

Joshua 1 - 2

Be Strong & Courageous

Lesson 1

The first section of the Old Testament, referred to as “The Pentateuch”, is comprised of the first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy), sometimes called “The Books of Moses” or “The Law”. These are the foundational books that tell of the beginning of the earth, humanity and the nation Israel. The book of Joshua, begins the second section called “The Books of History” (Joshua through Esther).

Joshua continues the story that began in Exodus by recounting how God fulfilled His promise to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Joshua is the story of conquest and fulfillment. 400 years after receiving the promise, God’s people finally “*enter and take possession of the Promised Land*”.

God, Commander & Chief, Gave Joshua His Command - 1:1-18

1. How long do you think it was after the death of Moses that God gave Joshua his command? (Use Deut. 34:8 for reference)

2. What were God’s instructions to Joshua? (vs. 2)

3. God gave Joshua several promises to take into battle, what were they? (vs. 3-5)

4. Three times in verses 6-9 God said “be strong and courageous” then gave a reason, Explain
 - Verse 6:

 - Verses 7, 8:

 - Verse 9:

5. Joshua, in obedience to God's command, went to the leaders of the tribes. What did he say? (vs. 10,11)
6. Why did Joshua speak separately to the Reubenites, Gadites and the ½ tribe of Manasseh? (vs. 12-15 and Numbers 32)
7. How did these tribes respond to Joshua's reminder? (vs. 16-18a)
8. Reuben, Gad & the ½ tribe also gave Joshua a rallying cry. What did they say to him? (vs. 18b)
9. Imagine yourself being in camp that day. Choose a person (Joshua, a tribal leader, a warrior or a woman - either of the Transjordan tribes or the other 9 ½ tribes) and write what they may be feeling or thinking.

Rahab & The Spies - 2:1 - 24

10. In Numbers 13, Israel was ready to enter the Promised Land. Spies were sent to see what the land was like with 10 of the 12 spies reporting "we can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are". (Numbers 13:31) What was Joshua's, who was one of the spies, assessment of the situation? (Numbers 14:6-9)
11. As Israel's new leader, what was Joshua's first strategy? (vs. 1a)

12. What do you think Joshua expected to find out?
13. What strategy did the spies use to gain this information? (vs. 1b)
14. Who did Rahab say God was? (vs. 11)
15. What was her request and what reason did she give for asking? (vs. 12,13)
16. What do you think Rahab believed would happen to Jericho?
17. How did the spies answer her request? (vs. 14)
18. Rahab seemed to be a strategist herself. What counsel did she give the spies to avoid being captured? (vs. 15,16)
19. Do you think this Gentile, Rahab, might be a part of God's plan? (vs. 11)
20. Though this seemed like a place least likely to be noticed, what happened? (vs. 2,3)
21. Speculate on how you think the king of Jericho knew the spies were in Jericho?
22. What did Rahab do and say? (vs. 4-7)
23. What did Rahab say to the spies? (vs. 8-11)

24. What might the spies be thinking as she says this? (Deuteronomy 2:25)
25. What did the spies call their agreement with Rahab? (vs. 17)
26. Who did she make them swear by? (vs. 12)
27. The spies add two addendum's to this oath. What were they? (vs. 17-20)
28. What's her reply to these conditions? (vs. 21)
29. What happened after three days? (vs. 22-24)
30. Reading verse 24 you can almost hear the excitement in the voices of the spies. How much land did they say the Lord would give them?
 - How many people were melting in fear?
 - Why?

Think about it!

Studying chapter 2, I was amazed as I saw how the faith of one very unlikely woman had such a profound effect on the Israelite spies and ultimately the whole nation of Israel! I saw how God used the faith of one person to have a powerful effect on both the believers and non-believers.

I couldn't help but ask, *"Do I ... do you ... have that kind of faith?"*