

Joshua commands the children of Israel

February 16, 2026

Read Joshua 1:10-18

Joshua commands the military leaders Joshua responds to the LORD's encouragement by immediately commanding the officers of the people:

- Joshua reminds the Israelites about the promise of the LORD God that is about to be fulfilled:
 1. The promise of the land given to possess
 2. The promise of the place to rest (mentioned twice); rest follows conquering (warfare, struggle) as a theme within the redemptive history
- By reminding the Israelites about God's promises that are about to be fulfilled, Joshua focuses their attention on God and his future works – an example of an eschatological attitude:
 1. Example: Fritz Kreisler
 2. Psalm 73:16-17
 3. Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- Just as Joshua motivated the children of Israel by focusing their eyes on the Lord's promise of rest, so should we even today live with our eyes focused on our risen Lord and His promise of the eschatological, ultimate rest
- Joshua's insistence that every man participate in the conquest of the land is an immediate example of a complete obedience to

the Lord's command, to the Lord's word (not turning from it to the right or to the left)

- For in verse 2 the Lord commands Joshua: *Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.*
- Joshua is concerned for the unity of the people of Israel. He remembers the Israel's rebellion during the Lord's testing in the wilderness Paran at Kadesh (Numbers 13-14).
- Finally, there seems to be yet another reason for the demand that all men of valor should cross the Jordan. In Joshua's explanation (v.14-15) we read that "they shall help their brothers *until* the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, *then* you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it." In other words, the Lord's provision of the land, the Lord's provision of rest can only be enjoyed when the fullness of His people takes possession of it (gains full inheritance)

Children of Israel respond The unanimous response of Israel to Joshua's commands:

- All that the LORD God commanded us through you we will do (comp. Exodus 19:7; 24:7 with Exodus 32)
- Will they keep their word? (Joshua 7:1-11); confirmed in Joshua 24:16-19)
- Joshua, the son of Nun, called by the LORD God to lead His people across the Jordan river has been accepted by the people of Israel
- The Israelites expressed prayerfully: *Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses.* Not only do they pray for the continuation of the blessing of the Lord's presence. They also desire that Joshua be established as their leader by the Lord in the same way as Moses was