

CONTROL GIVEN TO JOSHUA

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed for wisdom and read the Bible to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes below to meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Aim: Obey the Lord and depend on Him to protect you and to provide for all your needs.

Suggestion: Give next week's Student Lesson to your class to answer the questions. Let them share their answers in class. The questions below will reveal important truths you may want to emphasize.

Introduction: Joshua was Moses' assistant for forty years before he became the leader of Israel. During his first two years with Moses, Joshua fought and defeated the Amalekites while Moses prayed for him and his army (Ex 17:8ff). He also accompanied Moses up Mt. Sinai to receive the stone tablets of the Law (Ex 24:13; 32:17). He was sent by Moses as one of the twelve spies into Canaan and gave a minority report with Caleb to Moses that was true, but very unpopular with the people (Num 13-14). Nothing is said about him for the next 38 years until he was chosen by God to succeed Moses as Israel's leader. God had prepared Joshua for this task and promised to be with him. He would help him even as He had helped Moses. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . . and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt 28:19-20 NKJV).

What modern countries occupy land that God promised to Israel? 1:4

The boundaries given for Israel's Promised Land are not exact in Joshua 1:4 and in other Scriptures, so we will use the boundaries given in Numbers 34:1-12 and in Ezekiel 47:13-20, which are close in agreement. Ezekiel says that each tribe will have the same amount of land in parallel sections with Dan in the north and Gad in the south. The north border is north of Damascus, going from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea, which includes Lebanon. The east border goes southwest from the Euphrates to the Sea of Galilee and extends south along the Jordan River past the Dead Sea. This excludes the land Moses gave to two and a half tribes and was a part of Solomon's Kingdom. It belongs to Jordan today. The south border begins south of the Dead Sea to a brook that flowed into the Mediterranean. The west border is the Mediterranean. The borders of Israel include the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon and a large part of Syria. Christ will be king in Israel over all the earth (Zech 14:9). All believers will rule with Him (Rev 3:21). Will you rule with Him?

How did God encourage Joshua before he entered Canaan? 1:5

God assured Joshua that no one would succeed in opposing him because He would be with him. He would not become weak and fail him or forsake him and thus expose him to his enemies. God wants to do that for every believer who trusts in Him. Do you trust in Him? Can you boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb 13:6)?

What was Joshua to do to be prosperous and have good success? 1:8

He was to keep God's words in his mouth by meditating on them day and night and by obeying them. All believers are to fill their mouths with God's Word to be effective witnesses for Him. To do this they must think on His Word and let it change their hearts' desires. How has God's Word changed you?

What did Rahab believe about God that caused her to trust in Him? 2:9-12

She believed that God had given Israel the land of Canaan. She believed that God's power defeated Egypt and two Amorite kings across the Jordan. She believed the LORD God was omnipresent; he was in heaven and on earth. She wanted the spies to take an oath in the name of the LORD to spare herself and her family. What do we know about God to trust in Him to save us from hell?

How did Rahab prove her faith? 2:15-22

She proved her faith by her works. She helped the spies escape and gave them good advice on how to elude their pursuers (2:15-16, 22); she agreed not to discuss the mission of the spies (2:20-21); and she tied the scarlet cord in her window believing God would save her and her family from being killed when Israel would destroy Jericho (2:21). Christians need to prove their faith by their works (Jam 2:25). What have you done to prove your faith?