

God's Promise & a Funeral (Joshua 1:1-18)

- Joshua is a wonderful book testifying to God's faithfulness His promises
- The first chapter speaks of God's power and provision for Israel after Moses died
- Moses spoke directly from God with God's revelation to His people
- They were afraid as they faced the Jordan and the land of Canaan God gave them
- God: faithful to His promise to give them the land but still they had to conquer it

I. The Vitality of the LORD Jehovah's Promise (1:1-4)

- First theme: The life of the LORD's promise: gift of land (vv.2-4,6,11,15)
- This is the fruition God made to Abraham and his heirs ages ago (**Gen. 12:6-7**)
- Vs 1,2 context of promise, after Moses' death is significant: God hasn't left them
- Moses was given Pentateuch, most Israel wiped out, Moses only faithful Israelite
- Moses was Israel's mediator, he attached their destiny to his (33:16).
- No one was greater than Moses "he died" until One greater than Moses came
- "My servant Moses is dead...rise, cross over into the land" God's promise lives on

II. The Encouragement of the LORD JEHOVAH's Presence (1:5,9,17)

- Second theme: "I will be with you" words spoken before, Moses afraid to speak
- "My servant is dead" but I am not dead, the great "I AM" will be with you
- "Be strong" – not muster up your courage, "be strong" I am with

III. The Centrality of the LORD JEHOVAH's Word (1:7,8)

- Third theme: **To be careful to do according to all Law/Torah (instruction) which Moses my servant commanded you' (v7)**
- God's Word is to govern every area of our lives "blessed is such a man" (Ps 1:2)
- God has made clear to us what pleases Him – it is revealed in His word
- God's Word is the only lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (Ps 119)

IV. The Unity of the LORD JEHOVAH's People (1:12-18)

- Two tribes request inheritance east of the Jordan, Moses is concerned (Num 32)
- Would they allow others to fight in land of Canaan while they had their land?
- Moses threatens them with judgment, they would discourage the rest of Israel
- Unity of Israel very important in ch 1 Reuben. Gad, ½ Manasseh prepared to fight
- Throughout Joshua: theme of being concerned for unity of all the tribes of Israel