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Joshua 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Joshua 1.

Topics.

- God tells Joshua to cross the river Jordan and enter the Promised Land.
- Be strong and courageous and careful to do all the Law of Moses.
- Do not depart from the law and you will have good success.
- Joshua tells Israel in three days they will pass over the river Jordan.
- Moses command, the Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh.
- The Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh obey Joshua.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9). At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

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JOSHUA 1:1-4

Cross the River Jordan and go into the Promised Land.

- **Joshua 1:1-4:** 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. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From 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.

God tells Israel that He will keep His promise that He made to Abraham to give Israel the land. Following is an overview of God's promise to give Abraham the land of Canaan forever.

- God remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, ⁹the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, ¹⁰which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, ¹¹saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance." (Psalm 105:8-11).

This covenant was partially fulfilled during the golden years of David and Solomon, but its ultimate fulfilment is still in the process of being fully and perfectly fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ the promised seed of Abraham (Matt. 1:1). James the brother of Jesus wrote, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness and he was called a friend of God." This means that all who believe in God and have faith in His plan of

salvation are not only counted righteous by faith and a friend of God, but will also receive the promise of Abraham because they by faith become children of Abraham and heirs of the promised eternal inheritance. The apostle Paul in his letter shines a light upon this same truth stating that as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness so then it is those of faith who are the true sons of Abraham. (Gal. 3:6-7). He goes on to say that the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." (Gal. 3:8). This means that those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith (Gal. 3:9) and if they are Christ's (whether Jew or Gentile), then they are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to promise God made to Abraham. (Gal. 3:28-29). Paul amplifies this truth even further by highlighting that the Scripture says that the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offspring's," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. (Gal. 3:16) which means the following two things:

1. Those in Christ receive the promised Spirit of righteousness that leads eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Those in Christ are the true children of Abraham and as his children are heirs of the everlasting promise God made to Abraham saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance." (Psalm 105:10-11).

In chapter eleven of Hebrews (commonly known as the hall of faith) it is written:

- By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-10).

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The author goes on to say that all the faithful of the Old Testament lived as strangers and exiles on the earth, because they desired a better country that is, a heavenly one and because of this God was not ashamed to be called their God and has therefore prepared for them a heavenly city (Heb. 11:13-16). Likewise today Christian walk by faith as citizens not of this world, but as citizens of heaven living amongst foreigners and strangers looking forward to the same city that the Old Testament faithful looked toward, the city whose designer and builder is God that God promised Abraham and the faithful that they would receive as an everlasting inheritance. (Heb. 11:8-10). God at this present time is still in the process of building the everlasting city that both the faithful of the Old and New Testament look forward to. At this present time it is being established worldwide amongst every nation, language and people by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a spiritual city called a new nation in Christ, a new creature in Christ, the church, the global body of Christ and the Kingdom of Christ. This present spiritual city God is building in the hearts and minds of the faithful worldwide will be a literal city on earth when Christ the offspring of Abraham returns in glory to Jerusalem the Holy city of God and gathers the faithful to himself and then rules and reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth perfectly fulfilling God's promise to Abraham Isaac and Jacob and His promise to all who by the same faith belong to Abraham's global family. For further information on this city see the title:

- Spiritual Kingdom of God.

In, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Be Strong and Courageous and Careful to do all the Law of Moses.

- **Joshua 1:5-7:** 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. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only 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.

God tells Joshua that

- No man shall be able to stand before him all the days of his life.
- God will not leave him or forsake him.
- He will cause Israel to inherit the land.

But all of these promises are conditional upon Israel keeping the laws of Moses and remaining faithful to God. If they turn from it, God will turn from them.

JOSHUA 1:8-9

Do Not Depart from the Law and You will Have Good Success.

- **Joshua 1:8-9:** 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. ⁹Have 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."

Following are three keys to honouring God:

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1. Speak and talk about the word of God amongst other faithful brothers and sisters and with others when able.
2. Meditate upon God's word day and night. This does not just mean study to learn all the doctrines it is about meditating upon it to learn godly behaviour and how to live a life that honours God.
3. Apply the good and right things that have been learned and do them.

It is interesting to notice, even though God tells Joshua not to be frightened, or dismayed, because He will be with him wherever he goes, He also tells him four times to be strong and courageous. This shines a light upon the truth that even though God is with a faithful believer it does not guarantee that their life will be always charmed and free of hardships and troubles, but it does guarantee that His love, comfort and grace will be forever with a faithful believer and that He will keep them safe in His grace for eternal life.

JOSHUA 1:10-11

In Three Days, the People will Pass Over the River Jordan.

- **Joshua 1:10-11:** 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.'"

This is an enormous exciting moment for Israel; they have spent forty years in the wilderness and are now about to cross the River Jordan and enter the land God has promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh.

- **Joshua 1:12-15:** 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.' ¹⁴Your 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, ¹⁵until 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."

Prior to this Moses had allotted land on the wilderness side (east) of the Jordan River to the Reubenites the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh. Joshua now tells them that their wives, their children and their livestock could remain in the land that Moses gave them, but all the men of valour amongst them were to pass over the River Jordan to help their brothers possess the land. Once they had taken possession of the land the men could return to their families and the land of their possession.

Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh Obey Joshua.

- **Joshua 1:16-18:** And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷Just 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! ¹⁸Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous."

The men of the Reubenites the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh agree to do as Joshua commanded. Notice the men of the Reubenites the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh recognised: -

- That God was with Joshua.
- How important it was that all Israel obeyed God.
- Obeying the word and command of Joshua was the same as obeying the word and command of God.
- Whoever rebels against the commandment of Joshua was rebelling against God.

They took rebellion against God so seriously that they told Joshua whoever rebels against him and against God should be put to death and then tell him, "to be strong and courageous," showing that though they knew God was on their side, they did not expect that road ahead of them would be free of troubles and hardships.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.