

“Joshua – the Declaration”

Joshua chapter 1

Scripture Ref: Deut 34:10-12; Gen 15:18-21; Numbers 34:1-15; Rom 8:31; Luke 18:27; John 14:12-14; Josh 11:15

1. Three parts:
 - a. Crossing and conquest (ch 1-12)
 - b. Allotment of land (ch 13-22)
 - c. Close of Joshua’s leadership (ch 23-24)
2. Overview of chapters 1-12

God's Declaration to Joshua

1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them -- the children of Israel.

3. **STOP – “that’s it?” If I were Moses, I might have wanted a little more than that –**
 - a. **“Moses my great and faithful servant, who led the people out of Egypt and through the desert, whom....”**
 - b. **But – “Moses is dead, now moving on...”**
4. **I’m sure that God is not trying to minimize Moses, or that He is cold and now that Moses is off the scene God has forgotten him**
 - a. **If you take away the first five books of bible, Moses is mentioned 203 times in scripture AFTER his death**
 - b. **All through the OT and NT – right through to Revelation**
 - c. **There will never be another Moses**

Deut 34:10-12

10 But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, 11 in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, 12 and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

- d. **But the simple fact is that the Israelites cannot sit around and relive the past blessings and miracles –**
- e. **The time has come to move forward – to move on to what God has for them – HERE AND NOW**

5. It's the same in our own lives – God may have done great and mighty things “back then” – PTL
 - a. But what is more important is what is God doing NOW – where is He leading you NOW –
 - b. And for the Israelites the time has come to “arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them -- the children of Israel”
6. **POSSESSION:** “I am giving” – God has something for them – He is giving them this land – this place – a place to live and prosper

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

(Gen 15:18-21, Numbers 34:1-15)

7. God is giving – but they must go and *claim it – possess it*.
 - a. “every place your foot touches” – IOW “you gotta go there to get it”
 - b. IOW – two parts to their *complete possession*
 - i. God declared it: That granted title
 - ii. Israel physically inhabiting: That granted possession
8. Now – this is a principle that was given *then* for the Israelites, but as well is still in effect *now* with relation to our lives as believers.
 - a. IOW – God may speak to you “I have given this into your hand”
 - b. Could be a person that you are supposed to witness to, a work that He gives you to do...
 - c. Or maybe He tells you “you are going to be a pastor”
 - d. That gives title to that word of God – it is set up....
 - e. BUT – if you never step out – never move your foot...
 - f. It will sit there – unclaimed – unrealized
 - g. Matter of fact – someone *else* might just walk up and claim it.
9. EX: God speaks to your heart “I have given you a ministry to homeless”
 - a. OK – its done – the ministry is yours – your area
 - b. But if you just sit at home and wait for God to *bring it to you* – it may never come
 - c. Because there is an element of *faith* that must be engaged – which happens when you step out – you start showing up at the homeless shelter, you move forward - you PLACE YOUR FOOT there.
 - d. And guess what: God is with you...

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

10. Notice the statement “No man shall be able to stand before you”

- a. It implies *movement*. I mean – who cares if someone is standing before you if you are sitting still!
- b. I’m sitting at a red light – there is a car in front of me – **BIG DEAL.**
- c. But let the light turn green – suddenly things change – **GET OUTTA MY WAY!**

11. When we are moving forward – in the will of God – as He has directed us – NOTHING can stop us.

- a. There was a video game I used to play – “Duke Nukem” – basically a ‘first person shoot em up’ game – The earth had been invaded by aliens and Duke was the savior of the world – taking on the entire alien force single-handedly.
- b. Now – poor Duke died many times in battle – but one day I found the cheat code for Duke to become immortal and have unlimited weapons and ammo.
- c. It was a bad day for the aliens.

12. Now we don’t get cheat codes...

- a. But in fact we **ARE** immortal and undefeatable when we are carrying out God’s plan, according to His leading, and by His strength.

Rom 8:31 If God is for us, who can be against us?

Luke 18:27 "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

John 14:12-14

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

13. Sounds great – where do we sign up! Ahh – but there IS a catch...

Success

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may

observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

14. God tells Joshua “you will have good success “ BUT his success is dependant on SOMETHING:

- a. Joshua is told to *observe* the law – not turning to the right or to the left
- b. Not only to observe – but his *lips are to speak it – and his mind is to meditate on it.*

15. There is an all encompassing centrality to the word of God that we see being encouraged

- a. Joshua’s commitment to this would become the pillar of his success in the task that God had given him.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

16. Gods repetition of the statement “Be strong and of good courage” might lead us to believe that Joshua had a weakness – that perhaps he was not in and of himself “strong and courageous”

- a. Which lends weight to the premise that Joshua’s success depended on two things:
 - i. His commitment to keep God’s Word.
 - ii. God’s presence with him

The Order to Cross the Jordan

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

12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, 13 "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.' 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them, 15 until the LORD has given your brethren rest, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

16 So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so

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we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.
18 Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

17. Joshua was an example to us of a man who was obedient to the Lord.

- a. He obeyed Immediately
- b. He obeyed Completely
- c. He obeyed Without grumbling or complaining

18. In verse 1 "the Lord spoke to Joshua..."

- a. then in verse 10 "Then Joshua ..."
- b. There was no "Let me pray about it"
- c. Many times people will use that line to delay or keep from committing to something that God is calling them to.
- d. Not Joshua – he heard – he did!

19. AND - Joshua learned the doctrine of a completed task

Josh 11:15 As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

20. I wonder how many people will stand before the Lord, and give an account of a ministry or task the Lord gave them,

- a. And they will have to say "well, I quit, it just wasn't working out the way I wanted it too..."
- b. If the Lord tells you to do something – DO IT!
- c. If the Lord tells you to lay something down – LAY IT DOWN
- d. Completely!