

Same God, Same Promises

Joshua 1

The Death of Moses (v. 1)

The significance of Moses

The prophet like Moses who would arise

For Joshua and the People (vv. 2-5)

Moses is dead, but my plans do not fail

Cf. Deuteronomy 11:24ff

I have given you this land—it is a done deal

“It is as though Israel already possessed the legal title (ever since Abraham’s day), but they were awaiting God’s timing for actual possession.” David M. Howard, Jr.

Given—this is the language of grace. God is giving it, it is not that Joshua or the people are *taking* it. Cf. Ephesians 2:8-9

The presence of God is the most important aspect of the promise: *I will not leave you nor forsake you.*

Consider Psalm 23—*Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death*

Consider Hebrews 13:5-6 (cf. Psalm 118:6; Romans 8:31)

Note Christ’s promise in Matthew 28:20

Moses refused to go without the presence of God (Exodus 33:15)

Strength and Courage in the Lord (vv. 6-9)

Why the repetition? There was danger that might cause Joshua to reconsider his willingness to obey God’s commands exactly

Note: not military strategy, but call to full, uncompromising obedience

Some translate the language of “courage” as *resoluteness*. Be resolved to obey no matter the consequences, no matter the costs, no matter the risks.

The courage is for obedience in the face of opposition:

Don’t go to the right or left

Let it never depart your mouth

Meditate on it day and night (how was this done?)

Be careful to do all that is written in it (repeated twice)

What is the success spoken of here?

“...they speak of succeeding in life’s proper endeavors. This happens when people’s lives are focused entirely on God and obedience to him. The focus of people’s endeavors is *not* to be prosperity and success but rather holiness and obedience.” David M. Howard, Jr.

Cf. Matthew 6:33

Final encouragement—*Yahweh is with you wherever you go*

Joshua’s confidence in God (vv. 10-11)

Prepare your provisions (food supply)

We will take possession of the land, *Yahweh has given it to us*

Call to unity (vv. 12-15)

Fear of rebellion, Numbers 32

The two and a half tribes (Reuben, Gad, Manasseh) wanted to stay on one side of the Jordan and enjoy the land there

Moses was angered by this, saw in this a sense of rebellion against God, desire for present comfort, a lack of care for the rest of their brothers/sisters of Israel

They committed to settling there but sending their warriors to fight with their brothers.

How important is unity in Christ’s church?

The people’s response of obedience and commitment (vv. 16-18)

The people are committing to follow Joshua as they followed Moses

Notice that they too realize that central to this is God’s presence

James Montgomery Boice says, “People follow a leader like that because to follow him is to follow God.”

The people are *more* right than they might think: they will not be loyal and faithful (as they were not with Moses), but God always remains faithful.

God had urged Joshua to be strong and courageous, now He uses the people of Israel to give him the same exhortation

Mount Ararat Bible Church

All-Church Bible Study

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