

Moses Hands Leadership to Joshua

Introduction

The people wandered in the desert for forty years, just as God said they would. Everyone over twenty, except for Joshua and Caleb, died, and finally God's people were ready to enter the land God had promised them many years before. But Moses was not going in with them. God told him to appoint Joshua as the next leader, and Moses spoke to God's people one final time...

Deuteronomy 29:29

God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

“This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you to understand, and it is not beyond your reach. It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, ‘Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?’ It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?’ No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it. Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster, *because* I command you this day to love...your God and to keep his commands...by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and...God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan River to occupy. Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses...Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving...God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey *God*, you will live long in the land *God* swore to give your ancestors Abraham, *and his children and grandchildren.*”

Deuteronomy 31: 7-8

Then Moses called for Joshua, and as all *God's people* watched, he said to him, “Be strong and courageous, *because* you will lead these people into the land that *God* swore to their ancestors he would give them. You are the one who will divide it among them as their grants of land. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for *God* will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

Joshua 1:1-5

After the death of Moses..., *God* spoke to Joshua..., Moses' assistant. He said, “Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, *my people*, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you... No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.’”

Joshua 1:7-11

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be

successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For,,God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua then commanded the officers of *God’s people*, “Go through the camp and tell the people to get their provisions ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land...God is giving you.”

Joshua 1:16-18

They answered Joshua, “We will do whatever you command us, and we will go wherever you send us. We will obey you just as we obeyed Moses. And may...God be with you as he was with Moses. Anyone who rebels against your orders and does not obey your words and everything you command will be put to death. So be strong and courageous!”

Questions to ponder

What did you like about this story?

What bothered you about this story?

What does this story show you about God?

What does this story show you about people?

What does this story mean for your life now? What is God telling you through this story?

How will you remember this story?

Who is God telling you to tell this story to?