

## A Introduction (Joshua 1:1-3):

### ❖ Moses and Joshua

- In the first chapter of Joshua, Moses is mentioned eleven times, and his name appears repeatedly throughout the book.
- There are many similarities between the two leaders:
  - (1) God appeared to them (Ex. 3:2-4; Josh. 5:13-14)
  - (2) They were asked to remove their shoes (Ex. 3:5; Josh. 5:15)
  - (3) God promised them that he would be with them (Ex. 3:12; Josh. 1:5)
  - (4) They celebrated the Passover (Ex. 12:21-23; Josh. 5:10)
  - (5) They passed through the water on dry ground (Ex. 14:21-22; Josh. 3:14-17)
  - (6) With one came the manna, with the other it ceased (Ex. 16:4-5, 31; Josh. 5:11-12)
  - (7) They sent spies to spy out the land (Num. 13:1-3; Josh. 2:1)
- Although the first chapter of Joshua records the transition between Israel's two great leaders, neither is the true protagonist of the book. The most important figure is God himself, whose words open the book, and whose leadership is the dominant theme. There is no doubt about who Israel's true leader was.

### ❖ Structure of the book

- The Book of Joshua presents the fulfillment of the promises God made to Israel when he brought them out of Egypt, that is, to give them Canaan. Both the preamble (chapter 1) and the book itself are divided into four major sections:

(1) PASS to Canaan	→Joshua 1:1-9	→Joshua 1:1-5:12
(2) POSSESS Canaan	→Joshua 1:10-11	→Joshua 5:13-12:24
(3) DIVIDE the land	→Joshua 1:12-15	→Joshua 13:1-21:45
(4) SERVE through obedience to the Law	→Joshua 1:16-18	→Joshua 22:1-24:33

## B Joshua's Mission (Joshua 1:4-9):

### ❖ Inherit the promises

- In Joshua 1:3, God speaks in the prophetic present tense. He speaks of Canaan as if it had already been given to Israel. This means that God gave them complete assurance of the success of the conquest.
- He then reminds them of the limits that the conquest will reach (Josh. 1:4): the strip between the Jordan River (east) and the Mediterranean Sea (west), from the desert (south) to the Euphrates River (north).
- He then turns to Joshua and assures him that if he is strong and courageous, no one will be able to stand against him (Josh. 1:5-6).
- But victory lay not in Joshua's own efforts, but in God's presence. He assured him, as He assures each of us: "I will be with you" (Josh. 1:5; Mt. 28:20).

### ❖ Strength and courage

- Before asking Joshua for strength and courage in battle (Josh. 1:9), God asked him for strength and courage to obey the Law (Josh. 1:7).
- This is also the case today. God asks us to strive to keep His law (Rev. 14:12). This requires great courage on our part.
- For His part, He promises that "will be with you wherever you go" (Josh. 1:9), helping us fight the battle we are engaged in. Not a physical battle, "but against principalities, against powers..." (Eph. 6:12). To do this, He has provided us with the necessary weapons (Eph. 6:13-17).
- The key to success is to fully trust in God. And to do so, we need to relate to Him every day (Eph. 6:18).

### ❖ The success of the mission

- Success from a divine point of view does not coincide with success from a human point of view.
- Fleeting success in this world can be achieved by breaking divine and human laws, but true and eternal success cannot (Josh. 1:8).
- We will be successful if we follow the principles and values expressed in God's Law. But isn't this salvation by works?
- Not at all. Faith and the Law are not mutually exclusive, but rather complement each other (Rom. 3:31). When we speak of the Law, we are speaking of the way we should live, not the way we are saved. Our relationship with God is manifested in our obedience to His will.