

BE STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS

Synopsis:

1. In order to appreciate fully the book of Judges, one must keep in mind some background and history of the nation of Israel.
2. The providence of God led Jacob and his family into the land of Egypt where they were protected by the influence of Joseph.
3. While there, they became the nation that God had promised Abraham they would become (Deuteronomy 26:5).
4. Under the leadership of Moses, God delivered His people from Egypt and brought them through the wilderness to the borders of the land of Canaan.
5. It was under the guidance of Joshua that the nation of Israel would inherit the Promised Land – by conquering the inhabitants of the land.

Introduction:

1. God's words to Joshua were meant to encourage him for the work of leading the children of Israel in the taking of the land of Canaan.
2. However, they also serve as instructions for all of God's people if they desire to serve Him as Joshua did.
3. By considering the actions of Joshua and the Israelites in the light of these commands, one may obtain a background for the study of the book of Judges.
4. Consider how a follower of God is to be strong and very courageous...

I. Trust in God (1:5-6)

- A. God will protect His faithful servant (Romans 8:31, 37).
- B. God will not abandon His people (Matt. 28:20; Acts 18:9-10; Heb. 13:5).
- C. God keeps His promises (Titus 1:2; 2 Peter 3:8-10).

II. Obey the Word (1:7-8)

- A. Keep all of the Word of God (Deuteronomy 12:32; 28:14; Rev. 22:18-19).
 1. Do not turn to the right hand.
 2. Do not turn to the left hand.
- B. Speak the Word of God (Deut. 6:6-9; Acts 26:25; Eph. 4:15, 25, 29).
- C. Think on the Word of God (Psalm 1:1-3; Col. 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:15-16).

III. Have No Fear (1:9)

- A. Trust in God removes all fear (Psalm 27:1; Matthew 10:28; Romans 8:15; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 13:6; 1 John 4:18; Revelation 2:10).
- B. Trust in God removes all discouragement (1 Sam. 17:11; Isa. 41:10).
- C. Trust in God removes all obstacles.

Illustration: *The Battle for Jericho* (5:13 – 6:27)

- A. Joshua and the Israelites trusted in God.
- B. Joshua and the Israelites obeyed the word.
- C. Joshua and the Israelites had no fear.

Conclusion:

1. The challenge at the time of Judges is: will Israel have faith without a leader.
2. The cycle of the Judges indicates that they did not.
3. Are we strong and very courageous?