

“Arise .... Prepare you”  
Josh 1

Text: Josh 1:2, 11

(Joshua 1:2) "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore **arise**, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel."

(Joshua 1:11) "Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, **Prepare you** victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it."

Introduction:

In our day, there are many misunderstandings surrounding the Christian life. A trip to the local Bible bookstore confirms this accusation. After all the shelves are lined with books that talk about hoe to make the Christian life easier and more acceptable to the world.

But we need to remember that when we trusted Christ as our Saviour we did not enter into something easy. When we got saved we entered into a battle. We are engaged in warfare with a spiritual enemy who is very powerful.

(Ephesians 6:12) "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The good news is that he is nowhere near as powerful as God.

(1 John 4:4) "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

Therefore in the midst of battles there is always hope for victory.

(Romans 8:31) "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

(Romans 8:37) "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

We are celebrating our third anniversary today, and we have seen some of these battles, but thank God for His goodness and grace.

In this book we find Moses, the great leader of Israel has died and a new leader named Joshua has been appointed to lead the nation of Israel into Canaan. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel is about to take possession of the land which God promised Abraham centuries earlier.

(Genesis 12:7) "And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him."

This was a wonderful land.

(Numbers 13:21-27) "So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. {22} And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) {23} And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. {24} The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. {25} And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. {26} And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. {27} And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it."

This book is about the battles Israel faced in order to claim that promise from God. Joshua is a book of warfare, suffering and great victories.

As we begin our fourth year and this series my goal is that we not wander in the wilderness but enter into our Canaan.

Notice:

## **1. The Call From God. (v. 1-9)**

A. The call to claim the land (v. 1-4)

(Joshua 1:1-4) "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, {2} Moses my servant is dead; now therefore **arise, go over this Jordan**, thou, and all this people, **unto the land which I do give** to them, even to the children of Israel. {3} **Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you**, as I said unto Moses. {4} From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast."

1. What is involved in claiming the land?

a. One must arise

b. One must cross over Jordan

B. A call to have confidence in the Lord  
(v 5-6,9)

(Joshua 1:5-6) "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, **so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee**. {6} Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them."

(Joshua 1:9) "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; **be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest**."

1. The promise of victory over every enemy (v. 5)

2. The promise of the presence and power of God. (v. 5)
3. The promise of the faithfulness of God. (v. 5)
4. The promise of absolute victory. (v. 6)
5. The promise of God to keep His promises. (v. 6)

What did Joshua have to do to make these things happen? Just one thing: Trust God!

May I remind you that the same promises God made to Joshua are still in force for you and me this morning.

1. He still gives victory over all our enemies.

(1 John 5:4-5) "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. {5} Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

2. He is still ever present, and all powerful.

(Hebrews 13:5) "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

(Matthew 28:18) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

### 3. He is still faithful

(Matthew 28:20) "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you always**, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

### 4. He still gives absolute victory

(1 Corinthians 15:57) "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Revelation 21:4) "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

(Revelation 21:27) "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

### 5. He still keeps His promises

(Romans 4:21) "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

#### C. A call to carry out the law. (v. 7-8)

(Joshua 1:7-8) "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that **thou mayest observe to do according to all the law**, which Moses my servant commanded thee: **turn not from it to the right hand or to the left**, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. {8} This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but **thou shalt meditate therein day and night**, that **thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written**

**therein**: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

1. He was to keep the Law

2. He was to meditate on the Law

a. We are to feed on the Bible

(1 Peter 2:2) "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

(Job 23:12) "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

b. We are to live by the Bible

(Psalms 119:11) "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

(Psalms 1:1-3) "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. {2} But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. {3} And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

(Psalms 37:31) "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide."

(Psalms 119:97) "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

(Jeremiah 15:16) "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts."

#### D. A call to courage in leadership (v. 6a, 7a, 9a)

(Joshua 1:6-7) "**Be strong and of a good courage**: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. {7} Only **be thou strong and very courageous**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

(Joshua 1:9) "Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage**; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

## 2. The Challenge From Joshua (v. 10:-15)

(Joshua 1:10-15) "Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, {11} Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, **Prepare you** victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it. {12} And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, {13} Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. {14} Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; {15} Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the



LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising."

A. A challenge for readiness. (v. 10-11)

B. A challenge to responsibility. (v. 12-15)

1. These tribes had received permission to remain on the east side of Jordan but had promised to go and fight the battle with the others.

(Numbers 32:1) "Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;"

(Numbers 32:4) "Even the country which the LORD smote before the congregation of Israel, is a land for cattle, and thy servants have cattle:"

(Numbers 32:16) "And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones:"

### **3. The Commitment From The People (v. 16-18)**

(Joshua 1:16-18) "And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. {17} According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. {18} Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."

- A. They committed themselves to a life of surrender. (v 16)
- B. They committed themselves to a life of submission. (v. 17)
- C. They committed themselves to a life of separation. (v. 18)

(Joshua 1:18) "Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."

***Close:***

Many today are wondering out in the wilderness. Seeking there own way. But my friend if we are going to enjoy our Canaan we are going to trust God and follow His way, and be willing to pay the price.

I don't know your heart this morning, but one thing I do know there are more on the east side of Jordan than there are in the Promise land.