

Lesson #2 – Choosing God

Theme: Faith – Choosing to follow God (Joshua 1)

The Israelites had to choose to love and obey God. If they loved God, He would bless them. If they chose to forget God, He would punish them.

God had been with the Israelites for these 40 years. He gave them food and water. He gave them victory over nations that tried to hurt them as they went toward Canaan. God even kept their clothes from wearing out and their shoes from wearing out. Even their feet did not swell as they walked through the wilderness.

Now they had been brought to a good land with plenty of water to drink. There was wheat and barley, and grapes and fig trees and olive trees and grape vines and pomegranates and honey. They would have plenty to eat.

They must not forget how good God had been to them. It was God who gave them these good things. They must destroy all the idols in the land and worship only God.

The Israelites were camped at the Jordan River. Across the river lay the new land. Joshua was in charge now, and he was very wise. God told Joshua He was with him like he had been with Moses. God would give them this new land. No men could defeat them as long as they obeyed God.

“I will not fail or forsake you.” said God. “Be strong and of good courage.” Joshua was not to be afraid, but trusted God to help him.

Joshua told the people in 3 days they would go over the Jordan to possess the land. They were to prepare a good meal before their march into the land.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of Manasseh chose to stay on the present side of Jordan to raise their cattle. They would help the rest of the people possess the land, however. Then they would come back to their pasture land.

Joshua sent two men to spy out the land again. They would await their report in a day or two. They were remaining strong and of good courage.

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TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

- T. F 1. The Israelites clothes never wore out.
- T F 2. Their shoes did wear out.
- T F 3. There was plenty to eat in the Promised Land.
- T F 4. They camped by the Jordan River.
- T F 5. Joshua was a coward.
- T F 6. God said, “Be strong and of good courage.”
- T F 7. In 3 days the people would cross Jordan.
- T F 8. Some tribes chose to stay on that side of Jordan.
- T F 9. These refused to help the other tribes possess the land.
- T F 10. Joshua sent 6 men to spy out the land.
- T F 11. We must always obey God’s will also.
- T F 12. God blesses those who obey.