

## Refuge City Church — June 6, 2021 “Strength and Courage” {Joshua 1}

### Introduction/Background

- The events recorded in Joshua take place around 1400 B.C, yet there is no exact record of when the book itself was composed.
- We can surmise from the writing that the events span roughly 30 years of time.
- The promise of the land was given to Abraham
  - **Genesis 12:7**, “To your offspring I will give this land.”
- After the Lord provided salvation from Egyptian slavery, and due to sin, disobedience, and unbelief, the Israelites were subjected to wander in the wilderness for 40 years; among which Moses himself was found disobedient and would not inherit the land.
  - Along this journey, Joshua was commissioned along with 11 others to go spy out the land **[Numbers 13]**.
    - Only he and Caleb returned with faith & favor in the land. The other 10 were afraid of the Canaanites and the others who inhabited the land, and reported in such a way.
  - Moses, knowing he would not be able to go in to the land, prayed to the Lord to appoint someone to take his place.
    - **[Moses’ prayer] Numbers 27:16-17**, “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation... that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.”
    - **[God’s response] Deuteronomy 3:28**, “But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people...”
    - **[The announcement] Deuteronomy 31:7-8**, “Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it...”
  - Moses died at the age of 120, Joshua has been commissioned to lead the Israelites, they are now perched on the doorstep, and God is about to fulfill His promise.
- In the Hebrew bible, the book of Joshua is placed among other books labeled “the former prophets”.
- In the English bible, Joshua is placed among other books labeled as “historical books”.
  - Why is this important to understand?
    - A historical text provides the events and details as they occurred under the authority of God, and the leadership He chose.
    - It helps us to see the ‘full story’ **[context]** of God’s redemptive plan for His people, and us, in light of Christ’s ministry of reconciliation and salvation.
    - A prophetic book provides us the lessons we need to better understand who God is and His plan for our lives here and now.

## Verses 1-9

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore **arise, go** over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that **I am giving to them**, to the people of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon **I have given to you**, just as **I promised to Moses**. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as **I was with Moses**, so **I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you**. 6 **Be strong and courageous**, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that **I swore to their fathers** to give them. 7 Only **be strong and very courageous, being careful to do** according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good 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 good success. 9 **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened**, and **do not be dismayed**, for **the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

### 1. God's Sovereignty

- **Genesis 1:1**, "In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth."
- **Exodus 19:5**, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, **for all the earth is mine.**"
- **If we trust in God's sovereignty, He will not lead us astray. He is always faithful! [vs. 3, 5, 9]**
  - **Proverbs 3:5-6**, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."
- **If we find ourselves astray or in dismay, it is our own doing or the sin of others that has caused the chaos.**
  - **Proverbs 3:7-8**, "Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."
- The sovereignty and presence of God is the only thing that saves us from sin and eternal separation from God. He provides us grace, mercy, and freedom in Jesus' name!
  - What God did for the Israelites up to this point, is what He does for us today. **[Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."]**
    - **Israel** = enslaved to Egypt / **Us** = enslaved to sin
    - **Israel** = set free through God's intervention / **Us** = set free through Christ's intervention on the cross.
    - **Israel** = follow, trust, & obey through the wilderness by the Word of God / **Us** = follow, trust, & obey through our trials **[wilderness]** by the Word of God.
- Ultimately, the Israelites found salvation from slavery, provision by the grace of God, and rest in His presence for their journey.. It is the same for us today!
  - **Psalms 23:4**, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..."

### 2. God's Commands

- **“Arise and Go.”**

- What is it that God has promised you will overcome? What has He told you that you will conquer by His grace and provision?

- **What’s keeping you from taking your first step in to the water?**

- [12 spies return to give their report] **Numbers 13:27-28, 30-32**, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit [proof]. *However*, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there... But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out...”

- Who’s voice are you going to listen to at your ‘fork in the road moment’?

- **God not only tells us to rise, go, and conquer, He tells us *how* to do so! [vs. 6, 7, 9]**

- The first half of the book of Joshua details what strength and courage looks like in the face of adversity and fear.

- **Hebrews 11:15-16**, “If they were thinking about where they came from, they would have had an opportunity to return. But they now desire a better place — a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

- **Luke 9:62**, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” [keep your eyes on the prize]

- **Philippians 3:14**, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- **Be strong** [physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually]

- As you are going, you are getting stronger

- Be firm and fast in your belief in God and the solid foundation of His Word.

- **Hebrews 10:23**, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

- Be secure, confident, and devoted in Who you place your trust.

- But be careful about falling to far in to your own strength, that you become too rigid and severe in your dealing with other people. [love still reigns supreme]

- **Be courageous** [boldness, affirmed and firm, assured]

- It’s the manifestation & exhibition of God’s strength in you...strength in action.

- **Psalms 27:14**, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

- **Isaiah 41:10**, “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

- **2 Timothy 1:7 NLT**, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

- Again, what is God calling you to step in to with strength and courage?

### 3. Our Obedience

- Our obedience and faithfulness results from keeping His Word close to our heart.

- **Romans 10:17**, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”
- **Psalms 119:11, 15-16**, “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you... I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”
- **God’s Word needs to be in our mouth, on our mind, and the catalyst of our action!**
  - Bible study and memorization are great! But if you stop there, you stop short of seeing all that God can do in and through you.
  - **QUOTE:** “Talk about it. Think about it. Do it!” [Francis Schaeffer]
- Questions to consider every time we open the Word of God:
  - What is God teaching you? What does He want you to know?
  - What is God tasking you to do? What are you to do with what you know?
- **REMEMBER:** “the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!”

### Verses 10-18

**10** And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, **11** “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’” **12** And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, **13** “Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘**The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest** and will give you this land.’” **14** Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, **15** **until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you**, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.” **16** And they answered Joshua, “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** Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

- How do we find rest as further trials are to come? **[vs. 13, 15]**
  - The rest they were looking forward to was not going to be without trials and difficult situations. **[they still have multiple wars and conquests ahead]**
    - **Galatians 5:16, 25**, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”
  - The journey in this life continues, but when you keep in step with the Spirit of God, trust in His Word, you’ll see the fulfillment of His promises in your life that brings you peace no matter what may lie ahead.
  - Keeping in step with the Spirit allows us to gain new perspective when the trials come.