

Joshua God's Orders to Joshua

Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, 2 "Moses My servant is dead; so now arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.

3 Every place on which the sole of your foot steps, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

5 No one will be able to oppose you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not desert you nor abandon you. 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the Law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may achieve success wherever you go.

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua Assumes Command

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are going to cross this Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving you, to possess it.'"

12 But to the Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, 13 "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest, and will give you this land.'

14 Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross ahead of your brothers in battle formation, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them,

15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest, as He is giving you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you may return to your own land, and take possession of that which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."

16 They answered Joshua, saying, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may the LORD your God be with you as He was with Moses. 18 Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character

Paul's observations and insights

1. The LORD spoke to Joshua, Moses' servant, saying.....
2. How do you hear God speak to you?
3. It must have been a great responsibility to take the place of Moses.
4. Moses death was the result of his inappropriate actions - what were they?
5. God said to Joshua, 'cross the Jordan River with this people'. A task in and of itself.
6. 'Take possession of the land I have promised Israel'
7. Why were the nations being driven out?
8. This would mean driving out the nations already occupying the land.
9. Do you know how to work in cooperation with God?
10. Foot stepping, land conquering possession - was this right?
11. Can you imagine no one successfully opposing you throughout your life?
12. Would the words, 'as I have been with Moses' of comforted Joshua?
13. How reassuring to know God would never abandon or desert Joshua.
14. Do you know that promise? God has also made it to you!
15. How can you be 'strong and courageous' when you are facing great trials?
16. What does it mean to, 'not turn from the book of the law to the right or to the left'?
17. Joshua's success was dependent upon his obedience to the law.
18. Why was it so important to speak the Word of God out loud?
19. What does it mean to meditate on Gods laws day and night?
20. Who will make your way prosperous, so you achieve great success?
21. Why is it important for Joshua to not be terrified or dismayed?
22. Fear debilitates and drains us of our strength!
23. Joshua has a strategy as to how he will conquer the land, so he got the people ready.
24. He also knew it would be God who gave them the victory - is there a conflict here?
25. Three of the tribes had already set up camp, but Joshua reminds them of their promise to Moses.
26. They made their promises and they are going to keep them.
27. Do you keep your promises that you make to people?
28. Only as victory came to the rest of the tribes, would the three tribes be released to go home.
29. 'All that you have commanded us, we will do', is to align yourself to God.
30. Commit to do His will for the world.

31. Their only condition was that, 'the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses'.
32. Moses was a hard act to follow - how do you think Joshua is feeling?
33. 'Be strong and courageous' is stated how many times? Why?
34. Is the conflict presently taking place not evidence of Gods long term commitment to His promises to Israel?
35. Are we having to read the bible with new eyes in the light of current world view.