

Possess, Plunder and Prosper

Opening Text: Joshua 1:1-11

Introduction:

4 decades of wandering through deserts and hardship were coming to an end. A new decade was right before the people of God. Joshua was approximately 59 and the next 7-10 years were going to be completely different. In the next decade they were going to fully conquer the land, as God had promised.

We stand at the start of a new decade. Regardless of what happened in your past, God has much in store for each of us, in our future. Let us believe Him for a decade of conquests and blessing.

At the death of Moses, Joshua received

- a) An impartation – Deuteronomy 34:9 says that Joshua had the spirit of wisdom because Moses laid his hands on him.
- b) An office – He went from being ‘Moses’ assistant’ (V.1) to the new leader of Israel
- c) A promise – the inheritance verses 2-4 speaks about
- d) A commission – he got his marching orders and an assignment to possess, plunder and prosper

1. Commissioned to Possess

Until that time, their inheritance was a promise – a word they had received from God, but they had never touched the reality of it.

Here, God brings their delay to an end. God raises a leader and commissions him to **take practical possession of the promise!**

2 Peter 1:4 says that *God has given us exceedingly great and precious promises*. They are written down in our bibles, but God wants to fulfil them, God wants us to touch them and live in the reality of them. God wants us to possess the reality of our inheritance in Christ!

Moses had the Spirit, the office and the promise but he never possessed the inheritance. Ultimately all the doubt, fear and disobedience of Moses’ generation kept them from possessing the promises of God.

Ephesians 1:11 says that in Jesus *we have obtained an inheritance*.

2. Commissioned to Plunder

God gave Israel land but there were enemies on the land. There were enemies literally seating on their promise.

V.4 speaks of the extent of their territory: right from Lebanon down to the land of the Hittites. However, do you think that the Hittites were going to let go of the land without a fight? What about the Canaanites of Jericho, and all the other peoples?

God proclaimed the change of ownership of those lands, but the enemies were still there. God's people were in for some fights. The enemy will always fight God's promises. He will always challenge.

Matthew 11:12b - *... the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

We have to fight the good fight of faith and understand that in order to possess and to prosper we first need to plunder the enemy. There is an enemy seating on your promise. We need to stand in faith and dislodge the enemy, cast it out, in Jesus' name.

To possess the promises, we cannot have a passive faith and pray passive prayers! We need to plunder the enemy!

When the people had left Egypt (which is a type of satan and his dominion), the Bible says that they plundered their gold and came out with great possessions (Genesis 15:13-14, Exodus 3:21-22, 12:36).

Isaiah 45:3 - *³I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.*

3. Commissioned to Prosper

V.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.*

God wanted them to prosper, to succeed.

"only be strong and very courageous"... "Only". The key to possess, plunder and prosper rested on some of the instructions God gave Joshua:

- a) *Be strong, be very courageous* – The first battle happens many times inside of us. The first thing to overcome often are our own anxieties, fears and discouragement.

God told Joshua to be strong and courageous 4 times in this chapter.

Verses 8-9 - *⁸This 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. ⁹Have 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.*

- b) Here's where courage and strength come from:

- **The presence of God** – *“the Lord is with you wherever you go”*

V.5 – *“I will be with you; I will not leave you nor forsake you”*

V.13 - *Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.’*

Do you know what that word was?

Exodus 33:14 - *And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

The presence of God is where you get courage, strength and rest!

- **Staying focused on the Word (v.7-8)**

- Observe
- Do
- Speak
- Meditate day and night

Faith and courage come from the word of God.

The greatest victories are won not in the battlefield but in the Word and in the presence of God!

Conclusion

We thank God that we are alive to witness the start of another decade. It is 2020! May this new decade be a time to conquer promises, defeat enemies and win every battle. May each one of us Possess, Plunder and Prosper, by the power of God and in the name of Jesus!

Will there be setbacks? Possibly. However, after a setback, don't stepback – comeback!