

## 2010 JUNE 6 PROMISED LAND HEROS- JOSHUA TAKES COMMAND

Joshua 1:1-18

This past month has been one of stress  
As we watch the ongoing disaster of the Louisiana oil spill.  
Thousands of people are out of work,  
The fishing food chain has been disrupted,  
The Wildlife refuges with birds and animals are in grave danger.

We also watch the Middle East heat up  
With a trap set up by the Palestine Gaza Freedom fighters,  
Who challenged Israel's three-year blockade on the coastal strip.  
Their was gunfire and loss of life.  
Now the nations of the world are choosing sides.

Iran and North Korea continue their search for nuclear weapons,  
Afghanistan continues to promote and train terrorists,  
And in the US thousands of illegal cross the border  
In a mass invasion of this country.  
Leaving behind not just sleeping bags and back packs  
but copies of the Koran

We all seek security

We all live with our fears.

30 years ago Researchers at Johns Hopkins University reported  
the greatest fears of grade school children were:

1) Animals, 2) Being in a dark room, 3) High places, 4) Strangers, 5) Loud noises.

Today, kids fear 1) Divorce, 2) Nuclear war, 3) Cancer, 4) Pollution, 5) Being mugged.

*Back to the Bible Today, Summer, 1990, p. 5.*

Wow no wonder our children want to feel like there in good hands.

**I love the old story of a group of botanists who were searching**  
for a new varieties of flowers in the Alps.

One day they saw a beautiful, rare species growing at the bottom of a deep ravine.

To reach it, someone would have to be lowered into that gorge.

So they asked one of the smaller local youngsters  
if he would help them get the flower.

The boy was told that a rope would be tied around his waist  
and the men would then lower him to the floor of the canyon.

Excited yet apprehensive about the adventure,  
the youngster peered thoughtfully into the chasm.

"Wait," he said, "I'll be back," and off he dashed.

He returned accompanied by an older man.

The boy said "I'll go over the cliff now and get the flower for you,  
but this man must hold onto the rope. He's my dad!" Our Daily Bread.

Who is it that is holding the rope for you?

In your fears

Facing your future?

The people of Israel had been wandering in the desert for 40 years.  
Even though their clothes didn't wear out,

Their bodies did,  
 And a whole generation died in the wilderness.  
 Including Moses  
 Now they were about to enter into a new land.  
 Full of new enemies.  
 And walled cities,  
 And well trained armies.  
 And new fears.

Who would hold the rope for them?  
 We have heard of promise rings, and promise bracelets,  
 God is going to give them a promised land.  
 And promised security.  
 Because God is a promise keeper,

### **I. GOD'S PROMISE OF SECURITY AND LAND.**

**2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them-to the Israelites. Joshua 1:2**

The promises of God once given are never broken.  
 If you and I are living in Christ.  
 The same promise given to Moses  
 Is a promise that we can trust for us.  
 But a promise does not mean inaction or no work.

Did you notice what God said

**I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Joshua 1:3**

I don't know about you,  
 But that sounds like we best get walking.  
 Just because God promises us something,  
 Doesn't mean that we are free to do nothing.

We may have been promised the family farm or business.  
 But that doesn't mean you retire and move to town and  
 Wait for it to come to us.  
 No,  
 We still have to work the farm,  
 We still have to till the soil.  
 In fact the more promised land we receive,  
 The more work and responsibly we acquire.

Why should it be different with our Spiritual lives?  
 The more promises God completes in us in forgiveness, grace, peace and mercy.  
 The more he expect us to work the ground of grace and mercy,  
 To Pass on the fruit of our forgiveness and tolerance to others.

That's why God put the responsibility on us  
 To be the first to go and seek forgiveness,  
 To be the first to reconcile with a brother or sister  
 Don't expect a non-Christian world to act like Christ's followers.  
 They won't

They don't  
 They can't  
 Because it's not their nature.  
 We can't expect a frog to bark  
 Or a dog to chirp  
 It's not their nature.

So Friends, let's get walking.  
 When we do God opens the doors of opportunity in the world.  
 Because we know better,  
 We can live better,  
 We can share more.  
 It is going to take a lot more energy to do it.

When Joshua was given command  
 He didn't sit down and bask in his new office,  
 No his first act was to Cross the Jordan, at flood time.  
 And then to lead the wars of conquest against  
 Six mighty nations and thirty-one kings Joshua 11:18-23, 12:24

Does that sound like an easy task?  
 No,  
 Then Joshua was to divide the land among the tribes,  
 Remember the tribes were the 12 sons of Jacob.

How easy is it to divide a candy bar between your two children?  
 Let alone between 12 children.  
 No matter what their age.  
 Joshua dies at the age of one hundred and ten years,  
 twenty-five years after having crossed the Jordan.  
 He was buried in his own city of Timnath-serah ([Joshua 24](#))  
 and **"the light of Israel for the time faded away."**

Friends like Israel America seems to be living in a day  
 When the light of Christ for the time is fading away.  
 We live in a day when God is seeking a man or woman  
 To stand in the gap.  
 He is looking for leaders, such as Joshua.  
 He found Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses  
 But who will he find today?  
 Will you be that person God can use.  
 Don't worry about how.  
 Just worry about now.  
 Once we received Christ and his commissioning,  
 then we receive his blessing in leadership.

## **II. GOD PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE IN LEADERSHIP**

When God called Joshua,  
 He confirmed him with the words.

**⁵ No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; Joshua 1:5**

What a wonderful life verse.

God said:

As I was with Moses bringing on the 10 plagues.

As I was with Moses destroying the Egyptian army in the red sea

As I was with Moses when I brought water out of the rocks,

Manna from the ground,

Quail from the air,

And victory over enemies.

So I will be with you.

Then after forty years in the wilderness.

Moses commissioned Joshua as the Prime minister of God.

To lead the people into the promised land.

Moses said to Joshua in the sight of all Israel.

**“Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. (8) And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”**

**Deuteronomy 31:7-8**

Joshua’s name meant salvation

But Moses changed it to mean “The Lord Saves”

No other person bore this title in the same way

except our Lord Jesus.

If God is calling you,

Then he will also qualify you. and

He will go with you.

It doesn’t mean everyone will accept you.

It doesn’t mean that you won’t have doubts,

Or second thoughts,

Or even feelings of insecurity.

We all get nervous about doing things for the first time.

What it means is God will go with you.

**A child had to walk each evening past a dark, spooky house. Some adults tried to give him courage. One handed him a good-luck charm to ward off the ghosts. Another installed a light at a particularly dark corner of the house. A third took a more spiritual approach, saying, "It's sinful to be afraid. Trust God and be brave!" Then one friend said "I know what it's like to be afraid. I'll walk with you past the house." And instantly the child's fears were gone.**

**As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

**Joshua 1:5**

God is faithful,

He not only put his stamp of approval on Joshua,

But his spirit within him.

When God has a great work to accomplish,

he will provide himself suitable instruments;

I don’t know God’s plan for your life.

Neither do you.  
 But for all you know,  
 He is training you and shaping you this very moment to step in and serve

### III. GOD'S PROMISE OF SUCCESS IN LEADERSHIP

In three short verses

God repeats his words to Joshua

**Be strong and courageous Vs. 6**

**Be strong and very courageous. Vs. 7**

**Be strong and courageous. Vs. 9**

What is promised to Joshua in particular

Is promised to the people in general.

That he will be with us,

**Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9**

And that he will provide for us the leadership we need.

So we need to stop looking back and move forward.

**A young college student was complaining about how demanding life had become and** was lamenting the loss of the good old days. The faculty advisor told me that he needed to learn to say, "That part of my life is over; this is what my life is about now." Or in other words, "You're not in high school anymore, kid. Get over it."

Edmund Burke said "The past should be a springboard, not a hammock."

What God promised Joshua he promises Every Christian

That he will be with us,

And that he has given us his spirit and the word.

So the Angel of the Lord gave Joshua four rules for Christian leadership:

First, **Joshua was to know God's Word.**

**Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:7**

That means don't twist God's word to fit your circumstance.

Don't compromise God truth to fit your morals.

Take it as it is.

We don't take a road map

And twist or fold it to make your trip shorter.

The map shows where the road lies.

God's word shows us where the truth lives.

Secondly, **Joshua was to talk about God's Word.**

**Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth. Joshua 1:8**

Clearly, Joshua and every Christian

Is called upon to use God's word in his daily conversation.

This is difficult in a society that barely tolerates Christianity

If we keep our beliefs out of the workplace,

Out of the schools,

Out of our politics,

And confine them only to church on Sunday,

But we can't.

**Do not let the book of the Law depart from your mouth. Joshua 1:8**

One little school in the south wanted to hold their graduation  
Service in a church because they needed the space for family and friends.  
The courts said they couldn't because they would be  
Lifting up a particular religion.  
It's a strange day when our church buildings are even considered contaminated.

Third, **Joshua was to mediate on God's Word.**

**Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8**

Mediate means to study, know, and apply.

If you are going to lead your family,  
Be the spiritual head of your home and marriage,  
Then gather your family and open God's word together.  
Contemplate what it means for you.  
Read your bible.

**FOURTH: Joshua was to do God word**

**Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8**

Its one thing to know it,  
Its another thing to obey it,  
And when we do God promise

**Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8**

**Review: First to know Gods word, Talk about, Meditate on God's word, to do God's word**

**“When James Garfield (later President of the U.S.) was principal of Hiram College in Ohio, a father asked him if the course of study could be simplified so that his son might be able to go through by a shorter route. Garfield replied: "Certainly, but it all depends on what you want to make of your boy. When God wants to make an oak tree, He takes a hundred years. When He wants to make a squash he requires only two months.”** Garfield said: “We are producing too many squashes and not enough oak trees in our day.” [sermonillustrated](#).

So what are our churches full of? Squash or oaks?  
We have 50 million Christians in the United States,  
But very few leaders like Joshua.

So today, if you're facing some insurmountable obstacles,  
If your dealing with trials,  
And maybe some temptations and tests,  
Maybe even feel your facing some evil of this world.  
Then turn to God's word,  
Study it and use it and  
Believe what God has promised to you:

**That he will never fail you nor forsake you. As I was with Moses so I will be with you. Joshua 1:5**