study it
  - reflect on it
  - let the law become part of you

- » We demonstrate our devotion to God
  - as we do so we also seek justice for all including the poor
  - the law focuses on all dimensions of society

As we follow through on God's commands we will prosper  
 "For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful." (v8)

## Prosper

- » Not meant primarily materially
- » Rather you will live in a right relationship to God
- » Your purposes will be achieved
- » You will fulfill your destiny by walking with God

To prosper" (Hebrew salah) -  
 The phrase has to do with taking a path that is right, and the root word sometimes expresses "prosperity" as a figurative reference to right conduct (Psalm 37:7). Therefore, "to prosper" in the intended sense is to live in the knowledge of one's proper place

before the creator. When God's sovereignty is duly acknowledged, the believer is set on a good path characterized by humility, compassion, and justice. Joshua declares that meditation on torah establishes such dependence on the Lord.

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## The Word to Joshua & Israel

1. Encouragement
2. Mission
3. Assistance
4. Meditate on the Torah