

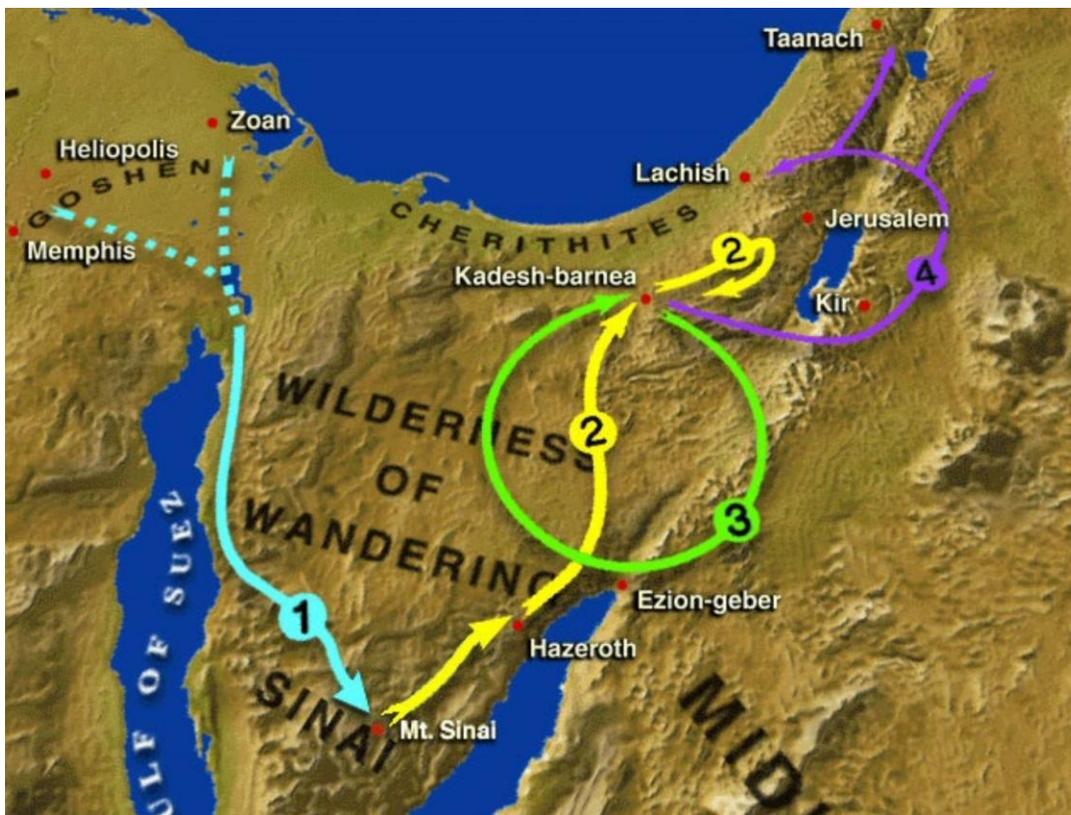
Remember

Joshua 1:1-9

Pray

Intro





Be Strong and Courageous

Most people read the first half of verses like these...

And fail to see the true picture of what God is saying.

Half - Joshua 1:9a

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,"

Full - Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Moses is dead...

Joshua, you're up.

"Be strong and courageous..."

Our Courage is Rooted in God's Promise

Notice the words of promise from God:

(v. 2) "the land I am giving you"

Same phrase that God said 40 years prior (Numbers 13:2)

(v. 3) "I have given you., just as I promised to Moses."

(v. 2) "am giving" (active present)

(v. 3) have given" (completed action)

(v. 4) "shall be your territory" (future)

(v. 5) "no one shall be able to stand before you"

(v. 6) "the land that I swore to their fathers to give them."

And it is in light of the promises of God...

that Joshua is called to...

"Be strong and courageous"

"I will give you this land and these people."

2 Timothy 2:1 - "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus"

Be strong b/c God is going to fulfill his promise.

And it can easily be thought...

Since God is the promise-keeper,
then I don't need to do anything.
Simply not true.

- (v. 2) "arise", "go over the Jordan"
- (v. 3) "your sole will tread"
- (v. 6) "you shall cause this people to inherit the land"
- (v. 7) "carefully obey the law"
- (v. 8) "meditate on the law of God"

God Uses Ordinary Means to Accomplish his Will

- (v. 14) God sends soldiers into the land.
He could have sent the plague, a massive tornado, a hurricane, a flood...

"Be strong and very courageous"
Obey God.

Meditate on the Law
Day and night

Keep God's Promises and God's Character before you all the time.

Remember where we've come from:

Promise to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 15:5

And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Land
Seed (People, Nation)
Blessing

Our Courage is Rooted in God's Presence

Notice the words of God's Presence:

(v. 5) "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you."

(v. 5) "I will not leave you or forsake you."

(v. 9) "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Why be strong and courageous?

(v. 9) for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

"I will be with you."

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Be Ready to Follow

They hear the promise of God...

Send in spies.

Rahab, the prostitute, hides the spies (saving their lives)

Side note - marries into God's people

And is listed in the genealogy of Jesus.

Now they are about to go into the land.

Looking now at Joshua 3

(3:1) move to Shittim (just to the east of the Jordan River, north of the Dead Sea)

(3:2-4)

Ark of the Covenant

Physical representation of the presence of God

Follow it.

Don't come near it.

(v. 4) 2000 cubits

Quick math - just over 1/2 mile

1.5 million people will have a vantage point to see it.

Ready and Waiting for God to Lead

Consecrate yourselves.

(3:5)

Ready yourself.
 Dedicate yourself.
 Set yourself apart.

"For tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

Dedicate yourself.
 Ready yourself.

B/c God is going to do amazing things.

Readying ourselves makes us able to look for God to work.
 Preparing ourselves makes us expectant of what God will do.

To consecrate yourself...
 is to put yourself in the perfect posture of God's people...

Waiting for him.
 Dependent upon him.
 Looking for him.
 Willing to go wherever he leads.

Stepping Out Where God Leads

(3:8) "stand in the Jordan"

(3:13) "when their feet shall rest in the Jordan"

THEN... "the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

Just so you feel the weight of this...

Joshua 3:15

"now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of the harvest"

The river is at flood stage.
 The water was ripping down the river.
 Probably rapids.

It was most likely impassable.

Even with the promise of God and presence of God...

following him takes great faith (not the unbelief showed with the spies)

Tie between the Land and Rest

Another Signpost

Israel entering the Promised Land ("their rest")

Our entering heaven ("our rest")

Hebrews 3:7-11 (rebellion, unbelief)

Hebrews 3:16-4:2 (by faith, enter our rest)

By Faith... as opposed to Unbelief

Remember God's Great Faithfulness

(ch. 4:1-3)

another signpost

(4:5b-7)

Take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

For God's faithfulness to show up,
we must be in a place of need.

We insulate ourselves from harm.

And when harm comes,

we don't see it as an opportunity to see God work and show up.

App. Remember God's Faithfulness

Stones in the Backyard

Family Journal of God's faithfulness

Deut. 6 - as you walk along the road.

Specific markers in our city of where God worked profoundly.

Every stone in the pile...

is God redeeming us from something terrible and ugly