

JOSHUA

It's Time

Joshua 1:10-18

As We Study the Bible:

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We must adhere to context and avoid an allegorical method of interpretation.

For example, “the Christian is David, and Goliath represents the trials and struggles we face in life.”

A Little Southern Gospel...

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“When I cross to the other side of Jordan
just beyond that happy shore

When I cross to the other side of Jordan
to live forevermore

There'll be glory in the morning
for the day there comes no night

When I cross to the other side of Jordan
where Jesus is the light”

From *TBKC*:

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“Entering the land does not parallel the believer’s entrance to heaven; it signifies his willingness to ‘cross the Jordan’ and engage the enemy. In other words, it is a decision by a regenerate saint to submit to the lordship of Christ and trust God for victory in the spiritual battle.”

Two Takeaways for Today: JOSHUA

1. Remember

2. Be Faithful





**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**



Michael Horton:

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“In our Western (Greek) intellectual heritage, ‘remembering’ means ‘recollecting’: recalling to mind something that is no longer a present reality. Nothing could be further from a Jewish conception. For example, in the Jewish liturgy, ‘remembering’ means participating here and now in certain defining events in the past and also in the future.”

Joshua 1:10-11

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10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, **11** “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you, to possess it.’”

Who are these “officers?”

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- While some may have been military officers, these men are probably administrative officials.
- God had earlier appointed respected leaders in Israel, who had the Spirit of the Lord, to help Moses, and these are probably men of the same stature.
- They would have performed judicial and/or religious responsibilities.

Numbers 11:16-17

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16 The Lord therefore said to Moses, “Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. **17** Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put Him upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear it all alone.

Deuteronomy 1:15-16

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15 So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and appointed them heads over you, leaders of thousands and of hundreds, of fifties and of tens, and officers for your tribes. **16** “Then I charged your judges at that time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between a man and his fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him.’”

One Takeaway:

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The Lord never intended to establish a dictatorship, even one led by a godly man.

A plurality of leaders creates strength, unity, protection, and accountability.

Key Word in Chapter 1

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“command” צִוָּה (*tsavah*)

Occurs 7 times in Chapter 1 (1:7, 9,
10, 11, 13, 16, 18)

Throughout the Pentateuch and Joshua, it is refers most often to God's commands for His people.

God's Design for Leadership

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- In v. 9, God commanded Joshua.
- In v. 10, Joshua commanded the officers.
- In v. 11, the officers commanded the people.
- In vv. 16 & 18, the people pledged to respond in obedience to Joshua's commands.

Question:

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We're about to go
to war, so what type
of instructions
would you expect
to hear?

Joshua 1:11

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11 “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, **‘Prepare provisions for yourselves,** for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you, to possess it.’”

KJV: “prepare you victuals”

Two Things:

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1. Why would preparing “provisions” be a new concept for the Israelites?
2. Israel will not be leaving the camp “within three days.” I will explain why next week. 😊

Why only “provisions?”

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- Because the Lord said:
 - “arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.”
- “I have given it to you”
 - “you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”

God has *Given*

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Israel will *inherit* (v. 6) and *take possession* (v. 11).

Once again, we see the connection between faith and obedience.

And once again, we must go back to Abraham to see the big picture.

Genesis 15:13-16

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13 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. **14** But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. **15** As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. **16** Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

God's Perfect Plan

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1. Israel's inheritance of the land was a gift from Yahweh; He owns it, and He gave it to them.
2. Israel's responsibility was to take possession of the land, thereby exhibiting both faith and obedience.
3. And through Israel, the Lord pours out judgment on the Canaanites, whose iniquity is now "complete."

Joshua 1:12-15

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12 To the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, **13** “Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord your God gives you rest and will give you this land.’ **14** Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them, **15** until the Lord gives your brothers rest, as He gives you, and they also possess the land which the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to your own land, and possess that which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

Before We Go Further, We Need Some Context

Turn to
Numbers
32





The Admonition:

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“Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you”

This entire chapter has been an exhortation for Joshua to “remember” what the Lord has promised.

Here, the Transjordan tribes are compelled to remember what Moses commanded them.

The Command of Moses

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- Is also found in Deuteronomy 3:18-20, and Joshua 1:13-15 quotes it virtually word for word.
- These Transjordan tribes were required to keep the covenant solidarity with their brethren settling west of the Jordan by helping them in the conquest.

1:14 – Military Matters

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“you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors”

Other translations: “fighting men,” or
“mighty men of valor.”

These men were the military elite;
Joshua will use 30,000 of them at Ai
(8:3) and will later take them into battle
at Gilgal (10:7).

Joshua 1:15

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15 until the Lord gives your brothers **rest**, as He gives you, and they also **possess the land which the Lord your God is giving them**. Then you shall return to your own land, and **possess that which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you** beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.

The nation of Israel is united in common purpose, which has not always and will not always be the case.

Joshua 1:16-18

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16 They answered Joshua, saying, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17** Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may the Lord your God be with you as He was with Moses. **18** Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous.”

The People Respond

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“All that you have commanded us
we will do, and wherever you send
us we will go.”

And there is no indication that they
are not sincere.

This is encouraging.

However...

We've Heard This Before... JOSHUA

- Exodus 24:7b –

“All that the Lord has
spoken we will do,
and we will be
obedient!”



A FEW
MOMENTS LATER

Exodus 32:1b

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“Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

In 1:17, They Say:

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“Just as we obeyed Moses
in all things, so we will
obey you”

Unfortunately, this
statement will be proven
true.

A Hint of Things to Come

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- A tension is introduced here that simmers below the surface throughout the entire book.
- We are to understand the obligation laid out by the Lord and the people's reluctance to do so.
- And a Hebrew reader would see this even more clearly than we do.

Grammar Nerd Stuff

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“Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; *only* may the Lord your God be with you as He was with Moses.”

רק (*raq*)

An adverb that when used before an imperfect verb form “expresses something which either contradicts or varies from that which precedes it.”

We Need Hebrew Glasses JOSHUA

So, we read this verse in English as a resounding affirmation of Israel's commitment to follow Joshua.

But the Hebrew reader sees that, in fact, Joshua will not be able to rely on Israel's obedience despite their promises.

Similarly:

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- The final statement in v. 17 reads:
“only may the Lord your God be with you as
He was with Moses.”
- This sounds like a wish or a blessing for Joshua, but the grammar is helpful once again; “may” is in the indicative, which means the clause is better translated:
“only the Lord your God *will* be with you.”

Joshua 1:18a

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18 Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death

Literally, “anyone who rebels against your mouth”

And the penalty is death
(Deuteronomy 17:12).

Remember “command?”

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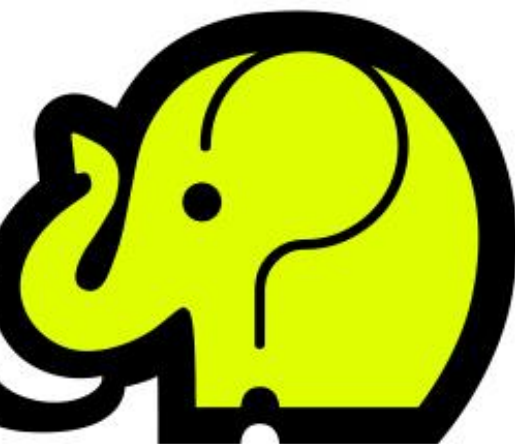
- Deuteronomy 1:26 – “Yet you were not willing to go up, but **rebelled against the command** of the Lord your God”
- Deuteronomy 1:43a – “So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. Instead you **rebelled against the command** of the Lord”
- Deuteronomy 9:23a – “When the Lord sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, ‘Go up and possess the land which I have given you,’ then you **rebelled against the command** of the Lord your God”

So, Joshua, for the 4th time: JOSHUA

“Be strong and
courageous”

You’re going to need
all of it!

Do You
Remember



JOSHUA