



Lesson 65

A New Leader for Israel

Story Elements

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Joshua 1:1-18• Setting: approx. 1406 B.C., near Shittim, northeast of the Dead Sea.• Characters God and Joshua• Plot: God encourages Joshua with a divine charge before he takes over as leader of Israel.• Key word(s) “be strong of a good _____” | <p>(vv 6, 9, 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climax: <i>Joshua 1:14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;</i> |
|--|---|

Joshua's Commissioning

1. (Num. 27:12-17) When God first told Moses to prepare for his death, Moses prayed that God would “set a man over the congregation “which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd.” The answer to Moses’ prayer was _____.

APPLICATION → Those truly concerned for the cause of Christ are concerned that the gospel advances, not that their legacy and their successes remain unsurpassed. Matthew Henry notes, “Envious spirits do not love their successors, but Moses was not one of these. We should concern ourselves, both in our prayers and in our endeavours, for the rising generation, that religion may flourish, and the interests of God’s kingdom among men may be maintained and advanced, when we are in our graves.”¹

- a. Joshua was chosen because he met the great requirement of godly leadership: he was filled with the _____. Another example of this lies in the New Testament where the choice of the first deacons was stipulated upon men who were full of the Holy Ghost. (cf. Acts 6:3).
- b. (Num 27:18-33) Moses laid his hands upon Joshua, publicly designating him as the successor to the headship of Israel and giving him honor (authority) so the nation would _____ Joshua and follow him.

Joshua's Charge

2. (Joshua 1:1-9) After Moses’ death, the LORD spoke with Joshua, giving him a divine charge and words of encouragement. He told Joshua that same _____ and _____ of God would be with Joshua just as they were with Moses:
 - a. (vv 3-4) “**as I said unto Moses**” - the promises of possessing Canaan (and surrounding areas) were passed down from Abraham, to Moses, and now to the new leader of God’s covenant people.
 - b. (v 5) “**as I was with Moses**” – God’s presence and favor would be upon Joshua the same way they were Moses, ensuring victory and success in the pursuit of God’s will.
3. (vv 7-9) These promises of God were not without stipulation:
 - a. _____ was required – the phrase “be strong and of a good courage” is not just comforting words, but a reminder to trust the promises of God when one is tempted to do otherwise.
 - b. _____ was required – The LORD charged Joshua, saying, “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

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 228.

not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.”

APPLICATION → A lack of faith is evidenced in two ways: fear and disobedience, the fruit of which is failure and _____. To keep us in the right way of faith, we should heed God’s command to meditate on His Word:

Joshua 1:8 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.

Joshua’s Command

4. (1:10-18) Joshua’s authority was tested immediately. He commanded his officers to prepare the army for invading the Promised Land.
 - a. But for the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh, who had requested to stay on the east side of the Jordan River, there was a reminder that their men must fight with the other tribes, though their own tribal lands were _____.
 - b. Israel agreed to obey the command of Joshua, saying, “According as we hearkened unto _____ in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. Whosoever *he be* that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.” (vv 17-18)

APPLICATION → The Christian life, like Joshua’s, is one of constant spiritual warfare. Charles Spurgeon preached, “Though you and I have no Hivites and Jebusites to kill, no cities to pull down, no chariots of iron to encounter, yet we shall find it no easy thing to keep to the path of Christian _____. Count well the cost, you who have just enlisted under my Lord’s banner. You shall not find it to be child’s play to ‘follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.’”²

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “courage” • 1. Joshua; a. Spirit; respect • 2. promises; presence • 3. a. faith; b. obedience → judgment • 4. a. secured; b. Moses → consistency

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. (Note: some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

² Charles Spurgeon, from his sermon “Joshua’s Obedience” preached in 1868.