

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON

LESSON 1 PART B

INTRODUCTION

A. The Study Plan

1. **Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On!**
2. **Lesson 1: Exhortation to Conquer (Josh. 1)**
3. **Lesson 1 Part A: Charge to Joshua (Josh 1:1-9)**
4. **Lesson 1 Part B: Command Given to the People (Josh. 1:10-18)**
5. **Today's Study: Three Main Points (Josh. 1:10-18)**
 - (a) Communicating God's Will (Vv. 10-11)
 - (b) Cooperation Compulsory (Vv. 12-15)
 - (c) Commitment Made (Vv. 16-18)

B. Brief Review of Part a (Josh. 1:1-9)

1. The Book of Joshua is a story of conquest and fulfilled promises for the people of God.
2. Moses and Joshua
 - (a) Moses was addressed as "my servant" by God (Josh. 1:1)
 - (b) Joshua was "Moses' servant or "Moses' minister" (Ex. 33:11; Num. 11:28; Ex. 24:13; Josh. 1:1). He (Joshua) was a man of faith (Num. 14:6-8), courageous (Josh. 10:25); obedient ((Josh. 11:15) and was a man of action ready to do as God commanded.
3. Joshua's first assignment seemed to be a great challenge of faith and notable in regards to crossing the river Jordan (Josh. 1:2).
 - (a) However, Joshua a man of faith (Num. 14:6-8), divinely appointed (Num. 27:18-23) prepared and ready for his assignment.
 - (b) We will experience challenges in our lives and service to God but confidence in God and determination will enable us to do God's will.
4. God gave three wonderful promises to Joshua (Josh. 1:2-5).
 - (a) **First:** The covenant in regards to the Promise Land will be fulfilled (Josh. 1:2-4)
 - (b) **Second:** The conquest of all enemies (Josh. 1:5)
 - (c) **Third:** The continued, unbroken presence and rest of God (Josh. 1:5, 9)
5. The charge to be "strong and courageous" was repeated three times (Josh. 1:6, 7, 9)
 - (a) **First:** Be strong and courageous in your task (Josh. 1:6)
 - (b) **Second:** Be strong and courageous in obeying God's Law. (Josh. 1:7-8)
 - (c) **Third:** Be strong and courageous in overcoming fear and discouragement (Josh. 1:9).

6. As it related to Joshua, so it is to us, only total loyalty, commitment and undivided observation of all God's instructions and His Word will ensure victory; anything else would be a disaster accompanied with great dangers.
7. We have a charge to "Accept the Challenge and Move Forward," claiming the blessings of our covenant with God!!

C. In this "Command to the People" (Josh. 1:10-18), we observe the "Chain of Command."

1. In Josh. 1:1-9, we saw Joshua was charged by God to take the people across Jordan to the Promise Land.
2. In Josh. 1:10-18 we have Joshua commanding his leaders who in turn communicated the instructions to other leaders who instructed the people.
3. Joshua definitely was a man of action and although he was a newly appointed commander he was ready for action and immediately applied himself to the requirements of the needs on hand.
 - (a) There was no time to lay back, slacken his hands and be at ease in Zion.
 - (b) It was time to further the work of God among the people over whom God assigned him.
4. Those who desire leadership in the work of God desire an important work ... a very important work!
 - (a) Among the requirements necessary for such office is that the person must be a steadfast adherent to Jesus Christ and His principles of righteousness and can be seen as a role model of faithfulness, honesty and purity (1 Tim. 3; etc.)
 - (b) The work of the minister is a good work (1 Tim. 3:1); this calling has its demands and there is no room for idleness.

Josh. 1:10-18 ESV

"And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.

And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, Remember the words that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you saying, The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land. Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed, until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall return to the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.

And they answered Joshua, All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obey Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses! Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

A. Communicating God’s Will Josh. 1:10-11

1. Punctual Response! (Note v. 10)

(a) Observe Joshua’s timely response.

(1) In David’s days “the king’s business required haste” (1 Sam. 21:8).

- David at the time of this situation (in 1 Sam. 21) although fleeing for his life spoke deceptively.
- Nevertheless, it was a fact; the king’s business required more attention than that of ordinary people.
 - The king’s business was more pressing, more demanding.
 - It called for immediate action.
 - It demanded high priority and the concentrated effort of all with whom such was associated.

(2) In regards to the cause of God urgency is necessary!!

- **John 9:4 (KJV)**

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

- We cannot determine time, God has that in His control but there is urgency in transacting our duty. The Word has specifically informed us that the harvest is ready to be harvested!! (John 4:35)

(b) Joshua knew immediate action was necessary once a duty was made known.

(c) Beloved, the Bible warns against procrastination!! (Prov. 6:6-15; 12:24; 13:4; 15:19; Luke 9:59-62).

2. Planning Implemented Josh. 1:10

Josh. 1:10 Amplified Bible

“Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying.”

(a) Joshua continued the hierarchical (*chain of command*) system started by Moses

(1) It was Jethro who advised Moses on having a structural approach in working with the people (Ex. 18, NB Vv. 13-26)

(2) The method was further improved to deal with the collection of manna (Num. 11:4-23, NB Vv. 16-17).

(3) Further adjustment was made again with the appointment of the captains over the thousands and hundreds (Deut. 1:1-18, NB Vv. 9-18, highlight v. 15).

(b) The haphazard, any-how, get it done, make it look good attitude is wrong.

- (1) Sometimes unavoidable situations will create the need for impromptu actions, but it is a different situation when such has become a norm, especially as it relates to the things of God.
 - (2) In some situations we have seen much more emphasis placed on personal needs or secular things than it is done for the things of God. Unfortunately, this is a sad situation because only the Church deals with eternal issues, where souls are rescued from eternal damnation!!
 - This haphazard, lackadaisical situation is seen even in some congregations blessed with gifted personnel, latest technology, having the best programs available, as well as other modern methods of church planning available.
 - In some situations it is not known what, or who, or how etc. it is supposed to be done in regards to the current activity that has been scheduled.
 - Too often leaders themselves are not properly informed or prepared or sometimes details are known only at the “spur of the moment” or even during the event.
- (c) **Joshua exemplified the effectiveness of a well planned procedure with advance planning and proper implementation. In these verses (Josh. 1:10-11) we are witnessing that which was well orchestrated in response to God’s instructions.**
- (1) First, Joshua commanded the leaders, passing on to them what was necessary for this upcoming event.
 - (2) Next, the leaders of various groups and levels of administration would in turn discuss with other group leaders who would relay the planned procedure to the people.
- (d) **A few practical pointers (briefly noted):**
- (1) Proper planning is important but we must have God’s guidance and direction (**Prov. 3:5-6**, 16:; 19:21; Psa. 127:1-2; etc.)
 - (2) We should never limit God’s thoughts and ways to human ways or standards (**Isa. 55:8-9**; Psa. 18:30-32; 145:17; Rom. 11:33-36; etc.)
 - (3) Businesses today place top priority on customer feedback. The Church needs the counsel of God and its leaders
 - **Prov. 15:22 Amplified Bible**
“Where there is no counsel, purposes are frustrated, but with many counselors they are accomplished.”
 - See also Prov. 11:14; 12:15; 24:6
 - We must never lose focus on God’s leading; we must not be distracted by anyone; we must give God the priority He must always be in control (Prov. 3:5-6). We must also approach our entire project in a well planned and coordinated manner; we must determine what

it will require in order to be effective. See Christ's account on the "Cost of True Discipleship I Luke 14:25-33, NB v. 28.

(e) **Proper planning and involving local leadership and laity is beneficial.**

- (1) This fact is clearly seen in our current study passage as well as other references.
- (2) It greatly enhances the effectiveness of leadership.
 - Such was Jethro's advice to Moses (Ex. 18, NB Vv. 17-27).
 - Laity involvement was implemented by the apostles resulting in great results (Acts 6:1-7)
- (3) The pastor alone cannot do it all by himself; in this spiritual warfare, he needs those who will be active helpers. An outstanding example is seen in (Ex. 17:8-14 ... "The Invasion by Amalek").
- (4) Getting others involved help to develop their God given talents which will benefit the local church and in essence the work of God.
 - Take for example the building of the Tabernacle, where these men gifted by God, contributed to a job well accomplished (Ex. 31 and other related references)
 - The Church (Universal), the Body of Christ, functions by believers utilizing their gifts to the glory of God (1 Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 4:1-16, NB Vv. 11-12)
- (5) It is also enhances the laity to a place of higher calling as seen in the example of Stephen and Philip (Stephen: Acts 6 to chapter 8:3 and Stephen 8:4-40).

3. **Preparation for the Assignment Josh. 1:11a**

"Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare yourselves ...' Josh 1:11a NKJV)

(a) This was the long awaited command, "prepare the people!"

- (1) Mobilize them to march and cross over Jordan (Josh. 10-11)
- (2) The commander of the army, Joshua, gave the command
 - Joshua always made good use of his time
 - Time is valuable and must be wisely used.
 - Time wasted can never be regained!
 - **Eph. 5:15-16 NIV**
"Be careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, **making the most of every opportunity** because the days are evil."
 - Joshua was a man of faith and action
 - He certainly wanted the people to be in readiness to move.
 - Joshua was not implementing his personal desire but obeying the charge of God with promptness and obedience.
 - More than two million were to be fully prepared to move forward in three days!
 - Our text does not show that God said three days.

- This must have been impressed on Joshua's heart by the Spirit of God.
- Likewise, we derive necessary guidance from God's Word and through the Holy Spirit (Luke 16:13)
- Joshua gave the command to get ready and it went down through the chain of command.
 - For the Israelites to break camp required a lot of work, thinking of their livestock and securing food.
 - Yet the fact of their readiness showed how well organized they were and instructions closely followed.
 - Such result is to the praise and glory of God and the benefit of His work.

(b) Prepare them for that which has been long anticipated!

- (1) Prepare to enter, conquer and possess.
- (2) Prepare to be witnesses of the continued faithfulness of God.
- (3) Prepare to partake of that which others and you long desired.
- (4) Prepare to continue witnessing the wonders, majesty and power of the Almighty, your strong tower!
- (5) Prepare to be tested and experience victory by relying on God.
- (6) Prepare for the unexpected but be assured of God's unfailing presence.
- (7) Prepare to partake of the abundant blessings of your inherited covenant.
- (8) Prepare to be witnesses and messengers of the awe-inspiring and only True and Living God!!

4. Promise Land in focus. v. 11b

"... for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess." (Josh. 1:11b NKJV)

(a) Finally the moment arrived and they were preparing to enter the Promise Land!!

- (1) What a momentous/celebratory occasion!! It is a time of triumph!!
- (2) We have discussed related facts in regards to the Promise Land in Lesson 1 Part A, which you may review if so desired.
- (3) The Promise Land was of great significance because the God who delivered them from Egyptian bondage and was with them on their journey from Egypt is the same one who promised this land to Abraham.
- (4) The Promise Land has been referred to as the "**land of milk and honey**," symbolizing it contains all the substance they needed. It is the land of ultimate happiness.

(b) The Christians eternal home!

A detailed discussion on this topic is not possible at this time. I will make brief and limited comments and call your attention to Rev. 21 and 22. I will also present a few highlights on Rev. 21; you are encouraged to go through these

two chapters (Rev. 21 & 22) prayerfully and carefully as well as other related references.

- (1) There were conditions to be met by the Israelites to inherit and remain in the Promise Land.
 - For example, they were to (a) obey God (b) remain faithful to Him (etc. See for example Deut. 6-7, note Deut 7:12-21, as well as other relevant references)
 - Israel was bound by a covenant and adverse consequences would be experienced if they violated the agreement (For example see Deut. 29, NB Vv. 14-24, highlight v. 20
 - Joshua also reminded Israel of their covenant with God, see Josh. 24, and observe his strong admonition in Vv. 14-23.
 - See also my study on Isa. 5, “The Parable of the Vineyard;” covered in “The Righteous pursues Holiness” chapter 5 lessons 1 and 2.
- (2) The Christian’s inheritance is not temporal; it doesn’t fade away, etc. It is an “Incorruptible Inheritance” for example 1 Peter 1:3-12. It is God who qualifies those who are partakers of our current and future inheritance (Col. 1:3-12; 3:24).
- (3) There are requirements to be met to inherit eternity with Jesus Christ ... for example:
 - The new birth is compulsory (John 3:1-21)
 - We must possess inward righteousness and sincerity of life (Matt. 5:20)
 - We must live above the dictates of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-21, 22-26)
 - We must keep ourselves pure (1 John 3:1-10)
 - Etc.
- (4) Just as in Israel’s situation, violation of the covenant would be regarded as a default; the believer has been guaranteed eternity with Jesus Christ but conditions of the covenant must be maintained. (Matt. 5:20; 1 Cor. 6:9; 15:50; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:27)
 - There must be a perfection of genuine love (Matt. 22:37 -40; Mark 12:29-31)
 - Holiness of life is compulsory 1 Peter 1:15-16; Heb. 12:14
 - Note also **Heb. 12, NB Vv. 18-29, highlight Vv. 18-25**
 - Brief comments on Heb. 12:18-25
 - The amazing (*awesome, stunning*) conditions that accompanied the giving of the law (Ex. 19:10-25; Deut. 4:11-12; 5:22-26) in comparison with the characteristics of the gospel shows some differences.
 - The outcome of rejecting, the Gospel, the Good News which is man’s only hope of redemption are even worse than what was experienced for rejecting the law.

- God freely lavishes His love on us even while we were in our sinful state (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-11). To reject such love and amazing grace and mercy is to reap an awful price (John 3:36; Rom. 1:28; Eph. 5:6; Matt. 25:46; Luke 3:17; 2 Thess. 1:9).

➤ **2 Peter 3:17 Amplified Bible**

“Let me warn you therefore, beloved, that knowing these things beforehand, you should be on your guard, lest you be carried away by the error of lawless and wicked [persons and] fall from your own [present] firm condition [your own steadfastness of mind].”

(5) **Read Rev. 21 & 22**

A brief introductory quote on Rev. 21 from “Life in the Spirit Study Bible”

“The final goal and Biblical expectation of the redeemed are a new, transformed and redeemed world where Christ lives with His people and righteousness dwells in holy perfection (cf. Psa. 102:25-26; Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rom. 8:19-22; Heb. 1:12; 12:27; 2 Peter 3:13)”

- Beloved we are talking about a sin-free environment, in fact there will be new heaven (new astronomical space ... “sky” Amplified Bible) and a new earth (Rev. 21:1)
- Definitely we have an eternal inheritance because of Jesus Christ
Titus 2:13 (KJV)
“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”
Read verses 11-15.
- We have Christ promises
 - No need to be troubled (John 14:1-4)
 - We are guaranteed membership with the redeemed (Rev. 7:13-14)
- **The ills of time will be known no more:**
 - **No More Sea** Rev. 21:1
 - **No More Sorrow** Rev. 21:4
 - **No More Crying** Rev. 21:4
 - **No More Pain** Rev. 21:4
 - **No More Curse** Rev. 22:3
 - **No More Night** Rev. 22:5
 - **No More Death** Rev. 21:4

**WE ARE GOING HOME TO BE WITH JESUS!! THE FORMER THINGS PASSED AWAY!!
GLORIOUS HOPE!! ETERNAL INHERITANCE!! LET US PREPARE TO ENTER!!**

B. Cooperation Compulsory Josh. 1:12-15**1. People Centered Vv. 12-15**

There is so much more to this than I can properly address, but this is my earnest plea:
With the help of God let us genuinely love one another fervently, caring for one another, working together with the love of God. What a difference it will make!!

- (a) The quality of life especially in regards to relationship is at an all time low!!
- (1) In some situations people are recognized by numerical code or other means of classifications.
 - (2) People are recognized by their financial status and the more money possessed the greater the recognition.
 - (3) People are recognized by the color of their skin, texture of their hair or other irrelevant factors.
 - (4) People are recognized by the size house they have, the vehicles owned or other material possessions.
 - (5) People are recognized by their educational achievements, success in business, celebrity status, etc.
 - (6) Etc.
- (b) Man may underestimate, discriminate, etc. each other but what a difference with God! He freely reaches out to lost humanity pouring out upon us His love, grace and mercy!
- (1) While we were His enemies (Rom. 5:1-11)
 - (2) While we were enslaved by sin (John 8:44)
 - (3) While characterized by an embarrassing reputation (Luke 19:1-10 ... Zacchaeus; John 4:1-26 ... The Woman at the Well)
 - (4) While we were without hope, living in darkness (Isa. 9:2; Luke 1:79; 1 Peter 2:9-10)
- (c) **People must not be seen only as means of accomplishing personal goals but accepted and genuinely loved as God's prized possession.**
- (1) It was so from creation: man was the peak of God's creation, made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27)
 - Sin robbed man of his purity and standing with God but even then God showed His mercy by clothing man, etc. (Gen. 3, NB v. 21).
 - See my brief study on "Created in the Image and Likeness of God" ... source: "The Righteous Pursues Holiness", chapter 1 lesson 3 pages 12-20.
 - (2) Sin robbed man of the moral image of God but Oh for the goodness of God!! A quote from the Bishop's Study Manual (Church of God):
 "Salvation recreates the moral image of God in people and opens the door to God's work of sanctification and growth in holiness."
 - (3) **What's the relevance of these facts to our study?**

- Physical Canaan was reserved for the chosen of God ... the nation of Israel (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:7-11; 17:1-4)
- Eternity in the presence of Jesus Christ has been reserved exclusively for the redeemed, the chosen people of God (1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:9-10; 1 John 3:3)
- **Our Eternal Home is Divinely Prepared!** (See also listing above on Rev. 21 and 22)
 - Where Blessings are Overflowing (Psa. 23:5)
 - Treasures are the Goodness of God (Psa. 31:19; 68:19; Isa. 64:4)
 - It will be a Spiritual Feast (Isa. 25:6, Matt. 22:4, Rev. 19:9)
 - It is a glorious inheritance (Matt. 25:34; Luke 2:31; Luke 14:17)
 - It is our Eternal Home (John 14:2; 1 Co. 2:9; Heb. 11:16)
- A democratically elected government **SHOULD BE:** by the people, of the people and for the people!!
- The eternal abode (home) of the believers is by God, of God, to the glory of God for His people who are precious in His sight (Isa. 43:4).

2. Pathway to Victory by Unity Josh. 1:12-15

(a) Anticipating Canaan

(1) This was something Israel looked towards.

- It was highly anticipated.
- It must have been something they constantly talked about through the decades.
- It was promised by God (as noted several times before).
- Conquering and occupying Canaan constituted the charge given to Joshua (Josh. 1:1-9).
- It was something the Israelites greatly desired and the sooner they occupy the better for them.
- With these recent developments they were on the verge of experiencing their long awaiting dream.
 - As we put it today: They were "On the edge of their seats!"
 - It was a moment of suspense and great anticipation.

(2) As noted before, there were conditions to be met in realizing this promise of Canaan. For example they were to obey God and worship only Him (Deut. 7:12-21).

- Here is another requirement that was compulsory for the success of the mission: **"The Pathway to Victory Would be Realized Through Unity!"** The goal at this time (for Israel) was to ensure unity among the entire nation!
- Ironically, there are far too many who have goals but not willing to do what is necessary for their accomplishment. Israel knew the importance of establishing and maintaining unity in order for them to realize that which has been so long anticipated.

- Unity is a goal to be genuinely achieved whether it is among the family, the Church, etc.

The following outline covers what is accomplished in a united church. It is an outline taken from a series of outlines on some chapters in the Book of acts, I did many years ago.

The Delightful Church Acts 2:41-47

- Gladly Receive the Word v. 41a
- Grounded in the Faith v. 42
- Groaning Church (Praying Church) v. 42
- Glowing Church Vv. 43, 47a
- Giving Church v. 45
- GENERAL UNITY Vv. 42,44, 46a
- Gladness v. 46b
- Growing Church Vv. 41b, 47b

(3) Moving forward under God's command

- As noted before:
 - Without God our challenges can be intimidating and produce a pessimistic attitude.
 - With God our assignments can be approached with confidence, determination and focused attention on Him who is able to see us through.
- Joshua was guaranteed the unfailing presence of God (Josh. 1:5, 9)
- The believer is guaranteed God's abiding presence (Matt 28:20; 1 Cor.1:9; 1 John 1:3; Rom. 8:37)
- Accept the Challenge and Move On!

Phil 3:12-14 Amplified Bible

"Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own. **I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ is calling us upward."**

(b) **Acceptance and Action.**

(1) The Israelites accepted the reality of progress being made.

- They would be moving forward to the Promise Land
- Now they must accept the fact that the success of the mission necessitates unity.
- The final outcome was dependent not only on God's presence, Joshua's leadership and the other leaders input but a comprehensive unity was mandatory!!

- Most likely they too realize that “iron sharpeneth iron” (Prov. 27:17) and the more they worked together the better it will be!!

(2) Unity is profitable

Ecc. 4:9-10 NKJV

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.”

(c) The need for unity is also binding on the Church (Universal).

Limited pointers are possible.

(1) The world is plagued with hatred, violence, hate crime, etc., we have seen some heinous, unthinkable cruel acts done to fellow humans.

- We complain about racial discrimination and other facts of cruelty and callousness but how do some individuals live with their own?
- We publish in our various sources of news, violent attacks and inhumane acts carried out in different places of the world but what about the atrocities within each country where we slaughter and terrorize, etc.
- We could list so many wrong and cruel things but these are well known, horrible though they maybe. The main reason for these unthinkable acts is the rejection of God and His righteousness. Sin is the foulest monster that has entered the world.

(2) Unfortunately, the Church (Universal) has its share of divisiveness. Details are not necessary but it should be realized that such is Satan’s way in his attempts to destroy the Church. The glorious news is no matter what Satan does the Church is built on Jesus Christ and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. (Mat. 16:18).

- Allow me to highlight three examples of concern. I am not saying there will not be problems within the Church but when it is of a carnal nature and to certain degree it is a matter of great concern.
 - Some denominations are always at war with other denominations.
 - Some denomination constantly experience divisions within.
 - And sad but true, within some local congregations we have witnessed uncharitable attitudes, and other traits of division.
- I can hear Bro. James still asking:

James 4:1 Amplified Bible

“What Leads to strife (discord and feuds) and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members?”
- Beloved, a united Church (local or Universal) is the deep desire of Jesus Christ
 - See John 17, NB Vv. 11, 22
 - See also Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:13.

- No matter what good things any denomination or local church has in place nothing takes the place of “UNITY” (See John 13:35)
- The Corinthians church was overcome with so many problems that it was ready to go under. The very first item Paul dealt with in addressing this urgent demand for restoration was **the need for unity.**
 - For example see 1 Cor. 12:12-31
 - I am highlighting 12:12 NKJV
“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”
- A few quotes on “Working Together.”
“In essence, this is the simplest and clearest statement about **team-work** in the **Bible**. The body of Christ or the people that are the whole of humanity, are a team. The body is not supported by one person, but by all of us. We one, we are strongest working together!”
(Base on 1 Cor. 12:12 ... Author unknown)
 - “Alone we can do so little. TOGETHER we can do so much.”
(Helen Keller)
 - “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” (Source unknown)
 - “We are all needed to do our part as we fit together in the Body of Christ.” (Source Unknown)

3. Price to be Paid Josh. 1:12-15

(a) The two and one half tribes were reminded of their vow.

(These tribes sometimes referred to as “The East Jordan Tribes,” because of their location).

- (1) These tribes, Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, had been given inheritances on the east side of Jordan during Moses’ administration. (See Num. 32 and Deut. 3:12-20)
- (2) I am highlighting three important points made by Moses when the transaction was made with these tribes. *(I will return to the conditions of this agreement later)*
 - **“This is what your fathers did ...” (Num. 32:8)**
 - Moses was referring to when the spies were sent out from Kadesh-barnea (See Num. 13 and 14)
 - Such lack of faith and revolt resulted in them not entering Canaan.
 - All male twenty years and older died in the “Wilderness Wandering” except Joshua and Caleb (Num. 32, NB Vv. 11-13 ... read the chapter)

- Instead of them taking 11 days to reach the border of Canaan it took them forty years Num.32:13; Deut. 1:1-3)
 - It should also be remembered that the conquest of Canaan has been commissioned to **ALL Israel** . . . a united front was mandatory!
 - The example of Joshua and Caleb are note-worthy! ... **Moses noted: Num. 32:12 KJV**
“Save Caleb the son of Jephuneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: **for they have** wholly followed the Lord.”
 - In closing the transaction and based on what is involved in the agreement, Moses noted:
Num. 32:23 NKJV
“But if you do not so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure yours sin will find you out.”
- (b) **The agreement to allocate these tribes occupation of the east side of Jordan was not a divisive factor.**
- (1) Division would only hurt and not help.
- Division would weaken them as a nation.
 - Division would weaken the foundation upon which they were building as a nation.
 - Division would send the wrong message both to Israel and other nations
 - Division would destroy the morale of the army and expose them to defeat.
 - Division would strengthen their enemies, encourage their willingness to attack and enhance their ability to conquer Israel.
 - Division would totally be inconsistent with God’s will for Israel.
- (2) This agreement with the East Jordan Tribes was necessary for their well being. They understood the conditions and pledge their fullest cooperation.
- It would be good for their livelihood and prosperity. It was fertile and good pasture land for their livestock (Num. 32:1-5).
 - Taking the above in consideration the area would be an awesome contribution to their investment and the continued provision for their families.
 - It would be beneficial for their families and future generations; it was just an ideal location.
 - It would also provide the security and stability thy desire for their families.
 - They would take all necessary steps to maintain regularity and undivided attention to the conditions of the agreement. It should be

noted that they stood with the other tribes until Canaan was conquered (See Josh. 22:1-4).

- They pledged their loyalty to obey all the laws and regulations of God (Num. 32: 20-24 and 25-27).

(c) **A Price to be Paid!! Josh. 1:12-15**

(1) The conditions of the agreement (with the East Jordan Tribes) ... See Num. 32:20-24, see also Vv. 6-19 and 25-27)

- They would leave their families, cattle and all livestock on the east side of Jordan.
- “The mighty men of **valor**” (Josh. 1:14)
 - “Valor”: bravery, courage, fearlessness.
 - These were the strong warriors, soldiers ready and willing to face the enemy!
- These men of valor were to serve as “shock troops.”
 - Soldiers trained especially for carrying out sudden assault.
 - These elite shock troops, Special Forces, would lead the advance upon the opposition in Canaan.
- They would be free from any family or materialistic interest during the period of conquest (Josh. 1:14 and Num. 32:25-27).
- They would fight alongside the other tribes
 - ... until they secured their promised rest and possess their inheritance of the land (Josh. 1:14-15)
 - They could then return to their own land and people, i.e. East of the River Jordan (Josh. 1:15).

(2) **Such an agreement was a “Price to be Paid!”**

- As it is, on the east side, they were experiencing the blessings of the Promise Land.
 - We will not get into the discussion that their choice made them fell short of the Promise Land (*at least not at this time*)
 - The land was fertile and exactly what was necessary for their livelihood (Num. 32:1-4).
 - Moses in his blessing blessed Joseph whose descendants at the time were Ephraim and Manasseh. Half of the tribe of Manasseh lived on the east side of Jordan (Deut. 33:13-17)
 - Moses in his blessings blessed the land (see Deut. 33:20-21). Here he mentions the tribe of Gad.
 - The fact remains these two and one half tribes should not be motivated by the beneficial factors of the area and refuse to move forward with their brothers in arms.
- For as long as it took to conquer Canaan, they would be away from home and family.

- **At any cost, the price had to be paid if the enemies in the Promise Land were to be defeated.**
- It meant getting out of their comfort zones and pressing forward with the assignment.
- It meant that courage rise with the level of danger and with the strength of God in defeating the enemy.
- It meant that despite all obstacles it was forward in the strength of the Lord! It was a price to pay but the dividends were much greater!!
- **As noted above, the two and one half tribe fulfilled their promise and fought alongside their fellow brothers until the military campaign was finished (Josh. 22:1-4)**

(d) Promises made must be kept, God will reward you!! (*Briefly noted*)

(1) John Wesley said:

“I build on Christ, the Rock of Ages, on His sure mercies described in His Word, and on His promises, all which I know are yea and amen.”

(2) If you promise keep your word.

- **Ecc. 5:4a KJV**
“When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it ...”
- See also Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21; Psa. 76:11.

(3) Note the assurance of rest promised to Israel (Josh. 1:13)

- To the Israelites “rest” meant:
 - Secured borders and peace from enemies.
 - Success and prosperity in whatever they did, fruitfulness of land and crops.
 - Strong commerce and economy among the businesses of the nations.
 - Satisfaction and assurance that they could go about their daily lives in peace, living full and satisfying lives.
- The word “rest” has spiritual and theological significance for the believer.
- When a person trusts Jesus Christ as his Savior, God gives that person “rest.”
 - You gave up the old way, now reap the benefit (Mat. 11:25-30).
 - ... it is the rest of salvation and deliverance
 - ... it is the rest of peace of heart and mind
 - ... it is the rest of assurance and confidence
 - ... it is the rest of purpose, meaning and significance
 - ... it is the rest of fulfillment and satisfaction.

(4) Give them all to Jesus!!

- Because of our commitment to Jesus Christ we are living witnesses to His will. We live what we have promised.

- Turning from sin is a promise to serve Him.
- Following in water baptism is a promise to serve Him.
- Committing to a local fellowship is a promise to serve Him.
- Being endued with His power is a promise to serve Him
- The list goes on and on
- To summarize: Our entire life, our all are reserved for Him and His perfect will, such is our commitment and promise.
- The genuine believer experiences a deep-seated rest, assurance and confidence within the deepest recesses of his heart.
 - He knows where he has come from, why he is here, and where he is going.
 - God floods his soul with the rest of His presence.
 - When the genuine believer **yields** his life totally to Christ and claims the wonderful promises of God, God floods him with spiritual rest (Josh. 11:23; 14:15; 21:44; 22:4; 23:1)
 - See also Heb. 4:3, 9-11; Ex. 33:14; Psa.116:7. Isa. 14:3)

C. Commitment Made Josh. 1:16-18

1. The pledge of loyalty and allegiance (Josh. 1:16-17a)

- (a) This pledge was made by all the officers (v. 10)
- (1) Some contended that this pledge was made only by the East Jordan Tribes (2 ½ tribes)
 - (2) However, based on the nature and demands of this assignment we have no doubt that **this was a unanimous decision of ALL of the officers.**
 - Such overwhelming support is heartwarming and encouraging to leadership.
 - Their pledge was one of **total loyalty and allegiance**, a pledge that boosted Joshua's confidence in his call and ability to lead the people.
 - They would obey him as they obeyed Moses
 - Orders would be immediately adhered to
 - Where he sends them they would go, even in the most difficult situation.
 - He had their word, their pledge of complete and total obedience.
- (b) The essence of unity is demonstrated in such unanimous pledge by the officers.
- (1) If everyone had tried to conquer the Promise Land his own way, chaos would have resulted.
 - (2) In order to complete the enormous task of conquering the land, everyone had to agree to the leader's plan and be willing to support and obey him.
 - (3) Believers swear their allegiance to Jesus Christ as the Captain of our salvation.
 - If we are going to complete the task He has given to us ...

- We must fully agree to His plan.
- We must pledge ourselves to obey.
- We must put His principles into action.
- Agreeing to God’s plan means both knowing what the plan is (as found in the Bible) and carry it out daily.

2. **Presence of God Anticipated Josh. 1:17b**

- (a) The officers demonstrated their great hope and faith in God.
- (1) They prayed for Joshua, prayed that the Lord would be with him as He was with Moses.
 - (2) They realized that Moses’ exemplary leadership and lifestyle, his endurance under so many adverse circumstances and exploits were all possible because of the abiding presence of God (Ex. 33:14) and prayed that Joshua experiences the same.
- (b) Such standard is to be expected of all leaders ... that they operate under the anointing of God.
- (1) It is important because leaders (Christian leaders) give people hope and courage that they need to stay strong in the faith.
 - (2) Christian leaders provide guidance and direction to people.
 - (3) Christian leaders are a source of inspiration, motivation, counsel, comfort, etc. to the people.
 - (4) They are of profound importance in so many ways and need to be enabled by God.
 - (5) Etc.
 - (6) As it relates to Joshua: The people were willing to follow him as long as God was with him as He was with Moses. This is a wise and necessary precaution to be followed because the blind cannot lead the blind; those abiding in darkness cannot help others to desire to walk in the light!
- (c) **The importances of God’s presence demonstrated by His messengers are clearly seen in the New Testament.** *(A few examples)*
- (1) Clearly demonstrated by Jesus Christ (Luke 4:18). See also Matt. 11:4-6; Mark 1: 22, 27; etc.
 - (2) The need for servants of God to be anointed (enabled) was promised and commanded by Christ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8)
 - (3) This promise was gladly received which resulted in equipping the Church for effective service; both leadership and laity (Acts 2-4, NB 3:1-10; Chaps. 6-7; etc.)

NOTE

Beloved, we have a mission to undertake and it has been assigned by God; we must “Accept the Challenge and Move On.”

- (a) For Israel (see the Book of Joshua, it involved conquering and occupying the Promise Land).
- (b) For the Church (Universal) we “wage war” against the powers of hell (Eph. 6:10-18).
 - (a) Our weapons are not carnal (2 Cor. 10:4)
 - (b) The battle is God’s (1 Sam. 17, NB v. 47) and the victory is accomplished not by human means but by the power of God (Zech. 4:6)
- (c) The “Clarion call” is still in effect, there is yet much work to be done!!
- (d) We must work together and occupy till He returns!! (Psa. 133; Luke 19:11-27, NB v.13; John 4:35).

Beloved: “STAND UP! STAND UP FOR JESUS!”

Stand up, Stand up for Jesus,
 Stand in His strength alone;
 The arm of flesh will fail you
 Ye dare not trust your own
 Put on the gospel armor,

Each piece put on with prayer;
 Where duty calls or danger
 Be never wanting there.

3. Punitive Action Proposed and Passionate Words of Action (Josh. 1:18)

(a) Punitive Action Proposed (Josh. 1:18a)

(Definition: “punitive: the word means: inflicting or intended as punishment.

Some synonyms: disciplinary, corrective, severe, etc.)

(1) The officers demonstrated their total commitment to their commander.

- They passed a decree that any rebel would be executed.
- If an officer refused to carry out the orders of Joshua, no question would be asked. He would be executed.
- The message conveyed here: “**They would accept nothing but total and absolute commitment to obey the orders of Joshua.**”

(2) Such law was not in effect during Moses administration.

- It might have prevented many of the rebellions formed against him.
- At this time (Josh. 1) we are looking at what was absolutely necessary in entering Canaan and combating the enemies.
- In times of war the severity of military discipline is more necessary than at other times.
- As noted before, the Church is engaged in “spiritual warfare.”
 - We fight not against flesh and blood but the forces of wickedness that controls the works of darkness and evil.
 - We also noted that we do not fight in our strength but by God’s enabling because in essence, He fights our battles.

- Jesus Christ is our Captain, The Author and Finisher of our salvation and in Him we stand and continue moving forward into battle!!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross,
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

- (3) As believers we have pledged our total loyalty and allegiance to Jesus Christ ... our all is on the altar of sacrifice, because of Christ enabling ... like Paul we can also say:

Gal. 2:20 NKJV

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I, who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

- (4) He speaks and we obey!!

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith,
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes of Your glory.

(b) Passionate Words of Encouragement

- (1) The officers challenged Joshua with stirring words of encouragement

- They challenge him to be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:18)
 - **Josh. 1:18b Amplified Bible**
“Only be strong, vigorous, and of good courage.”
 - On three occasions these words were repeated to Joshua
 - When Moses addressed Israel and charged Joshua his successor to be strong and be courageous (Deut. 31, NB Vv.7-13)
 - When God commissioned Joshua to take Israel to the Promised Land. He repeated this charge three times (Josh. 1:6, 7, 9)
 - Now repeated by the officers of Israel (Josh. 1:18)

- The officers had made a commitment by pledging their loyalty and were looking for Joshua to lead them as a strong and courageous leader.
- (2) This charge to be courageous was well received by Joshua and was evident in his leadership.
- His strength and courage came to him because of his relationship with God, who promised to be with him always (Josh. 1:1-9, NB Vv. 5, 9)
 - In your service to God, when moments of discouragement tries to set in and fear wants to distract you, remember that strength and courage are available to you from God (Psa. 33:12-19; 28:8; Isa. 12:2; etc.).
- (3) We should also observe the encouragement Joshua had from the people he served.
- They were ready to sacrifice their personal interest and would risk their very lives; all they require was the evidence of the presence of God upon their leader.
 - They promised him (Joshua) that they would be obedient and submit to him in all areas required.
 - It is encouraging to those in leadership to see those who follow do so with good will.
 - Joshua, though of approved valor, did not take it as an offense, but as a great kindness, for all the people to desire for him to be strong and of good courage.
- (c) If only the Church (Universal) would do much more to support one another, genuinely encourage one another and together storm the forts of darkness!!
- (1) Encourage leadership and be at peace with one another!!
- **1 Thess. 5:12-13 Amplified Bible**
 “Now also we beseech you, brethren, get to know who labor among you {recognize them for what they are, acknowledge and respect them all] your leaders who are over you in the Lord and those warn and kindly reprove and exhort you. And hold them in very high and most affectionate esteem in [intelligent and sympathetic] appreciation of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.”
 - See also Rom. 13:1; Phil. 2:29; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 3:1; Heb. 13:7; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17.
- (2) The oneness of believers comes with great benefits, for example see Psalm 133; 119:63; Acts 2:42.
- (3) In closing, I will share an old chorus we sang many years ago.

“Get together, get together
 Get together in the Lord

Let us treat one another
Like sisters and brothers
Let us all get together in the Lord

2 Tim 2:15

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trials), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.”

Lesson 1 Part B Review Questions

- Complete by choosing the correct answer:
 "The Book of Joshua is a story of _____."
 (a) conquest and failed attempts
 (b) conquest and fulfilled promises
 (c) control, set-backs, sorrow, defeat
 (d) surrender and unrealized goals
- Choose the correct answer:
 "Joshua was referred to as 'Moses' servant' (Ex. 33:11; Num. 11:28). The word 'servant' as used in these references also means _____."
 (a) skilled soldier
 (b) menial person
 (c) minister
 (d) commander
- Complete the following:
 "As it relates to Joshua, so it is to us (believes): "...only total (a) _____, commitment and (b) _____ observation of all God's (c) _____ and His Word will (d) _____ victory; anything else would be a (e) _____ accompanied with great (f) _____."
- A brief statement was made in our lesson in regards to requirements necessary for leadership in God's work. What requirements were noted as necessary?

5. What proof do we have in Josh. 1:10-18 that Joshua responded promptly to God’s charge to take the people across Jordan to the Promise Land?

6. The development of the hierarchical (chain of command) system was put in place by Moses. List the three phases of this development with references.

7. Complete the following:

“Joshua (a) _____ the (b) _____ of a well (c) _____ procedure with (d) _____ and proper (e) _____. In these verses (Josh. 1:10-11) we are witnessing that which was well (f) _____ in response to God’s (g) _____.

8. How does proper planning and implementation that involves local leadership and laity benefit the church?

9. In going across Jordan (Josh. 1)... (a) How many people they had to get ready? (b) How many days they had to prepare? (c) By what means the message to prepare, was communicated to the people?

10. (a) Explain why preparing the Israelites to break camp was not an easy task. (b) Getting the people ready was a success, what has been made clear as a result of such achievement?

11. Match the references on the right with their corresponding statements on the left.

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCES	JUMBLED REFERENCES
Incorruptible inheritance		Gal. 5:16-21 (22-26)
The new birth is compulsory		1 John 3:1-10
Inward righteousness and sincerity are compulsory		John 3:1-21
Live above the dictates of the flesh		Matt. 5:20
True children of God are known by righteous living		1 Pete 1:3-12

12. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer:
 “The consequences for rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ will be more devastating than it was for rejecting the law.”

13. Several important points are observed in 2 Peter 3. What admonition is noted in 2 Peter 3:17 (*You may want to read Vv. 14-18 for context*)?

14. What are some ills noted in Rev. 21 and 22 as things that will not be experienced in our eternal home ... with corresponding verses? (Six are OK).

15. Although not discussed in our lesson: "What are some significant facts associated with the fact that God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skin (Gen. 3:21)?"

16. Why was unity among the Israelites an important factor in order for them to conquer and possess Canaan?

17. Who does the “East of Jordan Tribes” referred to and why were they so made mention of?

18. In regards to the East Jordan Tribes: (a) what was Moses referring to when he mentioned: “This is what your fathers did ...” (Num. 32:8? (b) What was so noteworthy about Joshua and Caleb? (Num. 32:12?

19. When Moses concluded the agreement with the East Jordan Tribe, what note of warning was included in his closing statement? (Num. 32:23).

20. What were some of the conditions upon which the agreement was made with the East Jordan Tribes?

21. Complete by choosing the correct answer. In reference to the conquest of Canaan we noted:

“At any cost, the price had to be paid if the enemies in the Promise Land _____.”

- (a) were to be helped
- (b) were to be defeated
- (c) were to be strengthened
- (d) were to set free

22. God promised rest to Israel (Josh. 1:13). What did the assurance of rest meant to them?

23. In regards to the officers pledge of loyalty and allegiance (Josh. 1:16-17a). (a) What did such support meant to Joshua? (b) Why was such commitment so important?

24. The officers prayed for God’s presence to abide with Joshua, why was this important to them?

25. (a) What “punitive” action was decided by the officers (Josh. 1)? (b) Why would such drastic action be important at the time when the rule was put in effect?

26. (a) What passionate words of encouragement were made to Joshua? (b) List with references all occasions these words were repeated to Joshua.
