

## A Call To Courage.

Joshua 1:1-9

Sunday evening, August 16, 2009.

### I. Moses My servant is dead. Vs. 2.

- A. This must have constituted a real trial for the people.
  - 1. Although they often rebelled against Moses, on the whole they learned to trust him, and they saw that God's hand of guidance and provision was with them through him.
  - 2. Their love for him, and their sense of loss is seen in the 30 days of weeping and mourning they observed for him before they moved to possess the promised land. Deut 34:8.
- B. God's work is not hindered by the death of His servants.
  - 1. We should never think of any of the Lord's servants as indispensable, much less should we view ourselves this way.
  - 2. It is God Himself who is undertaking the work of the ages, and He raises up servants, and equips servants accordingly.
    - For this reason we should act and speak with restraint lest we should position ourselves as wiser than God.
    - For this reason it is fitting for us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and to accept our new circumstances.
- C. We see here that Joshua continues to be a man of modesty and restraint.
  - 1. He does not seize the opportunity to succeed Moses, but he waits on the Lord.
  - 2. Not until after the Lord's encounter with him do we read: "Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people..." Vs. 10.

### II. Every place that the sole of your feet will tread upon I have given you.

Vs. 3.

- A. These words teach us that Canaan was a free gift to the Lord's people.
- B. Canaan became their possession by exercising faith obedience. They had to give themselves to the battles, and the Lord would give the victory.
- C. Canaan became at once the place of their rest, and the place where they fought the good fight of faith.
- D. Inheriting Canaan would come little by little.

"I will not drive them out from before you in one year... little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and you inherit the land."

Exodus 23:29,30.
  - 1. In this way Israel is kept in a state of humble dependence on the Lord.
  - 2. In this way Israel is weaned from a state of self reliance.
  - 3. Quick and painless victories give birth to pride and self reliance.
    - Israel put her confidence in horses in Isaiah 30:16, and the Lord replies in vs.18 "Therefore the Lord will wait that He may be gracious to you..."
    - The Lord said to His disciples: "I still have many things to say to you, but you can not bear them now." John 16:12.
    - As you inherit your Canaan; the place of your rest, the Lord has many

victories to give to you, and many things to show you, but you are not fit for it as yet.

### III. A threefold encouragement. Vs. 5.

- A. “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.”  
Seven powerful nations were in possession of Canaan. Acts 13:19.  
Among them was the nation of Giants, the Anakim. Deut. 9:2.
- B. “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”  
Joshua had been an eyewitness to the many signs and wonders God did through Moses. Now God promises to work similarly through Joshua.
- C. “I will be with you; I will not leave you nor forsake you.”  
This promise is repeated to God’s New Covenant people in Hebrews 13:6.  
These promises made to Joshua are ours as well as we are about the business of inheriting our Canaan.

### IV. A divine admonition. Vs. 6-9.

- A. Three times in these verses Joshua is told to be strong and of good courage.  
Why does the Lord stress this so much? Joshua had proven his courage on the battle field more than once already.
  - 1. There are different forms of courage. It is one thing to be willing to loose your life in battle; it is another to make wise and godly decisions in the face of opposition. It takes one form of courage to be willing to die for the Lord;  
it takes another kind of courage to be willing to live for Him.
  - 2. Joshua needed the latter kind now more than ever.
    - The enemies Israel faced were strong.
    - The people Joshua served were fickle.
    - The confidence Joshua had was based on “things unseen,” things “behind the veil.” Hebr. 11:27.
- B. Joshua needed strength and courage “to do all the law.”
  - 1. The flesh was against it.
  - 2. The world around Joshua was against it.
  - 3. Carnal reason, based on things that are seen, was against it.
  - 4. The reasons for it were again “things unseen and behind the veil.”
- C. The primacy of God’s word.  
“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night...”
  - 1. Meditation is to God’s word what digestion is to food; one is done with the mind, the other with the stomach.
  - 2. This is the condition for success.
  - 3. It creates hearts and lives that are formed and reformed and conformed to the word of God.
- D. Have I not commanded you?  
Consider the speaker. - This will inspire confidence.
  - It will banish fear.
  - It will foster obedience.