

is to be the theme of his utterance. Thus armed with the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, Joshua is promised complete success.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 1. Now. In the original "and," thus connecting this book directly with the Pentateuch. **After the death.** Probably at the close of the thirty days' mourning. Deut. 34. 8. **Moses the servant of the Lord.** A title especially given to Moses as the instrument through whom God executed his will. 1. Under the old dispensation the highest honour was to be a servant, now it is to be a son. **The Lord spake.** Probably from the tabernacle as he had already communicated his will. **Lev. 1. 1. Unto Joshua.** He was of the tribe of Ephraim, born in Egypt, and was a young man at the time of the Exodus. He led the Israelites in repelling the Amalekite attack at Rephidim; accompanied Moses to the mount of the law; with Caleb gave a good report of the land of Canaan; and was appointed before Moses' death as his successor. His leading traits of character were decision, energy, courage, leadership, and faith in God. **Son of Nun.** Nun was an unknown Ephraimite, who perhaps died in bondage, ignorant of his son's greatness. **Moses' minister.** "Servant." He attended upon Moses as his aid or assistant. 2. The path to greatness lies through service.

2. Moses my servant. An honourable title coming from the voice of the Most High. **Now therefore.** They were not allowed to enter Canaan while Moses was living; now that he had passed away, they were to delay no longer entering upon their inheritance. 3. The law leads us to the promises, but only through our Joshua are we able to enjoy them. **Go over this Jordan.** A seemingly impossible task, for the river was at that time swollen to great height by the spring floods. The Jordan rises in Mount Hermon, and flows through two lakes one hundred and twenty miles southward into the Dead Sea, though the windings of the river make it more than two hundred miles long. **All this people.** Numbering in all more than a million. **Land which I do give.** 4. God is the supreme owner of the earth, and allots it to whom he will.

3. 4. Every place. Within the limits now to be named. **Foot shall tread.** They were to possess only so much as their faith and courage prompted them to occupy. 5. So only those promises are ours which we appropriate and employ. **Have I given.** Not "will I give," but "Have I given;" for it was theirs already by promise. **From the wilderness.** The southern boundary of Palestine, the desert of Arabia. **This Lebanon.** The lofty mountain on the north of Palestine, then visible from the camp of Israel. **Unto the great river.** The river Euphrates, the "great river" of western Asia, is one thousand eight hundred miles long, flowing south-easterly into the Persian Gulf. It was the northern boundary of the territory of Israel, as promised, but was practically

so only during the reigns of David and Solomon. 6. There is often a great gap between God's abundant promise and our feeble realization. **Land of the Hittites.** The Hittites and the Amorites were the two leading peoples in ancient Palestine, the former mainly in the north, the latter in the south. **The great sea.** The Mediterranean, on the west of Palestine. **Your coast.** Your boundaries or limits. The land thus described included six times as much territory as that really possessed during most of Israel's history.

5. Not any man be able. The promise was made to Joshua as the representative of Israel, and was dependent upon his own fidelity and faith. **All the days.** 7. See how liberal is the Almighty in bestowing his gifts upon believers! **As I was with Moses.** To direct, strengthen, and encourage. **I will not fail.** The original expresses the idea of one holding another with a strong, firm grasp. God promises to hold on to Joshua and to hold him up.

6. Be strong.... good courage. Literally, "be strong and firm." Four times is this exhortation given in this chapter. 8. What need is there now in our time for strong, decided, unshaken faith! **Shalt thou divide.** God would inspire Joshua by the knowledge that he was to enjoy the high privilege of accomplishing the promise given four centuries before to Abraham. **An inheritance.** Though conquered by their swords, it was an inheritance by God's promise. **Sware unto their fathers.** God has given his oath to Abraham, (Gen. 15,) and had renewed it many times afterwards. 9. What God promises to the fathers he fulfils to the sons.

7. Only. The word upon which all the promises hinge. To all God's words there is an "only," expressing the condition of their fulfilment. **Observe to do.** He was not only to read and to admire the word, but also to obey it, and this would require all his strength and courage. **All the law.** The law, and the whole law, was to be his guide in life. **Turn not from it.** Obedience to God's law is represented by a right line, and sin by a crooked one. Hence our word "righteousness;" and "wrong" is but another form for "wrong;" that is twisted. **Thou mayest prosper.** The word in the original means "to act wisely," and hence, as a result, "to have success." Both ideas are involved in its use here.

8. This book of the law. The Pentateuch, or at least its most important parts, already gathered into a written book or roll. It was made up by Moses of a number of documents then in existence, to which he added the history of his own times. **Not depart out of thy mouth.** He was to make it the subject of his conversation and instruction to others. 10. Parents, teachers, Christians, talk about God's words! **Meditate therein.** Not by a critical study of it, but by reflection and thought upon its practical application to his daily life. 11. God's word must dwell in our hearts if we would have it influence our lives. **Way prosperous.** True success is found only in the

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