

Sunday Night Message

October 15, 2017

Joshua 1 – *The Leadership Qualities of Joshua*

Series – Joshua

Text – Joshua 1:6 - 9; 18; 24:15 - 16

Introduction to the Book of Joshua

Joshua is the first of the twelve historical Books of the Bible. The breakdown of the Old Testament is as follows:

5 Books of the Law (Genesis – Numbers; also known as The Books of Moses; Pentateuch)

12 Books of History (Joshua – Esther)

5 Books of Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)

5 Major Prophets (Isaiah – Daniel)

12 Minor Prophets (Hosea to Malachi)

39 Old Testament Books Total

The name Joshua means “Jehovah is salvation”. It is the Hebrew equivalent of the name, “Jesus”.

Joshua was “the son of Nun” from the Tribe of Ephraim. (Numbers 13:8) Joshua was most likely born in Egyptian slavery. He served as Moses minister (Exodus 24:13; Joshua 1:1) He remained separated from the apostate congregation of Israel when Moses was up on the mount with God. (Exodus 32:7 – 18) He and Caleb brought back a good report after spying out the land, whereas the other ten spies brought back an evil report. (Numbers 13:1 – 14:9) Twice, God said of Joshua that he had “the spirit”:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;" (Numbers 27:18)

"And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses."

(Deuteronomy 34:9)

It is believed that this Book was written around 1400 B. C. by Joshua (see Joshua 24:26), though some parts of the Book could not have been written by him. (Joshua 24:29 – 31) The author had to be an eyewitness of the recorded events. (Joshua 5:1 – “we”; 5:6 – “us”) Rahab the harlot hid two spies in chapter 2, and was still alive when the Book of Joshua was written, so it is likely that Joshua was written shortly after the events recorded in the Book:

"And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." (Joshua 6:25)

The Book had to have been written before the reign of David. Joshua records:

"As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day." (Joshua 15:63)

2 Samuel 5:5 – 9 records that David eliminated the Jebusites from Jerusalem.

The context of this Book primarily deals with the entering in of the People of Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. This Book picks up where Deuteronomy leaves off. God told Moses to choose Moses for his replacement. (See Numbers 27:12 – 23; Deuteronomy 31:7 - 15)

According to Ryrie:

The book describes the conquest and division of the land of Canaan and is set against the background of the corrupt and brutal features of Canaanite religion, depicted clearly in the Ras Shamra Tablets. Prostitution of both sexes, infant sacrifice, and religious syncretism were some of the evils for which God commanded the Israelites to exterminate the inhabitants of Canaan. Much of the later spiritual declension in Israel was due to the fact that the Canaanites were not completely destroyed. As a result, their religion was tolerated and frequently absorbed by the Israelites.¹

The emphasis of the Book is on the faithfulness of God in keeping His promise to the Children of Israel; the holiness of God in judging the Canaanites, and the importance of the Word of God.

I The Commission of Joshua (vs. 1 – 4)

God promises to give to Israel the land that He had previously promised Moses. The land is described as extending northward to Lebanon, westward to the Euphrates River, southward to the wilderness, and eastward to Mediterranean Sea. (See Map)

II The Courage and Qualifications Needed for the Job (vs. 5 – 9)

Four times in Joshua chapter one, God admonishes Joshua to be strong and courageous. Joshua had a very difficult task ahead of him: he was to take over for perhaps the greatest leader the world had ever seen – Moses. He was to bring the congregation of Israel into the land of promise, and he was to lead them in battle against all of the inhabitants of the land. This was a huge job for any man, and God wanted to make sure that Joshua was mentally prepared for what lay ahead for him. When we get to the end of the Book of Joshua and the end of Joshua's life, we see that Joshua is still a good man; he is still standing for the Lord, and he is leading his

¹ Ryrie, C. C. (1994). Ryrie study Bible: King James Version (Expanded ed., p. 335). Chicago: Moody Press.

house, his family, his children to do the same.

Joshua had demonstrated courage and strength in his life prior to his being given the position as the leader of the nation of Israel, and continued to manifest these attributes throughout his life as he led the people of God. Consider the three qualities that Joshua possessed as the leader of Israel, and also as the leader of his family:

- 1 **He Was Willing to Serve.** Before he was Israel's leader, he was "Moses minister". It takes a strong and secure man to serve another man faithfully. Joshua was the "behind the scenes guy" in much of the first five books of the Bible, but we never read of Joshua murmuring or rebelling in any way against the leadership of Moses. He served Moses for 40 years as they wandered through the wilderness.

The word minister means to serve. In order to serve someone, you need to be humble. Pride demands to be served; pride demands the spotlight. It takes a humble, yet secure man to serve – most of the times behind the scenes, not receiving the credit.

"But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel." - (Philippians 2:22)

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:" - (Acts 13:36)

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." - (Psalm 100:2)

In order to serve someone, you will also need to be willing to work. The Bible says that if a man desires the office of a bishop, he desires a good work. If a man is going to serve his family, he will have to be willing to work. Paul told the men at the church at Thessalonica that if they would not work, they should not eat.

- 2 **He Was a Student of the Word of God.** He was an expert in the Law that God had given Moses. God stated that the "Book of the Law" was in his mouth. (Joshua 1:8) He knew the Bible. He had studied the Scriptures with his mentor for 40 years.

In order for men to serve God, we must know what God expects of us. We are bombarded daily with the philosophies of the world system that surrounds us. Most of these philosophies are in complete contradiction to the principles contained in the Word of God. We spend far too much time being influenced by the world, and not enough time allowing the word of God to influence us.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his

law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." - (Psalm 1:1-6)

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." - (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

Joshua's source of strength was the Word of God:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - (Hebrews 4:12)

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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." - (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." - (Psalm 119:105)

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." - (Proverbs 3:5-6)

3 He Was Faithful to Stand for God. Back in Exodus, when the rest of the congregation, including Aaron, was worshipping a golden calf, Joshua was separated from them, waiting patiently for the return of Moses.

When ten of the spies came back with an evil report after spying the land, Joshua and Caleb came back ready to fight. They knew that their God was far superior to any giants that were opposing them in the land of Canaan.

At the end of his life, he was able to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord". He told his peers, "You do what you want to do, but we are going to stand for the Lord".

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil

day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" - (Ephesians 6:13-18)

Those three qualities – serving, studying, and standing - are the ingredients of a great leader, and the ingredients of a great dad. Joshua was someone who knew what was right to do, and was strong and courageous enough to do it, even when the rest of the crowd was pushing him and pressuring him to move in the other direction. We could use some more Joshua's in America today. We could use a few more good men (and women). Are you willing to be one?

We are living in very dark days – “perilous times” – God says to you and me today “be strong and courageous” – serve my people, study my Word, and stand for what is right.

III The Commnadment of Joshua to the People (vs. 10 – 15)

A To the Officers (vs. 10 – 11)

B To the Reubenites, Gadites, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh (vs. 12 – 15)

See Numbers 32 for the background to this story.

IV The Cooperation of the People (vs. 16 – 18)

The people of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh pledged complete obedience to Joshua. The Background to this story can be found in Numbers 32. [The following notes were taken from a message original preached on March 4, 2012]

Sunday Morning Message

March 4, 2012

Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out

Topic – The Sin of Discouraging

Text – Numbers 32:1 - 23

Congregational Reading – Numbers 32:20 - 23

Introduction

Read v. 23 again

Explain how the phrase “*Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out*” is commonly used.

Examples: a man and woman committing adultery; a child cheating on a test (illustrate with some of the ways kids have cheated at the academy (blue ink in a red barrel pen at

the grading station; grading keys taken home; text messaging during tests)

Any sin that a man can commit can be applicable to this Biblical principle.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." - (Galatians 6:7)

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops." - (Luke 12:2-3)

We can't hide anything from God – He sees it all

We never get away with anything.

However, in the immediate context of this passage the phrase “be sure your sin will find you out” is not used in reference to some act of immorality – it is referring to a group of people discouraging another group of people from the fulfillment of the will of God.

Begin reading in v. 1 and explain the story behind the phrase. (Refer to maps)

Transition

The Bible has a lot to say about discouraging people:

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." - (Matthew 18:6)

"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." - (Colossians 3:21)

Discouraging others from fulfilling the will of God for their life is a sin. God wants us to lift up and encourage one another to do the things that He has willed us to do.

This morning I want to consider three ways that you and I can encourage each other in the will of God.

I Your Attendance (Your Presence - Just Being There)

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." - (Hebrews 10:23-25)

We have recently studied in our Wednesday Night series on The Life and Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ when our Lord was about to be crucified, and then He was to soon ascend into Heaven. The Lord admonished the disciples to stick together – to love one another – to assemble together.

Your presence can be a great encouragement.

Illustrate – church planters often get discouraged because there are not initially a lot of people attending their services.

Illustrate – yesterday a group of us went out in the bus and knocked on 159 doors.

Illustrate – large turnout for Melissa’s funeral was an encouragement to the Stahls

II Your Actions (Your Participation)

As far as our corporate worship is concerned – when you come – participate in the services.

- 1 Sing the songs of God
- 2 Greet people
- 3 Look for somebody that needs encouragement
- 4 Look for visitors and help them feel comfortable
- 5 Be willing to help out – nursery, ushers, greeters, junior church, bus workers and drivers, soul winners, disciplers, SS teachers, help set up, help clean up (Illustrate – Brother Bob F. helped me clean up after the banquet)

Get involved in your church – Your participation is a great way to encourage others to get involved – and the more people we get involved – the more we will be able to win to Christ, and then train to win others.

III Your Attitude (Your Position – Be Positive and Supportive)

The expression on your face can either be a source of encouragement or a source of discouragement to the people around you.

The words that you say will either point people to Christ and the will of God, or point them away.

You should not have to manufacture a good attitude artificially, either. We have an awful lot to be happy about.

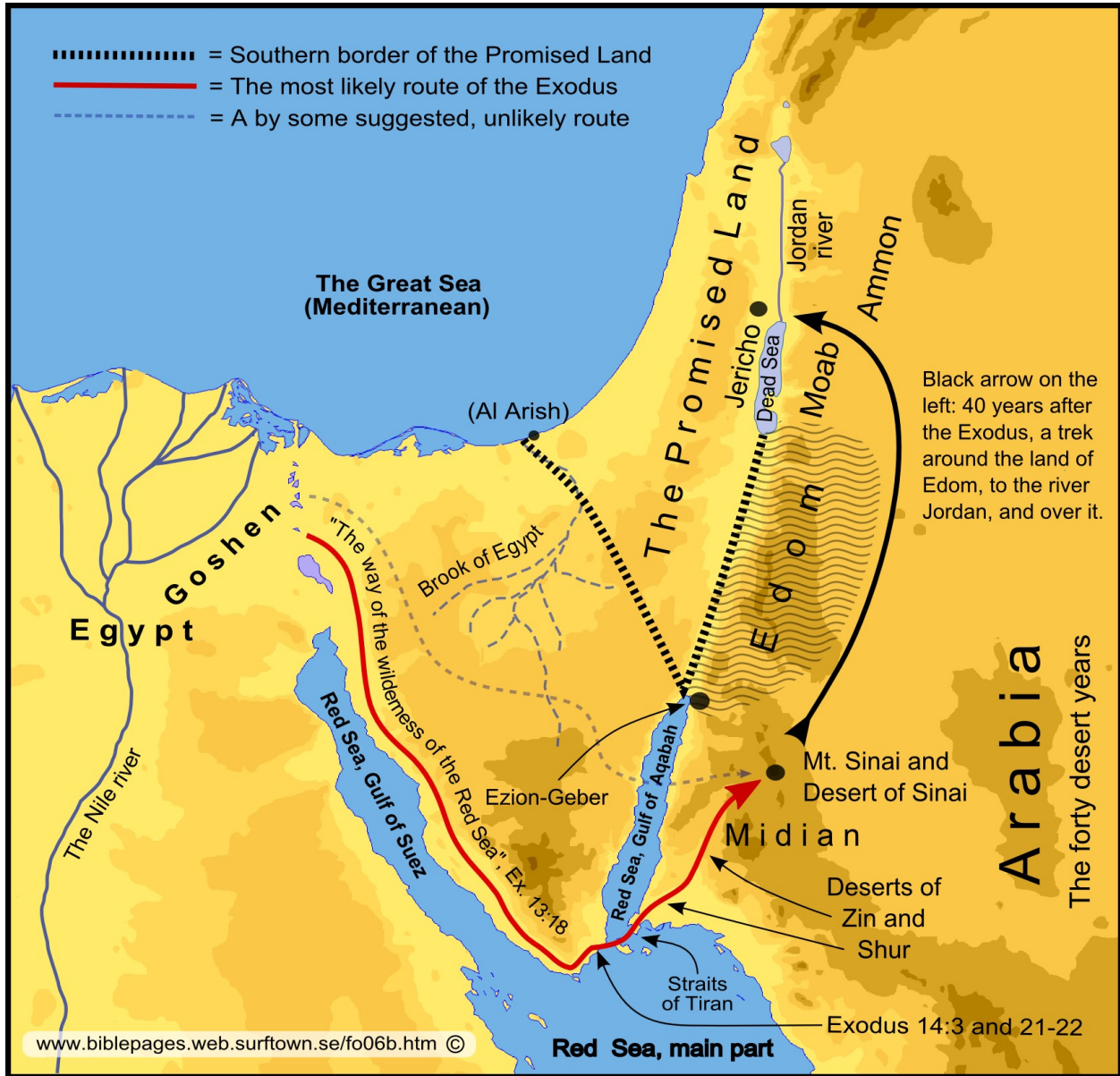
Let your face be an advertisement for the goodness of God.

Conclusion

Illustration – Ray Chaney – always had a kind word to say – never got involved in the junk going around in the church.

Let your attendance (presence), your actions (your participation), and your attitude (your positive position) be a source of encouragement to those around you.

Map 1 – Wandering in Wilderness



Map 2 Land Divisions

Conclusion

As we conclude Joshua Chapter One, let's be reminded of what we have seen:

- I **The Commission of Joshua (vs. 1 – 4)**
- II **The Courage and Qualifications Needed for the Job (vs. 5 – 9)**
 - 1 **He Was Willing to Serve.**
 - 2 **He Was a Student of the Word of God.**
 - 3 **He Was Faithful to Stand for God.**
- III **III The Commnadment of Joshua to the People (vs. 10 – 15)**
 - A **To the Officers (vs. 10 – 11)**
 - B **To the Reubenites, Gadites, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh (vs. 12 – 15)**
- IV **The Cooperation of the People (vs. 16 – 18)**

As of now, everything looks good for the people of God.

Israel had nothing but opportunity in front of them. They had an invincible God, and awesome human leader, and wide-open land before them. All they had to do was trust God and obey Him. If we were to stop reading now, we would be tempted to think that everything went according to plan. However, our understanding of human nature and sin should help us realize that man would limit the unlimited plan of God.