

LESSONS FROM JOSHUA

Victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word

Chapter 1

1 Read & Obey the Book

1 the Lord spake unto Joshua

2 **arise, go** over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, **unto the land which I do give to them**, even to the children of Israel.

3 **Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you,**

5-6 **There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life:** as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: **I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage:**

7-9 **Only be thou strong and very courageous,** that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: **for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.** Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage;** be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people (obedience)

13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you,

16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, (obedience)

18 **only be strong and of a good courage.**

How could Joshua possibly fail?

1 the Lord spake unto Joshua

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you,

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

9 the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Chapter 2

2 God uses sinners to accomplish His plan and purpose

1 Joshua sent two men to spy and **they went and came into an harlot's house**, named Rahab, and lodged there

4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them

9 And she said unto the men, I know that **the Lord hath given you the land**, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for **the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**

22-23 and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not. So the two men returned,

24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

Chapter 3

3 To be set aside for God's plan and purpose you must follow *after* God, and He will guide you

2-4 the officers went through the host; And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go *after* it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

5 And Joshua said unto the people, *Sanctify yourselves*: for to morrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

6 And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over *before* the people.

7 And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day will *I* begin to magnify thee

9 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and *hear the words* of the Lord your God.

10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail

11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over *before* you into Jordan.

15-16 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord *stood firm* on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: Isaiah 43:2

What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? Mark 4:41

Chapter 4

4 Stand firm in the Lord until God's work in you is finished, and let your children know what God has done.

10 For the priests which bare the ark *stood* in the midst of Jordan, *until every thing was finished* that the Lord commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua:

21-22 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall *let your children know*, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.

Chapter 5

5 Recognize and be reminded that God is in control, and as His servant you are to worship and obey Him.

Why did God present Himself before Joshua here?

Spurgeon

If you desire to see Christ you must grow to be like him, and labour to serve him with heart, and soul, and strength. Christ comes not in the visions of the night to those who toss upon the bed of indolence, but he reveals himself in the night watches to those who learn to watch and war. Bring yourselves, by the power of the Spirit, into union with Christ's desires, and motives, and plans of action, and you are likely to see him.

For God is in no hurry. His purposes can be accomplished without haste, and though he would have us redeem the time because our days are evil, yet in his eternity he can afford to wait, and by his wisdom he so orders his delays, that they prove to be far better than our hurries.

Jesus himself comes to this holy war. Joshua saw a man clad in armour, equipped for war. Cannot the eyes of your faith see the same?

The divine presence then is what we desire, and if we have it, brethren, faith at once is encouraged.

When the King is with us, faith is confident, because God girds faith as with a golden girdle, and from head to foot clothes her with a panoply of armour, and puts a sword into her hand which is all destroying, and with which she cuts through coats of mail, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Where Jesus is, love becomes inflamed, for oh! of all the things in the world that can set the heart burning, there is nothing like the presence of Jesus.

If we do but know that Jesus is here, every power will be developed, and every grace will be strengthened, and we shall cast ourselves into the Lord's battle with heart, and soul, and strength. There is not a single part of our inner man which will not be bettered by the presence of Christ; therefore is this to be desired above all things.

Bring yourselves, by the power of the Spirit, into union with Christ's desires, and motives, and plans of action, and you are likely to see him.

What a relief this must have been for Joshua. Perhaps he thought himself the captain; but now the responsibility was taken from him

Christ is your Master. You are not to say, "I prefer this or that doctrine." What have you to do with likes or dislikes? Believe what he tells you. You are not to say, "I prefer a certain form of worship." What have you to do with preferences? Worship as the Master bids you. Alas! for the day when whims and tastes and fancies come into the Christian church to lead the people. All this Puseyism which we hear so much outcry about, is simply the putting up of taste into the place of simple obedience to Christ. If we would but just keep close to Christ's word, we should be right enough. I pray each believer here to recollect that he is in no respect his own master in the things of God, but that Christ is Commander in chief.

Let the word of God be paramount within the soul, all opposition being hushed.

Joshua, it is said, fell on his face to the earth. Worship is the highest elevation of the spirit, and yet the lowliest prostration of the soul.

Worship the Son of God! Then, when you have so done, give up yourself to his command: say to him, "What saith my Lord unto his servant?" What is there for me to learn, for me to feel, for me to do?

go out to your work this afternoon and all the remaining days of your life, as a servant of God who is standing in the presence of his Lord upon holy ground, and cannot therefore afford to trifle, since he has solemn work to do, and means to do it in his Master's name.

Jesus Christ came into this world to seek and to save that which was lost. He took the sins of his people, and God punished him for our sins instead of punishing us. Christ is the great Substitute for sin. If you trust him you shall live. If you will take him this day to be your Saviour, and to be your Master and your Lord, you shall never perish, for God has pledged his word for it, that if you believe in him you shall be saved. O that you would look to Christ, and live! Your good works are nothing, your tears and prayers all go for nothing as to merit, but if you look to Jesus hanging from yonder cross, you shall live.

Chapter 6

6 SEE the result of your faith and obedience

2 And the Lord said unto Joshua, **See, I have given** into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat,

16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for **the Lord hath given you the city.**

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and **the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat**, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, **and they took the city.**

Chapter 7

7 When you GIVE UP on God, GET UP and obey God!

6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?

10 And the Lord said unto Joshua, **Get thee up**; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them:

13 **Up**, sanctify the people, and say, **Sanctify yourselves** against to morrow:

O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

15 And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.

Chapter 8

8 Fear not and be ready for God to do a great work in and through you. Obey His commands and remember His Words.

1 And the Lord said unto Joshua, **Fear not**, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, **go** up to Ai: see, **I have given** into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:

4 And he commanded them, saying, Behold, ye shall lie in wait against the city, even behind the city: go not very far from the city, but **be ye all ready**:

7 Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for **the Lord your God will deliver it** into your hand.

8 **according to the commandment of the Lord shall ye do.**

27 according unto the word of the Lord

30-31 Then Joshua built an altar unto the Lord God of Israel in mount Ebal, As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings.

34-35 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. ***There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not*** before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6