

220622-4 Jos 1, Joshua Is Commanded to Lead Israel into Canaan—CThurman

In Deu.32.48-52 the LORD commanded Moses to go to the mountain range of Abarim, to a particular mountain, Nebo and climb what might be the highest peak, Pisgah (the height of consideration). There the LORD would cause Moses to view all the land that He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but he would not be allowed to lead Israel in to take possession of the land of Canaan.

In Deu. 31.1-8 (cf. Nu.27.15-22) Moses encouraged the nation to go in to possess the land of Canaan; that the LORD would go over before them and Joshua. And Moses gave a charge to Joshua before the eyes of the nation. This gives us the main function of Joshua for the nation, which is to cause them to inherit the land.

Deu.31.7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Jos.1.6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

These things being done Moses ascended Pisgah and died there as the LORD said. Then we read that the LORD buried Moses' body somewhere in a valley in the land of Moab. (cf. Deu.34.1-6) To be clear, Moses' body was buried on the eastern side of the Jordan River in the land that was allotted to the tribe of Reuben.

The history of the book of Joshua takes up immediately where the book of Deuteronomy left off, with the death of Moses. The ending of Moses' service to Israel is the beginning of Joshua's. Just as the book of Deuteronomy ended with Moses' death so the book of Joshua will close with the death of Joshua. (cf. Jos.24.29) This book is for the most part attributed to the pen of Joshua. (cf. Jos.24.26, *And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God ...*; Joshua narrates, i.e. Jos. 5.1, *we ...*) It may be divided into these six parts:

- chs. 1-12 – The Conquest of Canaan
- chs. 13-19 – The Allotment of Canaan
- chs. 20, 21 – The Cities of Refuge
- ch. 22 – Dismissing the 2 ½ Tribes & the Controversy at Jordan
- ch. 23 – Israel Reminded of their Duty to Expell the Nations
- ch. 24 – Israel’s History Since Abram; Joshua Makes Israel Covenant; & Joshua’s Death

One final point to make is that Joshua is one of only two men (Caleb, the other) that remained of them that had been in Egyptian bondage some 40 years earlier. Then Joshua was twice called a young man (40-45 yrs. of age at the exodus [cf. Jos.24.29]), and this was about the time that Israel was encamped in the vicinity of Sinai/Kadesh. (cf. Ex.33.11; Nu.11.27) At the moment it appears that this book covers a period of little more than 21 years. (Barnes says 25-30 yrs. [Barnes’ Notes, vol 2, p.348]; Gill says 27 yrs.) For example:

Take Caleb’s age as a reference point for the beginning of the southern campaign into the land of Canaan. He is 85 yrs. of age then. (cf. Jos.14.10.) He was 40 yrs. old at the time when Moses sent him with 11 others from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land of Canaan. At that time Israel had only just left Sinai, where they had been encamped for two years. So we can say that Caleb was 38 yrs. of age at the time of Israel’s exodus from Egypt.

If the history of Joshua covers a period of 21 yrs., and we know that he died at 110 yrs. of age, then when Caleb was 85 Joshua was 89. At the exodus, since Caleb was 38 yrs. of age, then Joshua was 42 and called Moses young man. (cf. Nu.11.28)

- Command to go into Canaan (vss.1-9)
- Prepare to enter Canaan in three days. (vss. 10, 11)
- Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh reminded of their agreement. (vss.12-15)
- Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh respond. (vss. 16-18)

Chapter 1

Command to go into Canaan (vss.1-9)

1 ¶ Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

minister, of the verb שָׂרָת, shah-rath, and tss. to minister, to serve, to wait, to be servant.

It could have been that the LORD spoke to Joshua at some time during the mourning period.

2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

all this people – the number of capable warriors at this time was 601,730. (cf. Nu.26.51)

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

from the wilderness – refers to the tract of land in the south. This is come down to the River of Egypt. (cf. Ge.15.18; Nu.34.5)

Ge 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates ...

Jos 15:1 This then was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah by their families; even to the border of Edom the wilderness of Zin southward was the uttermost part of the south coast.

2 And their south border was from the shore of the salt sea, from the bay that looketh southward:

3 And it went out to the south side to Maalehacrabim, and passed along to Zin, and ascended up on the south side unto Kadeshbarnea, and passed along to Hezron, and went up to Adar, and fetched a compass to Karkaa:

*4 From thence it passed toward Azmon, and went out unto the river of Egypt; and the goings out of that coast were at the sea: **this shall be your south coast.***

Lebanon – would mark the northern border, or Mount Hor. (cf. Deu.34.7)

the great River Euphrates – marks the eastern border

the great sea toward the going down of the sun – marks the Mediterranean Sea as Israel's western border.

For the land promised to Israel refer to Ge.13.14, 15; 15.18; Ex.23.31; Nu.34.3-12; Deu.11.24; Jos.1.3; 14.9; 1Ki.4.21, 24. Note that Israel never has possessed this land to this extent (forever). King Solomon did put all the land under tribute. The prophet Amos (cf. 9.13-15) wrote of the future possession of the land of Canaan which remains to this day unfulfilled.

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

strong, of the verb חָזַק, chah-zaq, tss. to be sore, to prevail, to confirm, to establish, to be stout, to be of good courage, to seize, to fasten, to be hard.

*good courage, of the verb אָמַץ, ah-matz, tss. to be strong, to be of good courage, to be obstinate, to fortify, to strengthen; **vss.6, 7, 9, 18.***

Joshua's main duties are to lead Israel into Canaan, take possession of the land and divide it among the remaining 9 ½ tribes of Israel which should have land on this western side of the Jordan River.

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

mayest prosper, of the verb שָׁכַל, shah-kal, tss. to behave wisely, to guide wittingly, to understand, to consider, to wisely consider, to prosper, to make wise, to instruct, to have good success (v.8).

Deu.29.1 These are the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.

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.

depart, of the verb מוּשׁ, moosh, tss. to depart, to remove, to take away, to go back.

meditate, of the verb הִגֵּד, hah-gah, tss. to speak, to imagine, to study, to roar (of a lion over his prey), to mutter, to utter, to mediate.

prosperous, of the verb צָלַח, tzah-leach, tss. to come, to go over, to prosper, to be mighty, to be good, to break out.

*Deu.11.26 ¶ Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;
27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:*

28 *And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*

29 *And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.*

30 *Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign (desert, wilderness, plains) over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh?*

31 *For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.*

32 *And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.*

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage;

be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God
terrified discouraged, confounded

be ... afraid, of the verb אָרַץ, [g]ah-ratz, tss. to oppress, to shake terribly, to dread, to be affrighted, to be terrified, to be afraid, to break, to fear.

be thou dismayed, of the verb חָתַת, chah-thath, tss. to be dismayed, to be amazed, to be afraid, to be chapt (the ground), to break in pieces, to be discouraged, to be affrighted, to be beaten down, to abolish, to be terrified, to be confounded.

is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

At this evidently Joshua immediately sends out two spies to Jericho. (cf. 2.16, 22)

Prepare to enter Canaan in three days. (vss. 10, 11)

10 ¶ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,
overseers

officers, of the verb שָׁטַר, shah-tar, *officer, officers over, rule, overseer; cf. 1.10; 3.2; 8.33; 23.2; 24.1.*

11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying,

host, a noun, מַחֲנֵה, tss. Mahanaim, band, company, drove, camp, host.

Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan,

Ready provisions

prepare, of the verb כָּוַן, coon, *to establish, to prepare, to fashion, to be stable, to order, to stablish, to direct, to fit, to be meet, to be ready, to stand, to be certain, to be right.*

victuals, a fem. noun צֵי־דָּה, tzehy-dah, tss. venison (Gen.27.3), provision (Ge.42.25; 45.21), victual (Ex.12.39), meat (Ps.78.25).

The commandment to prepare to pass over this Jordan would have been on the 7th day of the first month. Israel came up out of the Jordan River on the 10th day of the first month. (cf. Jos.4.19)

to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

possess, of the verb יָרַשׁ, yah-rash, tss. *to succeed, to enjoy (v.15), to inherit, to possess, to drive out.*

prepare you victuals – Now the LORD gave them a fresh supply of manna every morning. Except for the morning of the 6th day they could not prepare manna beforehand because doing so would bred worms. The LORD forbad them storing the manna. (cf. Ex.16.20) Perhaps the idea is simply to prepare to break up camp, prepare the food-stuffs for traveling.

Ex 12:39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they

were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh reminded of their agreement. (vss.12-15)
12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying,

Reuben's warriors number	43,730
Gad's	40,500
<u>½ of Manasseh</u>	<u>25,350</u>
Total	110,580 – +1/6 th of Israel's military force.

Of these it appears that only 40,000 were required to fight with their brethren on the western side of the River Jordan.

Jos.4.13 About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the LORD unto battle, to the plains of Jericho.

It is very likely that the rest, 60,000+ were allowed to remain in Gilead to protect their families and livestock from their enemies.

**13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.
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;**

shall remain, Qal fut. verb יָשָׁב, yah-shav, tss. to dwell, to tarry, to abide, to continue, to remain, to inhabit, to sit.

armed, pl. adj. חֲמֻשִׁים, ch^{ah}-mu-sheem, tss. harnassed (Ex.13.18), armed (marg. 'marshalled' [Jos.1.14]), armed men (marg. 'ranks by five' [Jud.7.11]).

mighty, גִּבּוֹר, gib-bōhr, an adj. tss. mighty, mighty men, mighty one, a champion, valiant men, strong.

valour, a masc. noun, חַיִל, chah-yeel, tss. *wealth, activity, army, host, able, valiantly, goods, war, substance, virtuous, strength, power.*

help, Qal pret. of the verb עָזַר, [g]ah-zar, tss. *to help, to succour.*

This arrangement is recorded in Numbers chapter 32.

15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

have given ... rest, Hiphil (causative act.) fut. of the verb נָוַח, nuach, tss. to rest, to be quiet, to be confederate, to cease, to lay, to set down, to set.

enjoy, a verb יָרַשׁ, yah-rash, tss. to succeed, to enjoy (v.15), to inherit, to possess (v.11), to drive out.

The end of this is recorded in Joshua chapter 22.1-9.

Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh response. (vss. 16-18)

16 ¶ And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto
listened listen

thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment,

doth rebel, Hiphil (causative act.) fut. of the verb מָרָה, mah-rah, tss. to rebel, to disobey, to be bitter, to provoke, to change.

and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him,
listen

he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

according as we hearkened unto Moses in all things – An instance when context is everything. This response of Reuben, Gad and ½ the tribe of Manasseh refers simply to the arrangement that had been agreed to earlier with Moses in Numbers chapter 32.

Otherwise they and the nation of Israel have been quite rebellious to Moses and the LORD.

De 9:7 Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.

De 9:24 Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

De 31:27 For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?