



An Exhortation: The Lord Thy God is With Thee!

Father's Day 2021

June 20, 2021

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

What events led up to our text:

- The Israelites just finished mourning the death of Moses. (Deut 34:8)
- The fact that Moses led them out of slavery in Egypt and through 40 years in the wilderness made this a tremendously significant event in the lives of the Israelites.

Out goes Moses; In comes Joshua:

- Joshua, formerly named Hoshea (Numbers 13:16), is the man chosen by God to succeed Moses as the leader (Numbers 27:18-23.)

Why would Joshua need encouragement?

- Joshua was used to "Not" being the one in charge. He was Moses' servant (or assistant) (Joshua 1:1.)
- Taking possession of the land would not be a simple task.
 - Joshua saw firsthand the inhabitants and fortified cities of the land 38 years before this particular moment (Numbers 13.)
- The Israelites were proven to be stubborn. (Exodus 32:9, 33:5, 34:9; Deuteronomy 9:6)

How did God encourage Joshua?

1. He promised victory (v 5-6)
 - a. No one would be able to stand against him. As Moses' servant, he was intimately aware of enemies (both within and outside Israel.)
 - i. External - The Amalekites in Exodus 17:8-16
 - ii. Internal - Korah's rebellion in Numbers 16
 - b. God would be with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

- i. Does the exhortation sound familiar? Jesus gave the same encouragement to the Apostles when giving them the commission to make disciples. (Matthew 28:28-20)
- 2. He gave Joshua conditions for the promised victory (v 7-8)
 - a. Strength and Courage (Boldness) were necessary.
 - i. The foes in Canaan were formidable.
 - ii. Joshua's reliance on God was to be coupled with action.
 - b. Obedience to His law was necessary.
 - i. While Joshua was the leader, he also needed to be submitted to the authority of God.
 - ii. This obedience ensured he would prosper (success.)
 - iii. The law of God was to be on his lips (reading & repeating)
 - iv. The law of God was to be on his mind day & night (daily & consistent meditating on the law)
 - v. The law of God was to be actively put into practice. Speaking and meditating on the law would naturally lead to this.
 - c. God restates His promise to grant victory if these conditions are met.
- 3. He restated His commitment to being with Joshua.
 - a. Joshua could have peace about his undertaking. This peace would be rooted in the fact that God would be with him.

We can't preach on this text today without noting that Joshua is a "type" of Jesus Christ.

William Nicholson, a puritan preacher/teacher from the mid 19th century, had this to say:

In what respect was Joshua typical of Christ?

- 1. In His Divine Appointment.
- 2. In The Glorious Import of His Name.
 - a. Joshua and Jesus have the same comprehensive meaning. The former in the Hebrew, and the latter in Greek, signify Savior.

- b. The salvation of Joshua was temporal.
- c. The salvation of Christ was eternal.
- d. The salvation of Joshua was but for a few.
- e. The salvation of Christ was for a great multitude which no man can number.

3. As The Servant And Successor of Moses.

4. In His Qualifications and Consecration to Office.

5. Joshua Was the Commander and Leader of His People.

6. Joshua Conducted the People of Israel Through Jordan

7. Joshua Overthrew the Walls of Jericho.

- a. It was done by an instrumentality apparently weak and insignificant, Joshua 6:5.
- b. Jericho, with its lofty walls and powerful battlements, typified the strongholds of Satan — as opposed to Jesus, the Captain of our salvation. As the walls of Jericho fell — so must the strongholds of Satan fall.

8. Joshua Was the Means of Saving Rahab. Joshua 6:22.

- a. Rahab had been a most abandoned character — a harlot, Hebrews 11:31. As such, she was a striking type of the character of the Gentile world. She became one of God's people, and that typified the bringing in of the Gentiles, Ephesians 2:11, 12.

9. Joshua Was a Conqueror.

10. Joshua Conducted His People into the Land of Canaan.

- a. Canaan was a promised land — so is Heaven.

How does this apply to us today?

Like Joshua, men have been appointed by God to the position of leadership.

- Genesis 2:18 - And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
- Genesis 3:16 - Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.
- 1 Corinthians 11:3 - But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
- 1 Timothy 2:12 - But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Like Joshua, the task set before men is difficult

- Men who are husbands are called to lead their wives (she has a natural desire to usurp his authority. Genesis 3:16.)
- Men who are fathers are called to lead their children in addition to their wives. There are “giants” and “high walls” that will destroy a family if the leader isn’t on guard.
- The responsibility of provision falls on the man, and the curse of sin has made it more difficult (Genesis 3:17.)

Today’s Exhortation

1. Men, you have been appointed by God to lead in your respective spheres.
2. Because God has appointed you to accomplish His purposes, like Joseph, you too can have confidence and assurance of victory because He is with you.
3. Be strong. Your strength is found in the LORD
 - a. 1 Corinthians 16:13 - Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
 - b. Ephesians 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
 - c. 2 Timothy 2:1 - Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

4. Be Courageous. Your courage is found in the LORD.
 - a. Psalm 118:6 - The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?
 - b. Proverbs 28:1 - The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.
 - c. Acts 4:31 - And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
 - d. 2 Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
5. Remain under authority. Danger lurks for the leader who acts as if he is supreme!
 - a. Romans 13:1-2 - Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.
 - b. Hebrews 13:7 (CSB) - Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
6. Commit to the Word of God. The scriptures are your guide to protect you and teach you how to glorify God with your leadership.
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
 - b. Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
 - c. Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
 - d. John 15:7 - If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
 - e. James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
7. Remember that the Lord your God is with you! It's not your strength. It's not your ability. Be reminded of who your God is:
 - a. El Shaddai - Lord God Almighty
 - i. This refers to God completely nourishing, satisfying, and supplying His people with all their needs as a mother would her child. Connected with the word for God, El, this denotes a God who freely gives nourishment and blessing; He is our sustainer.
 - b. El Elyon - The Most High God
 - i. It expresses the extreme sovereignty and majesty of God and His highest preeminence.
 - c. Adonai - Lord, Master
 - i. Adonai can be translated literally as, "my lords"

- d. Yahweh - Lord, Jehovah
 - i. Lord, Master, denoting the omnipotence of God
- e. Jehovah Nissi - The Lord my Banner
 - i. In battle, opposing nations would fly their own flag on a pole at each of their respective front lines. This was to give their soldiers a feeling of hope and a focal point. This is what God is to us: a banner of encouragement to give us hope and a focal point.
- f. Jehovah-Raah - The Lord, my Shepherd
 - i. A shepherd is one who feeds or leads his flock to pasture
- g. Jehovah Rapha - The Lord who heals
 - i. Jehovah is the Great Physician who heals the physical and emotional needs of His people.
- h. Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is there.
 - i. The name indicates that God has not abandoned Jerusalem, leaving it in ruins, but that there will be a restoration.
- i. Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will provide
 - i. a symbolic name given to Mount Moriah by Abraham to memorialize the intercession of God in the sacrifice of Isaac by providing a substitute for the imminent sacrifice of his son.
- j. Jehovah Sabaoth - The Lord of Hosts
 - i. This name denotes His universal sovereignty over every army, both spiritual and earthly. The Lord of Hosts is the king of all heaven and earth.

CRC, our Lord has given us a land. Let us go and possess it. For the glory of our King and the good of those we lead. Amen.