

Sermon Outline

“AND THE LORD GAVE THEM REST”:
A CHRISTIAN READING OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU (JOSHUA 1:1-9)

I. Joshua, Supreme Leader of Israel

Joshua was Moses’ lieutenant and a great military leader of Israel. After Moses’ death, Joshua succeeds Moses as Israel’s new prophet-leader.

II. The Lord Calls Joshua and Israel to Take the Land (Joshua 1:2)

III. The Lord Reaffirms His Promises to Joshua (Joshua 1:3-5)

- A. YHWH tells Joshua that he has given him every place on which his foot lands (v 3).
- B. YHWH spells out the land that he has given to Israel (v 4) in order to...
 - 1. reaffirm that he is the God who remembers his promises to Israel’s forefathers and keeps them.
 - 2. show that Israel has a legal and moral right to the land.
—YHWH is the ultimate Landlord who gives land to anyone whom he pleases.
- C. YHWH promises Joshua protection and victory (v 5).
 - 1. God affirms his support not just for Israel in general, but for Joshua in particular.
 - 2. God has bound himself to Joshua—Joshua is God’s man for the hour.

IV. The Lord Calls Joshua to Boldness and Faithfulness (Joshua 1:6-9)

- A. Since God will cause his people to inherit the land, Joshua must “be strong and courageous” (1:6).
- B. Since God will cause his people to inherit the land, Joshua must “be strong and courageous” and also be careful to obey the Law of God (1:7).
—Being strong and courageous is tied to obedience and faithfulness to God.

- C. Joshua must keep the Law of God at the center of his life by meditating on the Law and doing it (1:8).
1. To meditate on God's Law is to think long and hard on it.
 2. Meditation on God's Law involves reading God's Law audibly to oneself.
 3. Meditation on God's Law will lead to obedience to it.
 4. What are the results of obeying God's Law? *Prosperity and success!*
 - a. God is not against us wanting to prosper and succeed.
 - b. But God makes clear that success and prosperity for his people will only come when God's Law is heeded and obeyed.
 - c. God's favor will only come when the Word of God is resident in our mouths and hearts!
 5. All civilizations have a system of core values that shapes what they do.
 - a. For Israel, the core value is obedience to the Lord God.
 - b. Obedience will bring the favor of God.
- D. The Lord encourages Joshua yet again (1:9)
1. Joshua must "Be strong and courageous."
 2. Joshua must not be frightened and dismayed.
 3. Joshua must know that he can show strength and courage because YHWH is with him.

V. "I Am with You Always"

We live in a very different period than Joshua did. God does not call us to "take the land" in the same way that he told Joshua. Israel's holy war with the Canaanites was a form of engagement that was limited to a particular point in the life of God's Nation. Today, the international Nation of God takes her lands in different ways. We take our lands by doing all things to the glory of God. We take our lands by using our space and our things in ways that please the Lord. Most of all, we take our lands by raising disciples for God from the nations of the world, proclaiming forgiveness of sins in Jesus' Name. And yet, the basis of our boldness remains the same: We can be strong and courageous because YHWH our God continues to be with us as he was with Joshua and our forefathers (Mt 28:20).

Where is strength and courage required from God's Church in Singapore today?

We need strength and courage to believe the Word of God because it is not intellectually fashionable to do so.

We need strength and courage to preach Jesus Christ as the only Savior-Lord because it is not culturally fashionable to do so.

We need strength and courage to uphold Christ as our supreme identity because that is most politically incorrect.

Will we show courage? Will we exert our strength as the Church of YHWH?
We can—and we must—because Christ our Lord is with us.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our worship service this morning. It is good to be in the House of the God on the Lord's Day to give praise and worship to our covenant God.
2. There will be Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study after morning tea. Please join us for fellowship around the Word.
3. Prayer meeting for the months of February and March is on every Thursday at 7:30 pm.
4. The congregation is encouraged to let the Committee know which areas they would like to serve in the newly formed church organizational structure. Each person in-charge of a ministry will form a sub-committee when he has received enough number of people who would like to serve in the particular ministry. Please seriously pray and ask the Lord for direction and make yourself available for His service.
5. Next week's message: "Executive Orders" (Joshua 1:10-18)

LORD'S DAY

9.30 am Worship Service
11.45 am Sunday School
Bible Study

THURSDAY

7.30 pm Prayer Meeting

2011 THEME

"The Baptized Nation"
(Gal 3:25-27)

Activities	13 March	20 March
Preacher	Pastor Christopher	Pastor Christopher
Worship Leader	Brian	Pastor Christopher
Pianist	Lynette	Gary
Usher	Kok Yeow	Erry
Adult Bible Study	Pastor Christopher	Pastor Christopher
Refreshments	Lynette	Soo Ling
Lunch Coordinator	--	--
Librarian	Yun Nong	Yun Nong
	This week	Next week
Prayer Leader	Yun Nong	Keng Ho
Church Cleaning	Yaw Kai's SEG (19/3)	Gary's SEG (26/3)

"Prayer is no petty duty, put into a corner; no piecemeal performance ...; but it means that the best of our time, the heart of our time and strength must be given." E. M. Bounds