

Finally, my brethren,
be strong in the Lord,
and in the power
of his might.

Rest for today

*"Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, . . . So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my **rest**."*—Heb. 3:10, 11

Many Christians today do not believe God can give them victory over their situation, circumstances, and problems. Thus, they "wander around in a wilderness." But their heavenly Father cares for them and wants to give them victory.

The book of Joshua shows us how to have a victorious Christian life by moving forward in faith. Too often, we are strong in fear and doubts, and even consider a "retreat" from God. But, by acting in faith and moving on, we will not have to retreat, or yield to temptation.

Then we can experience spiritual **rest**.

Scripture to read before next study

Josh. 2:1-24

Joshua, BE STRONG



Outline

The 3 main divisions of Joshua are—

- Chapters **1-12** the **conquest** of the land.
- Chapters **13-22** the **distribution** of the land by lot.
- Chapters **23-24** the **farewell/death** of Joshua.

Land Promised to Israel

God promised this real estate, the land of Canaan, to Abraham's descendants. Since God owns the world, He has the right to give any land to any group He chooses.



"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you.... 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."—Josh. 1:3, 4

God gave Israel all the land—from the wilderness in the **south**—to Lebanon in the **north**, and from the Euphrates river in the **east**—to the Mediterranean sea **west**, but they could only possess the part they conquered.

Israel never claimed all the land to the Euphrates river. In King Solomon's reign, his kingdom reached close to that area, but after his death, Israel lost that.

Three times God commands Joshua— The name Joshua means savior.

"Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid"

—Josh. 1:6, 7, 9. God repeated His command to Joshua 3 times because He knew it would be hard for Joshua to have moral strength and courage to defeat the enemy. Joshua needed these commands repeated to him.

To meet Satan's temptations, we also need to *"Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid."*

To be strong and full of faith, we must walk in the **Spirit**, which is on a higher plane than walking in the **flesh** (our own strength). The NT says—the **flesh** is weak. When we walk in the **flesh**, we realize how spiritually weak we are.

Victory over sin is provided by Christ, but we only have victory over that which we claim by **faith**.

Who God uses —

God prepares us through routine duties. If we do those well, God may call us to higher service. Power and strength come through letting God's word indwell and guide us. Then, the weakest person can become a conqueror. God often uses the weak person and the nobody, to be His special channel in blessing others.

It is not how we begin our Christian life, but how we end it that counts for eternity.