

JOSHUA – OUR EXAMPLE FOR THE NEW YEAR

December 30, 2018

What should we focus on at the end of a year? At the start of a new year?

- ⦿ A Time of Reflection
- ⦿ Towards Strength and Courage
- ⦿ Towards Leadership
- ⦿ Towards God's Word

Reflect on 2018

- The view from the mountain we are on

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 “Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, ² all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, ³ the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not crossover into it.”
⁵ And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. ⁶ He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

⁷ Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. ⁸ The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. ⁹ Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹ who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. ¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.”



Reflect on 2018

- The view from the mountain we are on
- On God's provisions
 - ✓ Ordained blessings
 - ✓ Ordained obstacles, challenges and losses

Forward to 2019

- Towards being strong and courageous
- Towards Leadership
- Towards the Word of God – Meditate on it, keep it on your lips and obey it.

Joshua 1:1-18 – “After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: ² “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.⁵ No one will 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 never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷ “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you. ¹⁰ So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹ “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.’” ¹² But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, ¹³ “Remember the command that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you after he said, ‘The LORD your God will give you rest by giving you this land.’” ¹⁴ Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them ¹⁵ until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.” ¹⁶ Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!”

Joshua

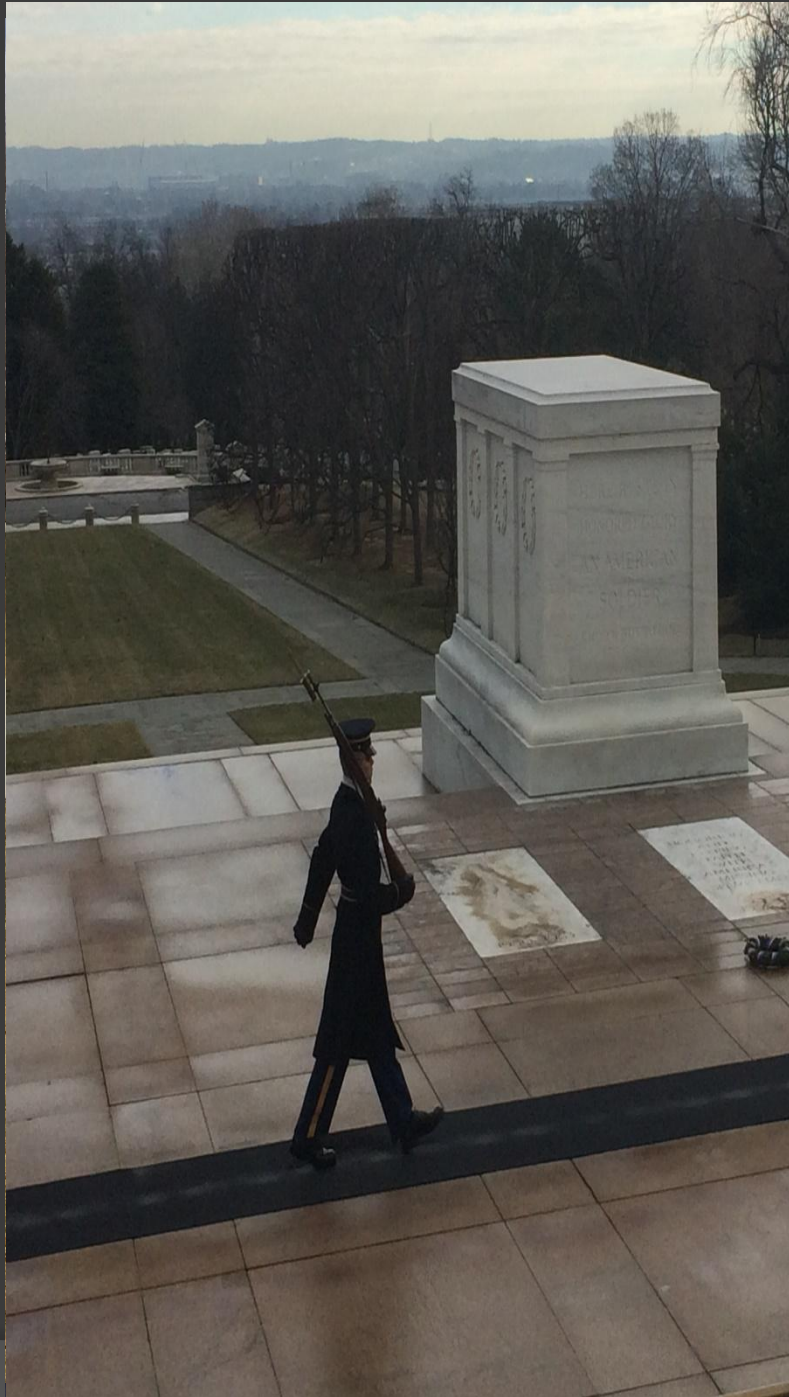
- Name designates his service “Jehovah saves”—included a change to his original name, just like those of Abram, Sarah and Simon
- Appointed and designated the leader of Israel (Numbers 27:18-23)
- Recognized as having a “spirit” of leadership
- Given various directions from God regarding His provisional plan moving forward
- Reminded of God’s promise and given affirmation and encouragement about his future

Be Strong and Courageous

- What is courage?
 - ✓ Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.
 - ✓ Doing something despite being scared or fearful of doing that something.
- What does it mean to be strong?
 - ✓ Well-established and firm (i.e. strong beliefs)
 - ✓ Strength in spiritual battles (Ephesians 6:10-20)
 - ✓ Philippians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 16:13

What is the most courageous thing you have ever done?

- ① *“Two Hours after being trained, Rescuers save drowning skier from Frozen Lake using handy local invention.”*
- ② *“Man uses Cast on His Broken Arm to Shatter Window and Rescue Senior from Burning Home.”*
- ③ *“Three Young Men Become Heroes After Saving Blind Man Who Fell on Subway Tracks.”*





How have you been strong and courageous in 2018?

How will you be strong and courageous in 2019?

In what ways will you need to be strong and courageous in 2019?

Leadership

- Joshua took initiative after being identified on various occasions by title and “spirit” as a leader.
- Ephesians 5:23, 1 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Peter 5:2 – Mandated leaders
- 2 Chronicles 34:27-33, 1 Peter 3:1-6 – No Biblical mandate, but an example is set
- How will you lead in 2019?

The Word of God – Meditate on it, keep it on your lips and obey it

- Do not turn from the Word of God, to the right or left.
- Isaiah 30:19-21



The Word of God – Meditate on it, keep it on your lips and obey it

- The people of God had previously been warned to focus on the Word of God (Deuteronomy 31:12-13, Deuteronomy 11:18-21)
- What do you meditate on?
- What words are on your lips?
- Paul's charge to Timothy is also a charge to us and reinforces God's instruction to Joshua (2 Timothy 4:2, 5 - *"Preach the word of God; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction...but you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge the duties of your ministry."*)

Start 2019 right

- (Joshua 24:15) - *“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*
- *“God himself is the great good which they are brought to the possession and enjoyment of by redemption. He is the highest good, and the sum of all that good which Christ purchased. God is the inheritance of the saints; he is the portion of their souls. God is their wealth and treasure, their food, their life, their dwelling place, their ornament and diadem, and their everlasting honor and glory. They have none in heaven but God; he is the great good which the redeemed are received to at death, and which they are to rise to at the end of the world.”* (Jonathan Edwards)