

Read Joshua 1:1-7: The end of Deuteronomy included the passing of Moses. Joshua is now leading the children of Israel. Exodus through Deuteronomy is all about unbelief. Joshua is about taking steps of faith.

⁵ So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. ⁶ And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His ^[b]eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor ^[c]diminished. ⁸ And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended. ⁹ Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. (Deuteronomy 34)

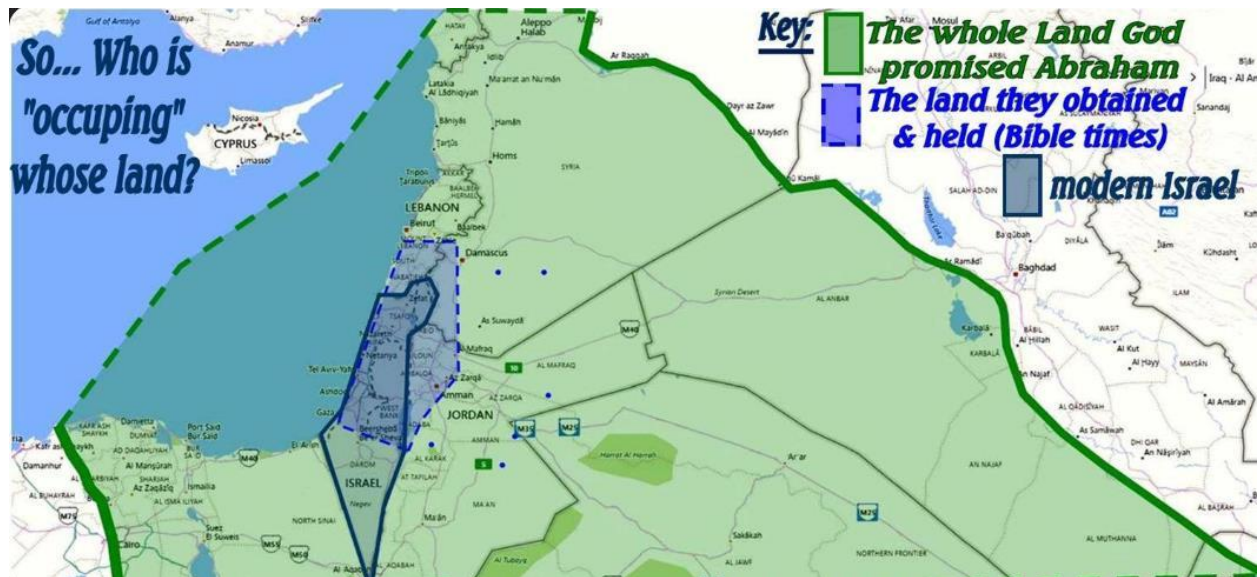
It is a different season. Moses and his hard laws were appropriate for those stubborn souls. The former generation perished in the desert without being allowed to enter the land of Canaan or acquire God's promises. They were faithless deserters. A new generation will take the torch and get the job done. The imagery is that what Moses and the Law could not do (due to human limitations) Joshua (like Jesus) would do by faith in what God could do.

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ²⁷ "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰ Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I ^[g]swore I would make you dwell in. ³¹ But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall ^[h]know the land which you have despised. ³² But as for you, your ^[i]carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your sons shall be ^[l]shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. ³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your ^[k]guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My ^[j]rejection. ³⁵ I the LORD have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.' " (Numbers 14)

Now, a bold leader stands at the ready, to finish the job.

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. (1 John 2;19)

The territory that God is giving them is way beyond modern Israel.



When God gives you the green light, no giant or equipped soldier can stop you. God promised that nobody could stop them. Joshua certainly had an unprecedented string of victories. Joshua defeated 31 kings.

One illusion that I fall to occasionally is that I can expect to have a peaceful life if I am following God. Joshua was faithful, and he was fighting for his life every day. Likewise with King David and other faithful men. What God wants from me, I believe is to prayerfully try my hardest. God will rescue me in ways that remind me that I had no major impact.

The emphasis in Early Joshua is to not live in fear. It is normal to be anxious about things that can mess us up. God wants us to pray, and just hand it over to him.

Read Joshua 1:8-9: Born-again believers in Jesus Christ are supposed to be people of this book. After all, Jesus is called the living word of God. The promises that we have by doing so include success and prosperity. I have seen this play out over and over again. I have seen believers struggle with substance abuse and other issues. They will repent with all sincerity, only to fall again. What is missing is a

daily time in the strengthening word of God. The bible should be read in a chapter by chapter manner. We need the surrounding context.

Read Joshua 1:10-18: There is only one way to be brave in the LORD. You have to be all in. Ephesians 6 describes it as dressing up for battle every day; because you will need all of the protections.

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the ^[b]wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of ^[c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— (Ephesians 6)

The previous generation was never fully committed. God was nothing more than their only alternative and a contingency plan.