



It is my destiny, and It is our destiny!

(God encourages the one He chooses)

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Strong*, "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 22–31.

FearLESS

Joshua 1:1–9 (NKJV)

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.



**It is my destiny, &
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4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.



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6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.



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8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”



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Encouragement for God's Assignment

Joshua 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.



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- Leaders don't lead forever, even godly leaders like Moses.
- There comes a time in every ministry when God calls for a new beginning with a new generation and new leadership.
- Except for Joshua and Caleb, the old generation of Jews had perished during the nation's wanderings in the wilderness.



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- Joshua was commissioned to lead the new generation into a new challenge: entering and conquering the Promised Land.
- “God buries His workman, but His work goes on.”
- It was God who had chosen Joshua, and everybody in Israel knew that he was their new leader.



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- Joshua learned how to obey as a servant before he commanded as a general; he was first a servant and then a ruler (*Matt. 25:21*).

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'



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**“He who has never
learned to obey cannot
be a good
commander,” wrote
Aristotle in his *Politics*.**



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- God commissioned Joshua to achieve three things:
 - lead the people into the land
 - defeat the enemy
 - claim the inheritance
- God could have sent an angel to do this, but He chose to use a man and give him the power he needed to get the job done.



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- Joshua is a type of Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation, who has won the victory and now shares His spiritual inheritance with us.

Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV)

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.



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Encouragement From God

Joshua 1:3–6 (NKJV)

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.



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Encouragement From God

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.



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- Since Joshua had a threefold task to perform, God gave him three special promises,

- one for each task.

1. God would enable Joshua to cross the river and claim the land (vv. 3–4).

2. Joshua will defeat the enemy (v. 5).

3. Joshua will dispense the land to each tribe as its inheritance (v. 6).



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- God didn't give Joshua explanations as to *how* He would accomplish these things, because God's people live on promises and not on explanations.
- When you trust God's promises and step out by faith (v. 3), you can be sure that the Lord will give you the directions you need when you need them.



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Deuteronomy 11:24 (NKJV)

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.



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Joshua 11:23 (NKJV)

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.



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First, God promised Joshua that Israel would enter the land (vv. 3–4).

- Over the centuries God reaffirmed this promise, from His first words to Abraham (Gen. 12) to His last words to Moses (Deut. 34:4).



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Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



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Deuteronomy 34:4 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”



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- God would take them over the Jordan and into enemy territory.
- He then would enable them to claim for themselves the land that He had promised them.
- God had already given them the land; it was their responsibility now to step out by faith and claim it (*Josh 1:3*).



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Genesis 13:14–18 (NKJV)

14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.



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16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”

18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.



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- The lesson for God's people today is clear: God has given us "all spiritual blessings ... in Christ", and we must step out by faith and claim them.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,



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- He has set before His church an open door that nobody can close, and we must walk through that door by faith and claim new territory for the Lord.

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.



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- *It is impossible to stand still in Christian life and service; for when you stand still, you immediately start going backward.*
- “Let us go on!” is God’s challenge to His church, and that means moving ahead into new territory.

Hebrews 6:1 (NKJV)

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God



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God Also Promised Joshua Victory Over The Enemy.

- The Lord told Abraham that other nations were inhabiting the Promised Land, and He repeated this fact to Moses.



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Genesis 15:18–21 (NKJV)

18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,

20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”



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Exodus 3:17 (NKJV)

and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.” ’



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- If Israel obeyed the Lord, He promised to help them defeat these nations.
- But He warned His people not to compromise with the enemy in any way, for then Israel would win the war but lose the victory (*Joshua 23:20–33*).



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- Unfortunately, that's exactly what happened.
- Since the Jews began to worship the gods of their pagan neighbors and adopt their evil practices, God had to chasten Israel in their land to bring them back to Himself (Jud. 1–2).



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- What a promise God gave to Joshua! *“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you or forsake you”* (Josh 1:5, NIV).
- God has given this promise to His people today! The Gospel of Matthew opens with *“Emmanuel ... God with us”* (1:23) and closes with Jesus saying, *“Lo, I am with you always”* (28:20, NKJV).
- The writer of Hebrews 13:5 quotes Joshua 1:5 and applies it to Christians today: *“I will never leave you nor forsake you”* (NKJV).



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- This means that God's people can move forward in God's will and be assured of God's presence.
- "If God be for us, who can be against us?"
(*Rom. 8:31*)
- Before Joshua began his conquest of Jericho, the Lord appeared to him and assured him of His presence (*Josh. 5:13–15*).



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- That was all Joshua needed to be guaranteed of victory.
- This was God's assurance that the enemy would be defeated and that Israel would possess their land.



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**God's Third Promise To
Joshua Was That He
Would Divide The Land
As An Inheritance For
The Conquering Tribes.**

(Josh. 1:6)



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- The Book of Joshua records the fulfillment of these three promises:
 - the first in chapters 2–5
 - the second in chapters 6–12
 - the third in chapters 13–22



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At the close of his life Joshua could remind the leaders of Israel that “not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you.



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Joshua 23:14 (NKJV)

“Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.



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- Before God could fulfill His promises, however, **Joshua had to exercise faith and “be strong and of good courage” (1:6).**
- **Divine sovereignty is not a substitute for human responsibility.**
- God’s sovereign Word is an encouragement to God’s servants to believe God and obey His commands.



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Encouragement From God's Written Word (vv. 7–8)

- It's one thing to say to a leader, "Be strong! Be very courageous!" and quite something else to enable him to do it.
- Joshua's strength and courage would come from meditating on the Word of God, believing its promises, and obeying its precepts.



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Encouragement From God's Written Word (vv. 7–8)

- During the years of his leadership, Moses kept a written record of God's words and acts and committed this record to the care of the priests (Deut. 31:9).
- It wasn't enough for the priests to carry and guard this precious book; Joshua had to take time to read it daily and make it a part of his inner person by meditating on it.



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Deuteronomy 17:18–20 (NKJV)

18 “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,



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20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.



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Psalm 1:2 (NKJV)

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 119:97 (NKJV)

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.



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- **The Hebrew word translated “meditate” means “to mutter.”**
- It was the practice of the Jews to read Scripture aloud (*Acts 8:26–40*) and talk about it to themselves and to one another.



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Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (NKJV)

6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.



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- This explains why God warned Joshua that the Book of the Law was not to depart out of his *mouth* (*Josh. 1:8*).
- In the life of the Christian believer, *prosperity* and *success* aren't to be measured by the standards of the world.
- These blessings are the by-products of a life devoted to God and His Word.



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- If you set out on your own to become prosperous and successful, you may achieve your goal and *live to regret it*.
- “In whatever man does without God, he must fail miserably, or succeed more miserably.”
Scottish novelist George MacDonald



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- The questions God's people need to ask are:
 - Did we obey the will of God?
 - Were we empowered by the Spirit of God?
 - Did we serve to the glory of God?
-
- If we can answer yes to these questions, then our work has been successful in God's eyes, no matter what people may think.



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Encouragement From God's Commandment

(v. 9)

- God's commandments are still God's enablement for those who obey Him by faith.
- Gabriel's words to Mary are as true today as when he spoke them in Nazareth: "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (*Luke 1:37*).



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- In the years to come, whenever Joshua faced an enemy and was tempted to be *afraid*, he would remember that he was a man with a divine commission—and his fears would vanish.
- Whenever things went wrong and he was tempted to be *dismayed*, he would recall God's command—and take new courage.



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- Like Moses before him, and Samuel and David after him, Joshua had a divine mandate to serve the Lord and do His will—and that mandate was sufficient to carry him through.



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