

**BOOK OF JOSHUA
PREPARATION
JOSHUA 1:10-18**

Introduction

Israel's long period of wanderings had ended. They were over forty years making their way to the land the **LORD** wanted to give to them when it could have been a journey of but 11 days by the shortest route. (Think about that!)

For the last forty years they were living outside of the **LORD'S** best for them! It had taken them two years to get to the place where they had sent out the 12 spies. After **REBELLING** against the **LORD**, they had spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness because of their **UNBELIEF** and **DISOBEDIENCE!**

Because the previous generation had **REFUSED** to let the **LORD** direct them, they had lost out on the **LORD'S** best for them, dying in the wilderness!

And now **MOSES**, because of his own **DISOBEDIENCE** was dead also and **JOSHUA** is the "*next man up*" **CHOSEN** by the **LORD** to lead **HIS PEOPLE** into the **CONQUEST** for **THE PROMISED LAND!**

We saw in our introduction the last two weeks how **JOSHUA** had been **PREPARED** and **ENCOURAGED** for this position by **MOSES!** And we saw how the **LORD** further **ENCOURAGED HIM TO BE STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS** in the task given him! (*Vs 6-9*)

And that SUCCESS would come as he MEDITATED ON AND OBEYED THE WORD OF GOD! (*Vs 8*)

The **LORD** had **not** forsaken **ISRAEL** over those years of wandering!

HE NEVER FAILS!

HE FULFILLS that which **HE** has **PROMISED!**

HE COMPLETES that which **HE** **BEGINS!**

They were now looking toward the **JORDAN RIVER**. They were encamped on the east bank, facing toward **JERICHO**. However, before they could cross over and enter into the land that the **LORD** had given them, some **PREPARATION WAS NEEDED** on their part!

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Before **VICTORY** comes, there always must be some **PREPARATION!**

I. THE PREPARATION FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS! (*Vs. 10-11*)

A. JOSHUA Gave His First COMMAND To The People!

1. It was a **COMMAND** to make **PREPARATION!**
2. In three days they would cross over **JORDAN!**
3. That wasn't a lot of time to **PREPARE** for such an undertaking, but that is all the time they were given.

B. They Were To PREPARE Food Supplies!

1. Somewhere between two to three million people had to be cared for while traveling.
2. All their livestock had to be cared for while making the journey, before they settled again.
3. So we can see that a lot of **PREPARATION** was needed for this journey.

C. This Was A COMMAND That Had To Be Obeyed In FAITH!

1. The **JORDAN RIVER** was in flood stage at this time. (*i.e. It was overflowing its banks.*)
2. There were no bridges or ferries or any other 'normal' means that would allow such a group to cross over.
3. But the **LORD** had **COMMANDED JOSHUA**, and **JOSHUA** had **COMMANDED** the nation to **PREPARE** to move forward!
4. For them to begin to make **PREPARATION**, they had to **BELIEVE** (by **FAITH**) that the **LORD** would **MAKE A WAY** for them!

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5. When the **LORD** calls us to do something for **HIM**, we must **BELIEVE** that **HE WILL MAKE A WAY** even when we can't see it!

And then we must do all we can to **PREPARE** for what the **LORD** will do in our lives and ministry **BELIEVING** that **HE WILL MAKE A WAY!**

D. So, They PREPARED For Their Journey To VICTORY, Just As We Need To PREPARE For Our Journey To VICTORY As Well!

1. Our **PREPARATION** is **SPIRITUAL**, not physical!
2. We are **RESPONSIBLE** to **FEED OUR SOULS** with good **SPIRITUAL FOOD!**
3. There comes a time when one **MATURES** that they must **LEARN** to **FEED THEMSELVES!**
4. We have a **RESPONSIBILITY** to **LEARN** to **FEED OURSELVES!**
5. The writer of **HEBREWS** gave a **REBUKE** to the **HEBREW BELIEVERS:**
Hebrews 5:12—“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”

THE PREPARATION FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS!

II. THE PREPARATION FOR OBEDIENCE! (Vs 12-15)

A. Look At JOSHUA'S Specific Instruction To The REUBENITES, GADDITES, And Half The Tribe of MANASSEH!

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1. The 2 ½ tribes had come to **MOSES** before his death requesting their allotment on the east side of **JORDAN**.
(Cf. Numbers 32)
2. When **MOSES** protested that they would bring the **LORD'S** anger down on all the people if they did that, they promised to go with all the other tribes and participate in the battles until the land was **CONQUERED!**
3. Here, **JOSHUA** reminded them to remember their **COMMITMENT** to **FIGHT** with their **BRETHREN** for the **POSSESSION** of the land! Moses had warned, *Numbers 32:23—“But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”*
4. We must remember that the **LORD** expects us to **HONOR** our **COMMITMENTS** that we make. *Ecclesiastes 5:5—“Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.”*

B. Something Else We Need To Learn From This Is That We Shouldn't Settle For Second Best!

1. The **LORD'S BEST** was on the other side of **JORDAN!**
2. But these 2 ½ tribes chose to settle for 2nd BEST!
3. That can be true in our lives today as well!
4. The **LORD'S BEST** for the **BELIEVER** is to experience the **VICTORY** of the **ABUNDANT LIFE**, but many are willing to just settle for mediocrity.

THE PREPARATION FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS...OBEDIENCE...

III. THE PREPARATION FOR VICTORY! (*Vs 16-18*)

A. The People Responded To JOSHUA'S DIRECTION!

1. They were ready to FOLLOW his LEADERSHIP!
2. That speaks of JOSHUA'S CHARACTER, and of the people's willingness to OBEY the LORD!
3. The LORD still chooses to lead HIS PEOPLE through men!
4. How people RESPOND to the LORD'S LEADER, speaks of their SUBMISSION to the LORD HIMSELF!

B. Listen To Their Response! (*Vs. 16*)

1. This is the RESPONSE that the LORD is looking for from us!
Remember how we said that JOSHUA is a TYPE OF CHRIST!
2. WHATEVER the LORD COMMANDS us, we should do and WHEREVER the LORD SENDS us, we should go.
John 14:15—"If ye love me, keep my commandments."
John 15:14—"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."
3. Once we settle the matter of just being OBEDIENT to the LORD and give up on trying to argue or debate with HIM, then we too can have VICTORY!
4. But we will never see it if we continue to resist the LORD'S LEADERSHIP in our lives!
5. The previous generation LEARNED that the hard way.

We can LEARN from the mistakes of others, we don't have to repeat them!

C. They Reassured JOSHUA That They Would Follow His LEADERSHIP! (*Vs 17*)

1. This wasn't blind OBEDIENCE to a man.
2. They clarified their statement so that JOSHUA also understood their ALLEGIANCE WAS TO GOD'S MAN...not just any man.
3. As long as JOSHUA had the LORD'S hand upon him, as MOSES had, they would follow his LEADERSHIP.
4. This wasn't insubordination; it just made good sense!
5. Too often people are following a man, and then the man leads them astray. Sadly, it happens all the time!

D. They Agreed On The CONSEQUENCES For DISOBEDIENCE! (*Vs 18*)

What an ENCOURAGEMENT this must have been to JOSHUA!

What if GOD JUDGED us after this manner today?

Aren't you thankful that we are under GRACE and not LAW?

This shows how strongly the people were COMMITTED to the LORD and the LORD'S MAN!

Conclusion

Next week, LORD willing, we'll see some preliminary spying that went on. Two spies this time, not twelve like last time! We'll see their interaction with RAHAB THE HARLOT and how the LORD SAVED her and used her to protect these two spies and to help ISRAEL!