

Deane Church and Lostock Church
w/b Sunday 28th January 2018

Joshua 1:1-9

The story so far: OT overview pictures.

Moses a spiritual giant. No one like him (Deut 34:10-12) until Jesus (Heb 3:3, one greater than Moses). Big shoes for Joshua to fill! Moses died (Deut 34:7, Josh 1:1) but God's love and faithfulness endure for ever.

1. PROMISE vv 3-4 & 6

God's covenant promises are rooted deep in the soil of Genesis 12-15.

40 years building his people into a nation. About to enter the promised land. God always keeps his promises. E.g. Jesus said that he would rise on the third day and he did! We can always take God at his word.

Are you familiar with God's promises? Do you take God at his word?

2. PRESENCE vv 5b & 9

"I will never leave you or forsake you."

Familiar words (Deut 31:8). Quoted in NT (Heb 13:5). The Lord Jesus promises to be with his people (Matt 28:20b). We can receive the Holy Spirit ('God's empowering presence') since Jesus died on the Cross to make his sinning people sinless.

What challenges do you face this week? Do you know God's promise "I will never leave you or forsake you" as a reality in your experience?

3. PRINCIPLES vv 7-8

Israel of the OT are unique among the nations. They are God's chosen people. He is their King and he gives them his laws to live by (Deut 4:8). Living life the way life is to be lived... the way the creator designed us to live.

What is the secret of enduring joy and fulfilment? (There are some clues in vv 7-8!).

4. PEOPLE vv 2-5a [& 12-18]

Not just military orders. God calls for unity among his people. 2½ tribes from east of the River Jordan (Num 32) support the other tribes in taking possession of the land. There is concern *for all* of the Israelites *from all* of the Israelites. Unity (Jn 13:34). Building God's Kingdom (Matt 28:16-20).

In what ways do we need to give more encouragement to Christ-followers in other local churches - by prayer and action? Or to put it another way, how does a church keep from being an isolationist holy huddle!?

TC 26-i-18