



ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND OF 2022

PART 1

The Faith of Joshua

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The last few weeks we've discussed entering 2022 with a renewed vision of honoring God in all things and sowing towards a God glorifying future. Today we take a look at the topic of "Entering the Promised Land." Joshua's example of character, preparation, and bringing Israel into the Promised Land has lots to say for us today.

Background

Joseph's name in Hebrew means Jehovah is Salvation. He was a descendant of Joseph and the successor to Moses. (Joshua 1:1-2) Joshua was one of the twelve spies who went into the Promised Land. (Numbers 13:1-26) When they returned, only he and Caleb spoke well of God's Promised Land. The others caused all Israel to rebel against the Lord! The result was the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness from which only Joshua and Caleb were able to enter the land. He was a dedicated servant whom the Lord used in a very great way, not because of his own strength but because he was obedient and fully dedicated to the LORD and to Moses. Joshua died at 110 years old, approximately 1390 BC and saw ALL the promises of God fulfilled!

1. **Joshua was a man of FAITH.** Unlike the other 8 spies who were sent to assess the Land of Promise, Joshua looked *beyond* the circumstances, and saw God's promises as more real than the (very real) giants of the land!
 - Numbers 14:1-9 ...7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."
 - Because His faith was an active faith, Joshua followed the Lord wholeheartedly — a container completely filled to overflowing — and God gave him the responsibility of leading God's people into the Promised Land. (Numbers 32:11)

2. **Joshua was a man of WORSHIP.** Even after Moses left the Tent of Meeting, Joshua stayed in the Lord's Presence. He was addicted to God's Presence and understood that NOTHING would be successful unless he was connected to the Source of Life. (John 1:4)
- Exodus 33:10-11 *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.*
 - In Joshua 5:13-15, we read about him coming face to face with Christ as the Commander of *the* Army just before the battle against Jericho. Understand that, just prior to a spiritual battle, Christ will come as our Commander to lead us into battle. Our success depends on our obedience to His Word.
3. **Joshua was a man of strong CONVICTIONS** (life principles based upon God's Word). In Joshua 24:14-15 we hear his heart cry, "But as for me and my house, *we will serve the LORD.*"
- Joshua 24:14-15 *"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*
 - Joshua said, "We WILL serve the Lord." He set the standard and carried it out fully because it was not a preference but a determination he chose to have!



During this season, God is calling and preparing His Church to be the "Joshuas" who are not limited by all the current challenges! We are to purify our own hearts first and then have a God given desire to equip God's people to put on the Armor of God and advance into uncharted land! His Presence and promises are greater than the giants in the land and in our hearts!

HEAVENLY FATHER, we desire that strong, determined faith of Joshua which carried him through very difficult circumstances! Forgive us for limiting our faith and our obedience to You. Fill us with Your Spirit and empower us in this season to carry out Your will. Amen.