

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

HEROES: JOSHUA

Here's some background, and what we need to know:

- Historical book (1400 to 1375 BC) - Written about 1375 BC by Joshua and Israelite scribes
- This book begins the story of Israel as a nation and contains the first events to take place upon entering the promise land.
- Moses has led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, Joshua was Moses' assistant (Numbers 11:28) and Moses appoints Joshua the leader who takes Israel into the promised land.

Numbers 13:16 These are the names of the men Moses sent out to explore the land. (Moses called Hoshea son of Nun by the name Joshua.) (NLT)

- The name Hoshea (or Hosea) means "salvation," or "deliverer," while Joshua or Jehoshua means "Jehovah (Yahweh) is salvation."
- Jewish tradition says that he was born in 1355 BC and died in 1245 BC. (42 years old when he spied on the promised land, 82 years old when Israel took Jericho)
- Joshua's childhood isn't mentioned in the Bible. He was probably between 30 and 40 years old when he first spied on the promise land (Numbers 13-14), only he and Caleb wanted to take the land, the other 10 were afraid, and because everyone agreed with the 10, the nation had to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years. Everyone 20 and older will die and not enter the land, except Joshua and Caleb.
- We see him in Exodus; Numbers; Deuteronomy - but primarily his story plays out in the book of Joshua.

- Joshua 11 covers his conquests to the north after the army finished in the south. Mapping is extremely difficult, not only because many exact locations aren't known, but because Joshua 10 lists primarily by cities and regions (south), and Joshua 11 lists by kingdoms (north).
- The book of Joshua consists of 5 segments:
 1. Jericho - Rahab, Spies, Walls falling down, Joshua about 80 years old (1-5)
 2. Conquering the land - 7 years of battle, 31 kingdoms (6-9)
 3. Sun stands still (10-12)
 4. Distribution of the land - wars are over, Joshua is about 87-89 years old (13-21)
 5. Final orders and death at age 110 (22-24)

Key Moments:

Exodus 33:12 When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. **11** Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting. (NLT)

Joshua 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (NLT)

Joshua 24:14 "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. **15** But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (NLT)

Lesson #1

----- To God's Direction

Joshua 1:1 After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. *(NLT)*

Pay _____

Psalms 81:10 For it was I, the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things. **11** "But no, my people wouldn't listen. Israel did not want me around. **12** So I let them follow their own stubborn desires, living according to their own ideas. **13** Oh, that my people would listen to me! Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths! **14** How quickly I would then subdue their enemies! How soon my hands would be upon their foes! *(NLT)*

----- **Distractions**

Lesson #2

----- For A Promise

Joshua 1:3 I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— **4** from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea[a] in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' *(NLT)*

Joshua 23:14 "Soon I will die, going the way of everything on earth. Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed! *(NLT)*

Three Promises For Those Who Live For God

1) _____

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. **6** "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. *(NLT)*

2) _____

Joshua 1:7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. **8** Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. *(NLT)*

3) _____

Joshua 1:9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." *(NLT)*

Two Things We Must Understand About God's Promises

1) God Will Not _____ His Promise

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. *(NLT)*

2) We Must _____ God's Promises

Psalms 106:24 The people refused to enter the pleasant land, for they wouldn't believe his promise to care for them. *(NLT)*

Lesson #3

_____ On The Lord

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

Who or what are you _____ on?

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **6** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. *(NLT)*

Lesson #4

_____ Go Of Fear And Discouragement

Joshua 1:6 "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. **8** Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will

be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. **9** This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." *(NLT)*

_____ Not A Suggestion

Proverbs 29:25 Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety. *(NLT)*

Psalms 23:4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. *(NLT)*

John 14:27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. *(NLT)*

Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. *(NLT)*

What are the _____ of Fear, Doubt, Discouragement?

- 1) Often rooted in _____ issues. (emotions, adrenaline, relationships)
- 2) Often rooted in _____ attack. (enemy tries to steal, kill, destroy)
- 3) Often rooted in a _____ focus. (problem not solution, issue not the Savior)

Lesson #5

_____ Out In Faith

Joshua 1:10 Joshua then commanded the officers of Israel,
11 “Go through the camp and tell the people to get their provisions ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you.”
(NLT)

_____ **Equals** _____

Ecclesiastics 11:4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest. (NLT)

Recalibrate: _____

- 1) Listen To God’s Direction
- 2) Look For A Promise
- 3) Lean On The Lord
- 4) Let Go Of Fear And Discouragement
- 5) Launch Out In Faith

Ephesians 3:20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. (NLT)

Ephesians 3:20 God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. (MSG)

What can _____ do now?

- Pray for God’s direction
- Look for opportunities to serve, give, and trust God
- Lean on God
- Let Go of fear, doubt, and discouragement
- Walk with us in faith

**2022 Devotions:
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