

# GOD'S PEP-TALK TO JOSHUA

Joshua 1: 1-9

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## Introduction:

- A. Everyone needs a pep-talk once in a while:
  - 1. When best efforts seem not to be enough.
  - 2. When past experiences give little encouragement.
  - 3. When present and future responsibilities seem too big for a hundred like us.
  - 4. When so much seems to be demanded and we seem to have so little to give.
- B. Joshua needed a pep-talk and God gave it to him.
  - 1. His past experience was not very encouraging.
    - a. Had been here before — eager to go -stopped by a fearful, mourning people.
    - b. Had seen his generation die in the wilderness.
    - c. Had seen how the people got to Moses, causing him to miss Canaan
  - 2. His present situation was not very encouraging.
    - a. Was not as young as was when had returned as a spy saying, “We are able.”
    - b. Did not have Moses to lean on any more for strength and counsel.
    - c. Had a generation that did not share his memory of Egyptian bondage.
  - 3. His immediate future raised many questions.
    - a. Had the enemy become stronger or weaker in 40 years?
    - b. How well would his own people support him and fight with him under pressure?
    - c. How many battles before final victory? Would there be any set-backs? What was God's timetable?
- C. God's pep-talk had a simple two-fold message for Joshua.

## I. "Moses My Servant is Dead."

- A. Joshua and Israel knew that! Had mourned 30 days.
- B. Joshua and Israel must accept that! — Could not live in the past!
  - 1. Little profit in second-guessing the past: What if Moses had not sinned?
  - 2. Little profit in dwelling on what could have been — if ???
  - 3. Little accomplished by scapegoat hunting for past mistakes.
- C. Joshua and Israel must now arise, attend to the task at hand: "Arise."
  - 1. Like Paul later, "forgetting those things behind . . ." (Phi 3:12).
  - 2. Like Paul's attitude toward John Mark (cf. Col. 4: 10).

## II. Be Strong and of Good Courage:

- A. Enough to trust God's promise (v. 6).
  - 1. What a land for people without a land! (vs. 3, 4).
  - 2. A land worth waiting for! A land worth working for! A land worth fighting for!
  - 3. Yet, still only possessed in promise.
- B. Enough to trust God's power and providence (v. 5).
  - 1. How powerful were the Canaanites? — God more powerful.

2. What if we run into more problems than we can handle? (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13).
  3. Why not tell us in advance all the details of the conquest? (cf. Acts 20:22-24).
- C. Enough to trust God's presence (vs. 5, 9).
1. "Have I not commanded you? — as if “Do it and leave results to me!”
  2. Would the Lord command hem into battle and leave them stranded?
  3. Would the Lord command them into action and leave them without support?
- D. Enough to do God's precepts (vss. 7-8).
1. "Only be strong . . . that you may observe . . .": If Joshua only do this, God will take care of the rest.
  2. Strong and courageous enough:
    - a. To do according to law (cf. Jas. 1:25).
    - b. To not turn to right or left (cf. 2 John 9).
    - c. To keep word in mouth (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
    - d. To meditate on it day and night (cf. Psa. 1: 1 ff).
    - e. To do all that is written (cf. Acts 20:20, 27).

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Why does it take so much strength and courage to put such trust in God?
1. We have to forego immediate gratification for distant promise.
  2. We must act on His power, presence, and providence when it may not be apparent.
  3. We have to meditate and speak His word, when so much else to get attention.
  4. We must keep doing it His way when other ways seem faster and more effective.
- B. Let us arise and do the task at hand — letting God take care of the outcome.