

Strong and Courageous – Joshua

Father's Day – 2018

You and I will be hard pressed to inherit the promises of God without being strong in courage! In the midst of one of the greatest transitions in the history of the nation of Israel, God speaks to Joshua and commands him to be strong and courageous. The Lord commissions Joshua to lead the people into the promise land. It would take incredible leadership strength and courage to ensure a forty- year delay would come to pass.

God's Commission to Joshua

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:1-9)

Passage commentary

Three times Joshua is told by the Lord to be strong and very courageous (vv. 6, 7& 9). The size and duration of the task ahead, the pressures of leading such an obstinate people, and the absence of his spiritual mentor, Moses, were perhaps heavy on Joshua's mind at this time. But the Lord was not calling him without enabling him. There were good

reasons for Joshua to be strong: God's promise (vv. 5, 6), a sure victory; God's Word (vv. 7, 8), a safe guide; God's presence (v. 9), a sustaining power. – Believers Bible commentary

Definitions

“Strong” - khaw-zak'

A primitive root; to fasten upon; hence to seize, be strong (figuratively **courageous**, causatively strengthen, cure, help, repair, fortify), obstinate; to bind, restrain, conquer: - aid, amend, X calker, catch, cleave, confirm, be constant, constrain, continue, be of good (take) courage (-ous, -ly), encourage (self), be established, fasten, force, fortify, make hard, harden, help, (lay) hold (fast), lean, maintain, play the man, mend, become (wax) mighty, prevail, be recovered, repair, retain, seize, be (wax) sore, strengten (self), be stout, be (make, shew, wax) strong (-er), be sure, take (hold), be urgent, behave self valiantly, withstand.

Good courage – “aw-mats”

A primitive root;

- To be **alert**, physically (on foot) or mentally: - confirm, be courageous
- Steadfastly minded, strong, stronger), establish, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strengthen (self), make strong (obstinate, speed).
 - o From Strong's Concordance

Main Points

Joshua displayed incredible strength and courage in his life. His initial conversation and commission from God set the course of his destiny. We can learn so much from the life, call and leadership of this amazing man.

1. Strong in spirit

a. ***Joshua 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

- i. Put God in the RIGHT place in your life

2. Strong in family leadership

***Joshua 24:15** And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

- Lead your family in spirit – not your wife or your children
- Strong in decision making
- Strong in word – keep the promises you make
- Strong in mind and emotions
- Leave and cleave – not stay and
- The family table is the most powerful place in your home

3. Strong in your purpose/diligence

- a. **Joshua 17:18** *but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong."*
 - i. Before God gave Adam a wife, He gave him a job

Closing Scripture

Joshua 10:25 Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

"God can't be courageous for you; you will have to do that yourself"