

## Yahweh's Charge to Joshua (c. 1 Nisan [March/April] 1406 BC)

Joshua 1:1–9

- 1 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying,
- 2 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.
- 3 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.
- 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.
- 5 No man will *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. [[Heb 13:5](#)]
- 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.
- 7 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.
- 8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
- 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

## Joshua Sends Two Spies to Jericho (4–9 Nisan [March/April] 1406 BC)

Joshua 1:10–3:5

### Day 1—Joshua Gives Instructions to Prepare to Cross the Jordan (4 Nisan)

- 1:10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,
- 11 "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, to possess it.'"
- 12 To the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said,
- 13 "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God gives you rest and will give you this land.'
- 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them,
- 15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest, as *He gives you*, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to your own land, and possess that which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."
- 16 They answered Joshua, saying, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.
- 17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may the LORD your God be with you as He was with Moses.
- 18 Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous."

### Day 1—Joshua Sends Two Spies to Jericho (4 Nisan)

- 2:1 Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land,

especially Jericho.” So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.

2 It was told the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.”

3 And the king of Jericho sent *word* to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.”

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

5 It came about when *it was time* to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.”

6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof.

7 So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan to the fords; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.

8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,

9 and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

11 When we heard *it*, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father’s household, and give me a pledge of truth,

13 and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”

14 So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall.

16 She said to them, “Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way.”

17 The men said to her, “We *shall be* free from this oath to you which you have made us swear,

18 unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather to yourself into the house your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father’s household.

19 It shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *shall be* free; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is *laid* on him.

20 But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be free from the oath which you have made us swear.”

21 She said, “According to your words, so be it.” So she sent them away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord in the window. [[James 2:25](#)]

22a They departed and came to the hill country,

### **Day 2—Hiding in the Hills (5 Nisan)**

22b and remained there for three days until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had sought *them* all along the road, but had not found *them*.

**Day 3—The Spies Return (6 Nisan)**

23 Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country and crossed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they related to him all that had happened to them.

24 They said to Joshua, “Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands; moreover, all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before us.”

**Day 4—Journey to the Jordan River (7 Nisan)**

3:1a Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan,

**Day 5—Beside the Jordan (8 Nisan)**

1b and they lodged there before they crossed.

**Day 6—Preparations for the Crossing (9 Nisan)**

2 At the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp;

3 and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.

4 However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.”

5 Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

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**Chronological Notes**

- 1) The chronological headings in today’s reading follow the arrangement suggested by David M. Howard in his article, “‘Three Days’ in Joshua 1–3: Resolving a Chronological Conundrum,” *JETS* 41/4 (Dec 1998): 539–550.