

Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story
Lesson #45 - "Keys for Success" - Joshua 1:5-18
•HANDOUT•

► This lesson: Israel is now perfectly positioned to enter the Land of Promise. The Lord assures Joshua that he is ready and enabled to assume leadership.

We begin where we ended the last lesson, with verse 5 of the first chapter of Joshua: *"No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

► Joshua 1:6-7 • "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Q: Was the promise that no one will be able to stand against Joshua as he leads these people into the Land God has promised them, a conditional or unconditional promise?

Q: Since God made the unconditional covenant promise to give the Land to Israel, why does God make their success in the Land conditional upon their obedience?

Q: Why would God feel he had to tell Joshua to be strong and courageous? Does that mean Joshua was getting "cold feet" about leading Israel into the Land?

The Theme of the Book of Joshua is established:
God's Word and man's willingness to obey His Word
becomes the foundation for God's blessing over His people.

► Joshua 1:8-9 • Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Q: The phrase "from your mouth" is a Hebrew idiom used for a person who muttered while reading or studying. It is also used for some who spend time reflecting or meditating. What does this tell us about the instruction given to Joshua?

**Joshua calls for final preparations.
In 3 Days' time Israel will cross the Jordan into the Promised Land ...**

► Joshua 1:10-11 [NAS] • So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.' "

Q: What does Joshua's order to the officers tell us about Joshua's leadership?

Q: What would have been considered "provisions" which they were told to prepare?

**But ... Joshua gives a different command to the
Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh ...**

► Joshua 1:12-15 • But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, "Remember the command that Moses, the servant of the LORD, gave you: 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land.' Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, fully armed, must cross over ahead of your brothers. You are to help your brothers until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them.

After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

Q: Why did Joshua give a different command to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh? Why are they staying east of the Jordan, not crossing over into the Promised Land?

Q: What does the word "rest" mean in the context of this verse: "you are to help your brothers until the LORD gives them rest, as He has done for you?"

**Not only has Joshua been anointed as Israel's new leader by God
but the people of Israel also wholeheartedly accept him as well ...**

► Joshua 1:16-18 • Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses.

Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey your words, whatever you may command them, will be put to death.

Only be strong and courageous!"

Q: Who are the ones who answered Joshua? Is it the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, or is it all of Israel?

Q: What is the significance of the words: “Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as He was with Moses,” Are these meant to be words of allegiance, or are they conditional for their allegiance?

Q: Why does the leadership threaten such severe punishments for anyone who rebels against Joshua's leadership?

► Before “Day Three” when Israel will cross the Jordan into the Land of Promise
Joshua secretly sends two spies to Jericho.
He instructs the men: “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”
With those words, we will meet Rehab, the Prostitute.
This is where we will pick up the story next time.



Next Time • Lesson #46
“The Reconnaissance Mission”

