

# Sermon Outline

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

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### EXECUTIVE ORDERS (JOSHUA 1:10-18)

#### I. The Exaltation of Joshua Ben-Nun

#### II. Joshua Addresses Israel’s Officers (Joshua 1:10-11)

- A. Having received instructions from the Lord, Joshua imparts them to his officers (v 10).
- B. Joshua commands his officers to give the following instructions to the people of Israel (v 11).
  - 1. Prepare provisions.
  - 2. In three days, Israel will cross the Jordan to possess the land.
  - 3. The land is that which YHWH is giving Israel to possess.

#### III. Joshua Addresses Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh (Joshua 1:12-15)

- A. This refers to an episode in Numbers 32.
  - 1. The tribes of Reuben and Gad were eyeing the land east of the Jordan, outside Canaan (32:5).
  - 2. Moses was worried about the discouragement that could result if Reuben and Gad chose not to fight (32:6-7).
  - 3. But Reuben and Gad promise to join the fight—and only settle in their land after Israel had succeed conquering Canaan (32:16-19)
  - 4. Moses had given permission to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh to remain on the east side of the Jordan, outside Canaan, provided these tribes did not leave their brother Israelites to fight alone (32:20-22).
- B. Joshua is now recognizing the terms of that agreement (Josh 1:14-15).
  - 1. The wives, children, and livestock from Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh may stay in the land east of the Jordan.
  - 2. But the “men of valor” must cross the river armed to help their brother Israelites.
  - 3. The soldiers can only return when the Lord gives rest to their brothers.
- C. There is a lesson to learn from the agreement between Moses, and Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh:
  - 1. God’s people must always look out for the needs of the larger Kingdom of God.

2. The Church of Christ in Singapore must have an eye on what is happening to other Churches in the world.

#### **IV. The People Swear Allegiance to Joshua (Joshua 1:16-18)**

- A. At this point in Israel's life, military conscription has a religious dimension. It is enlistment into the army of YHWH.
- B. Israel gives their allegiance to Joshua: "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go" (v 16).
- C. Israel resolves to treat Joshua as they had treated Moses—with reverence (v 17).
- D. Israel pronounces death on all who would rebel against Joshua (v 18). —Joshua carries in himself the kingly authority of the Lord.
- E. But the people also recognized that Joshua's success was contingent on other factors.
  1. It was contingent on YHWH being with him: "Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses" (v 17).
  2. It was contingent on his own obedience to YHWH: "Only be strong and courageous" (v 18).

#### **V. Fidelity to the Greater Joshua**

*Do we have the same loyalty to our Joshua as our ancient brothers and sisters had to theirs? Our Joshua is the Lord Jesus Christ, the reign of God in human flesh. God was with Christ as he was with Moses and Joshua. And Christ was always strong and courageous in his mission from God. So just as old Israel was loyal to Joshua, we, new Israel, must maintain fidelity to our Lord Jesus in all things. We must continually choose Christ Jesus above all other loyalties. We must continually subject our pleasures to Christ, seeking his interests above our own.*

*And yet, Christ has gone further than Joshua. While Joshua called his people to fulfil the righteous requirements of God, Christ himself has fulfilled those requirements for us, securing our eternal rest. So the way to do what Christ asks of us is first of all by receiving Christ Jesus as our righteousness, the fulfilment of God's requirements for our lives.*