

Joshua 1 - The Promise of God and a Look at the Covenant

Joshua could be called the book of God's kept promises. One key verse is *Joshua 21:45 – Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.*

So let's step back for a minute and re-examine what were the promises of God to His people?

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

6 And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Joshua 1:1 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; now therefore 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 treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

Q A. Moses is dead, so why is a promise that was made to him being brought out and held up here?

5 "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake 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.....

9"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

QB What encouragement is Joshua being given in these verses?

Hebrews 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

QC How does this passage relate to the promises made to Joshua? How are trust and contentment linked?

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 have 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 have success.

John Calvin on this passage – “Assiduous meditation on the Law is also commanded; because whenever it is intermitted, even for a short time, many errors creep in, and the memory becomes rusted, so that many, after ceasing from the continuous study of it, engage in practical business as if they were ...ignorant... God therefore enjoins his servant to ...never cease during the whole course of his life to profit in the Law.”

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 to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, to possess it.'"

The people immediately began to prepare to cross the river despite obvious obstacles. .

QE How does our own trust and obedience (or lack of it) affect those around us – our families, other believers? How does it affect unbelievers?

12 And to the Reubenites and 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 gives you rest, and will give you this land.'

14 "Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them,

15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest, as He gives you

QD How much are we as modern American Christians affected by our culture into seeing our relationship with God as just between us and God, how difficult is it for us to remember that God’s covenant is with all His people – all over the world, now and forever, past and present

16 And 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.

QE What are the most important things to know and look for when we choose and follow our leaders?

We don't know what the future will bring specifically, but we know that we can trust Him fully. He has covenanted with us and He will always be with us. We are to study and follow His word. The way of obedience is always the way of safety. He provides for us exactly what He has ordained. He is always accomplishing His good purposes – glorifying Himself in His world – gathering and perfecting His people and bringing us to Himself through the obedience of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.