

POSSESSING THE PROMISES OF GOD

The first chapter of Joshua opens with the Lord instructing Joshua regarding his leadership responsibilities of possessing the promises of God: “Moses, My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.” (Josh.1:2)

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Joshua took this instruction from the Lord to the tribal leadership. “Then Joshua commanded the officers (shoter) of the people, saying, ‘pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, ‘prepare provisions for your 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.”(Josh.1:10-11).

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We will begin by studying Joshua’s instructions to the tribal (shoter) leaders of the 2 ½ eastern tribes and the tribal (shoter) leaders of the 9 ½ western tribes (Jordan River). We will study Joshua’s instructions by two homiletical outlines of our lesson text (1:10-11 and 1:12-18).

Provisions	(Josh.1:11)	We are crossing the Jordan
Pilgrimage	(Josh.1:11)	We are crossing the Jordan
Possession	(Josh.1:11)	We are crossing the Jordan
Promise	(Josh.1:11)	We are crossing the Jordan
Formula for rest	(Josh.1:12-13)	Moses’ teachings (remember the word – the faith cycle).
Formula for occupation	(Josh.1:14-15)	Military prowess (valiant warriors).
Formula for cooperation	(Josh.1:16-18a)	Mission allegiance (wherever you send us we will go).
Formula for success	(Josh.1:18b)	Mental attitude dynamics (MAD)

We will study FIVE aspects of the doctrinal principle of POSSESSING THE PROMISES OF GOD

1. Notice the importance of developing good spiritual leadership for the continuation of the fulfillment of the plan of God in redemptive history.

Moses mentored Joshua in good spiritual leadership always by the word of God, if not always by good example.

Joshua developed the Second Exodus Generation (SEG) leadership while still under Moses leadership. Now it is Joshua’s time to take the position and office of divine delegated authority over the twelve tribes of Israel. And it is time for the SEG leaders to take their positions as divine delegated tribal authority.

Joshua was not an extension of the person of Moses, but of the doctrinal teachings of Moses.

Joshua has been known as Moses’ spiritual son in training. Now it is time for Joshua to become the spiritual father in training others spiritual leaders.

Joshua had waited patiently in his ministry training for the Lord to appoint him as the shepherd leader. As a result, he experienced awesome things through the training of a super grace leader like Moses (Ex.24:12-18) [Mt. Sinai and Law] and (Ex.32:15-20) [dealing with the Golden Calf reversionism].

2. **Notice that Joshua does not have leadership arrogance (I know it all), leadership insecurity (Don't challenge my decisions) or leadership immaturity (I'm not able) (Rom.4:21).**

This is because Joshua is both spiritual mature in the word of God and in ministry of the word of God as well as spiritual mature in his ability to train and lead leaders. Joshua chose to be content in the mentoring training of Moses until the Lord promoted him to shepherd leader.

Paul had learned the importance of mentoring training of spiritual leaders (Acts 16-20) [Timothy] – “For this reason I have sent to you timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.” (1 Cor.4:17; 16:10-11; 1 Tim.1:2; Titus 1:4).

3. **Joshua was a spiritual mature leader who always led with a positive attitude of victory as a result of the exercise of Mental Attitude Dynamics (MAD).**

Joshua's mental attitude dynamics (MAD) are reflected when addressing the Second Exodus Generation as “Valiant Warriors” (1:14). Valiant warrior was a verbalization of Joshua's confidence in their leadership capacity and ability. Valiant Warrior meant that the fight was Israel's but the battle and victory was the Lord's (1 Sam.17:32-37, 46-47).

Joshua took to heart the formula for spiritual success: “Be strong and courageous!” During the seven years of conquest, Joshua fought 31 wars and only lost one battle (Achan's sin at Ai / 7:11-12; 12:7-24). He never lost a war!

The Apostle Paul's encouragement to us: “You therefore be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim.2:1, 2:1-4, 7)

4. **The Second Exodus Generation (SEG) had been taught to respect the position of divine delegated authority, “All that you have commanded us we will do, wherever you send us we will go.” (Josh.1:16)**

Loyalty is to the Lord who assigns those to positions of divine delegated authority: “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.” (Josh.1:17) “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Heb.6:11-12)

They understood that it is the Lord that we must trust and obey, for every victory, every day (Eph.5:15-17).

5. **The Second Exodus Generation (SEG) leadership had been taught the importance of complete cooperation and support of the mission at hand for success.**

“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.” (Josh.1:18)

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(Josh.1:10, 13, 15; 2 Cor.1:20; Heb.10:23; 1 John 2:25).