

# Why Was Joshua So Brave?

## International Bible Lessons

**Joshua 1:1-6; 11:16-19, 21-23**

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*“No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you” (Joshua 1:5—NRSV).*

*“No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you” (Joshua 1:5—ESV).*

*“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee” (Joshua 1:5—KJV).*

God gave this promise to Joshua following Moses' death and before Joshua led God's people across the Jordan River and into the land that God promised to give to Abraham and his descendents. Joshua received great encouragement from God's promise, because he had left Egypt forty years earlier, when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery. Joshua had seen God's mighty miracles, when Moses faced Pharaoh and demanded, "Let my people go." After the Israelites had safely crossed over on dry land, Joshua saw God destroy Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. Just as Pharaoh could not stand before God and Moses, Joshua trusted that no person and no army that came against him could prevail, for God promised to be with him and God could not be defeated or fail.

If some of the Israelites rebelled against Joshua, as some had rebelled against God and Moses in the wilderness, Joshua knew that despite their rebellion God would lead him to success. Perhaps Joshua also took comfort from knowing that when Moses failed God and sinned that God did not fail Moses; rather than forsake Moses, God disciplined and reprimanded Moses and helped him to lead God's people to the border of the Promised Land.

God also knew that He could depend on Joshua, because forty years earlier Joshua had told Moses and the people that God could be trusted to lead His people into the Promised Land and enable them to defeat their enemies. After forty years as Moses' assistant, Joshua was ready to lead. — © Copyright 2011 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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# Thinking Further

1. Why does a person's disobedience sometimes lead to the loss of an earthly reward or success in the world?
2. If God had not punished Moses for his sin of rebellion, after God had punished others for their sins of rebellion in the wilderness, what might the results have been among the Israelites then and later? How might a show of favoritism have an effect on people's ideas about God?
3. Why do you think God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites? What did God require Joshua to do as a leader? What were some of the keys to Joshua's success?
4. What might you say to someone who was afraid that God might fail them or forsake them?
5. Why do you think it was just and right for God to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land when He did and the way He did, commanding them to make war and destroy the inhabitants? How might you answer someone who said God was unjust to tell the Israelites to do this? How might you answer someone who said God would never tell and did not tell the Israelites to do this?

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