



## Spiritual Lessons from Joshua

**Lesson 1: Be  
strong and  
courageous**

Joshua 1

Have you ever felt like you're facing a massive, impossible challenge? Maybe it's a health issue, a new job, relationship problems, or a personal struggle that feels insurmountable.

What do you do when you're told to move forward, but the path ahead looks terrifying?





That's the exact situation the Israelites faced in the book of Joshua. After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, they were finally at the edge of the Promised Land.

But between them and their home was a fortified city, powerful enemies, and a task that seemed impossible.

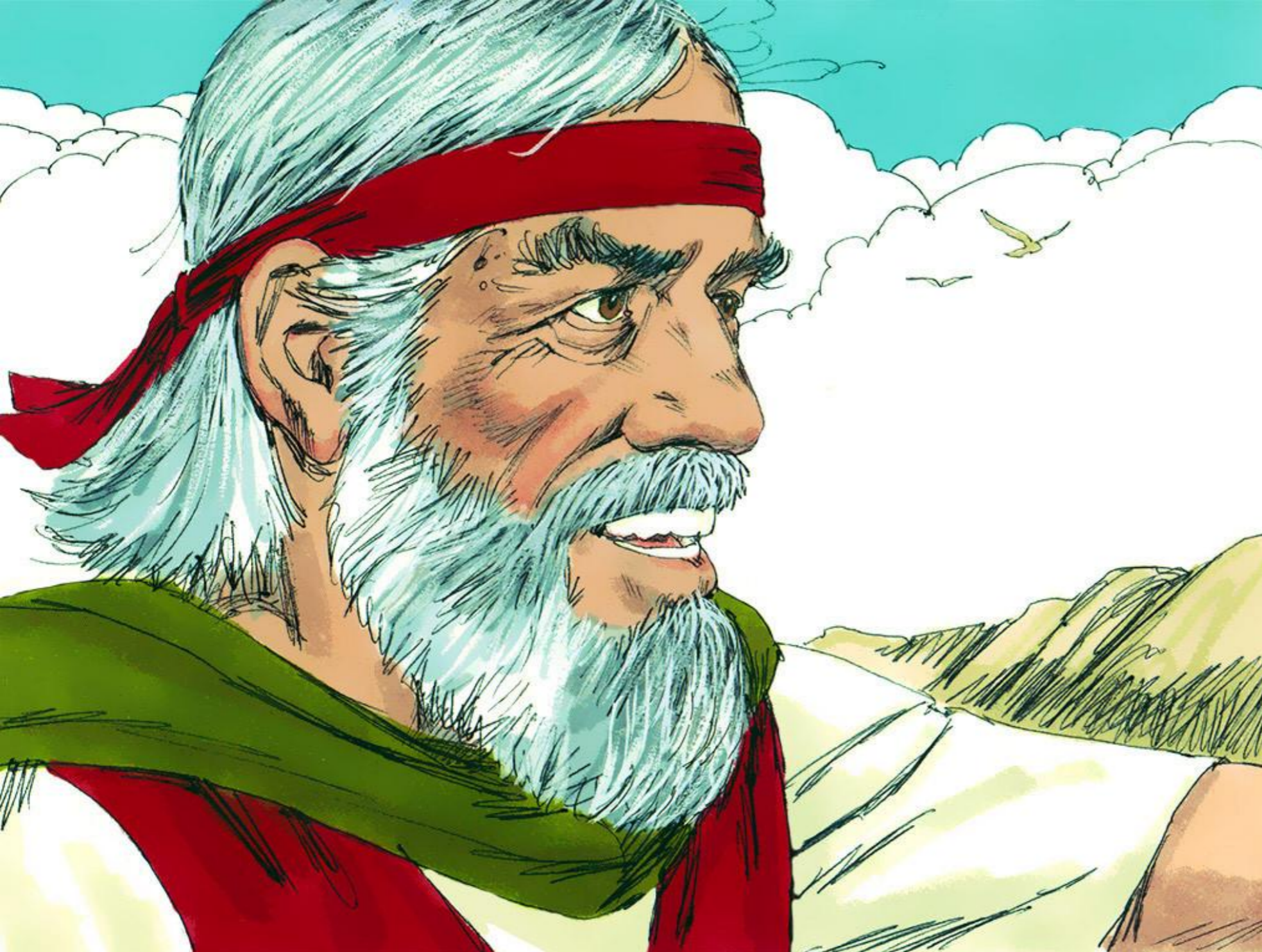
Their leader, Moses, was gone. And a new, younger leader, Joshua, was stepping into his giant shoes.

Watch video of Joshua 1:

<https://biblemovie.snappages.site/?sapurl=Lys4NjY1L2xiL21pLytkMzUwMDg4P2F1dG9wbGF5PXRydWUmYnJhbmRpbmc9dHJ1ZSZibWJlZD10cnVlJnJlY2VudFJvdXRlPWFwcC53ZWltYXBwLmxpYnJhcnkubGlzdCZyZWNIbnRSb3V0ZVNsdWc9JTJCODIINjBINw==>

Question:

What did God told Joshua to do in order to get success? [0.55-1.32]



Moses addressed the people. 'I am now 120 years old and unable to lead you.'

God has told me I will not cross the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land.

Deut 31:2



But the Lord will lead you to overcome the nations living in the Promised Land.

Be strong! Be courageous! Do not be afraid! For the Lord your God will be with you. He will not fail or let you down.

Deut 7:22



Moses then summoned Joshua and in front of everyone said, 'Be strong! Be courageous!

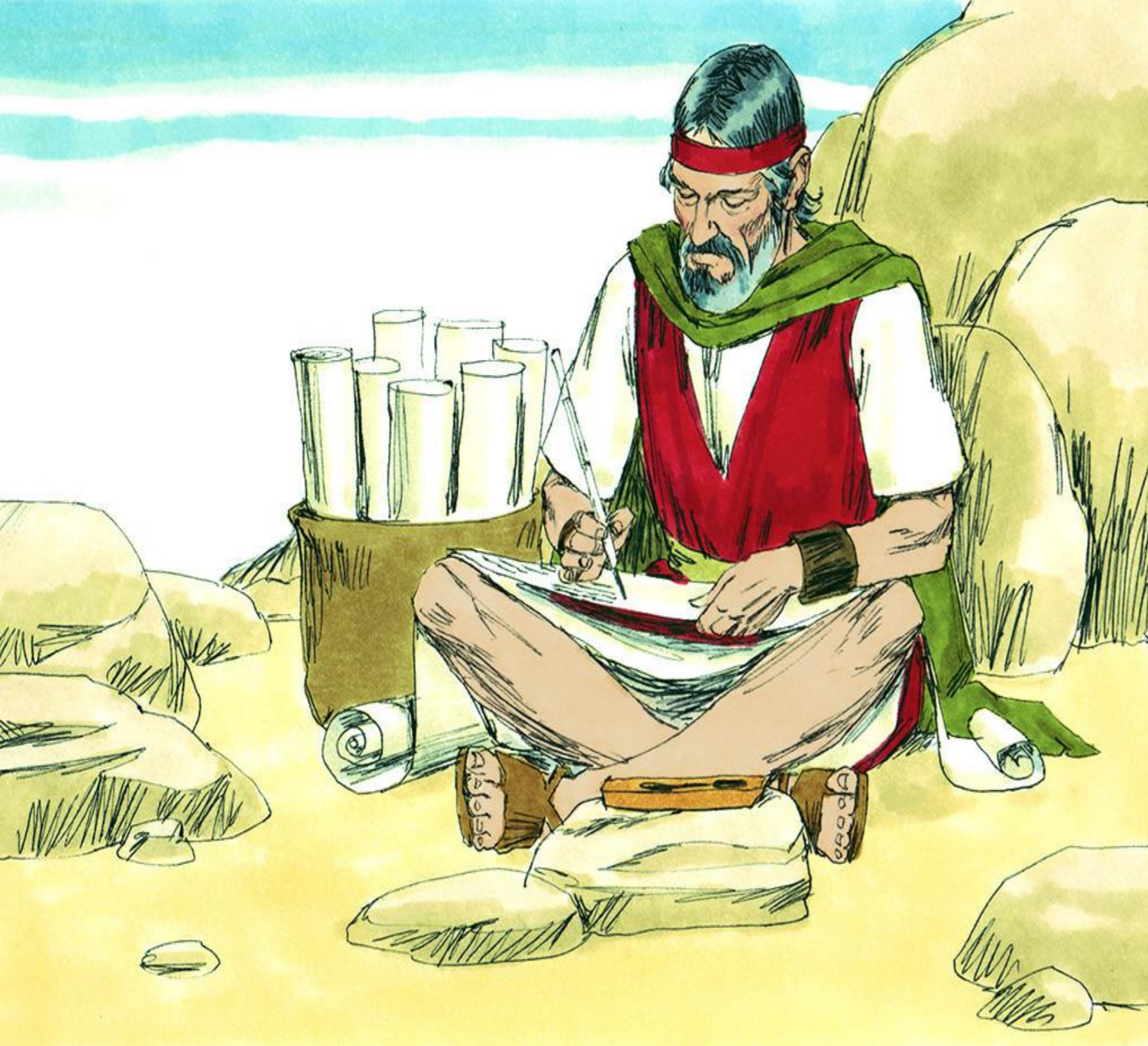
Deut 31:7



'For you will lead these people into the Promised Land.



‘See to it that they conquer it. Don’t be afraid, for the Lord will be with you and go before you. He will never fail you or forsake you.’



Moses then wrote out the laws he had given the people and gave them to the priests to look after.

He told them to read them to everyone every seven years when they gathered at the festival of tabernacles.



Moses called everyone together to hear God's laws read aloud.

He urged them to do what God wanted and obey Him with reverence.



God then summoned Moses and Joshua to meet Him in the tabernacle. He appeared to them both in a great cloud at the tabernacle entrance.

Deut 31:14



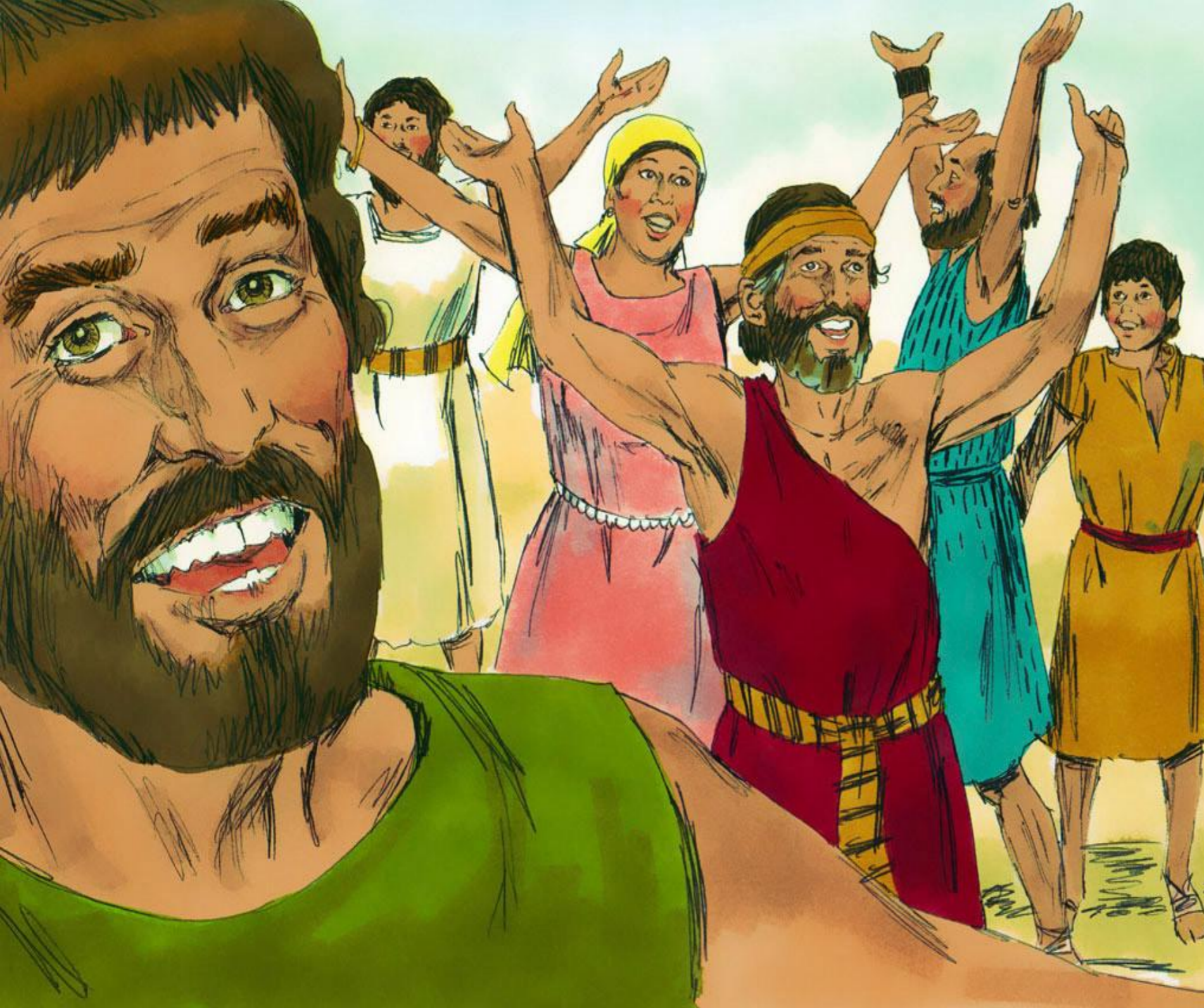
God told Moses that he would die.

He also revealed that once the people of Israel had conquered the Promised Land they would disobey Him and worship foreign gods.

So, God then asked Moses to write down the words of a song which would remind them of the foolishness of disobedience and its consequences.

Moses wrote down the lyrics of the song and then recited it to the people to learn.

Deut 31:15-19



The words of this song are recorded in Deuteronomy chapter 32. Not only did it warn them of the difficulties they would face if they acted stupidly and disobeyed God but it reminded them of God's love and forgiveness if they returned to Him.



That same day the Lord told Moses, 'Go to Mount Nebo in the land of Moab across from Jericho. Look out across the land of Promised Land of Canaan.'

Deut 32:49



After you see the land, you must die. That is because you rebelled against my instructions to order water to come out of the rock at the springs of Meribah-kadesh.

You will see the land I am giving the people of Israel, but you will not enter it.'

(Numbers 27:12-14).

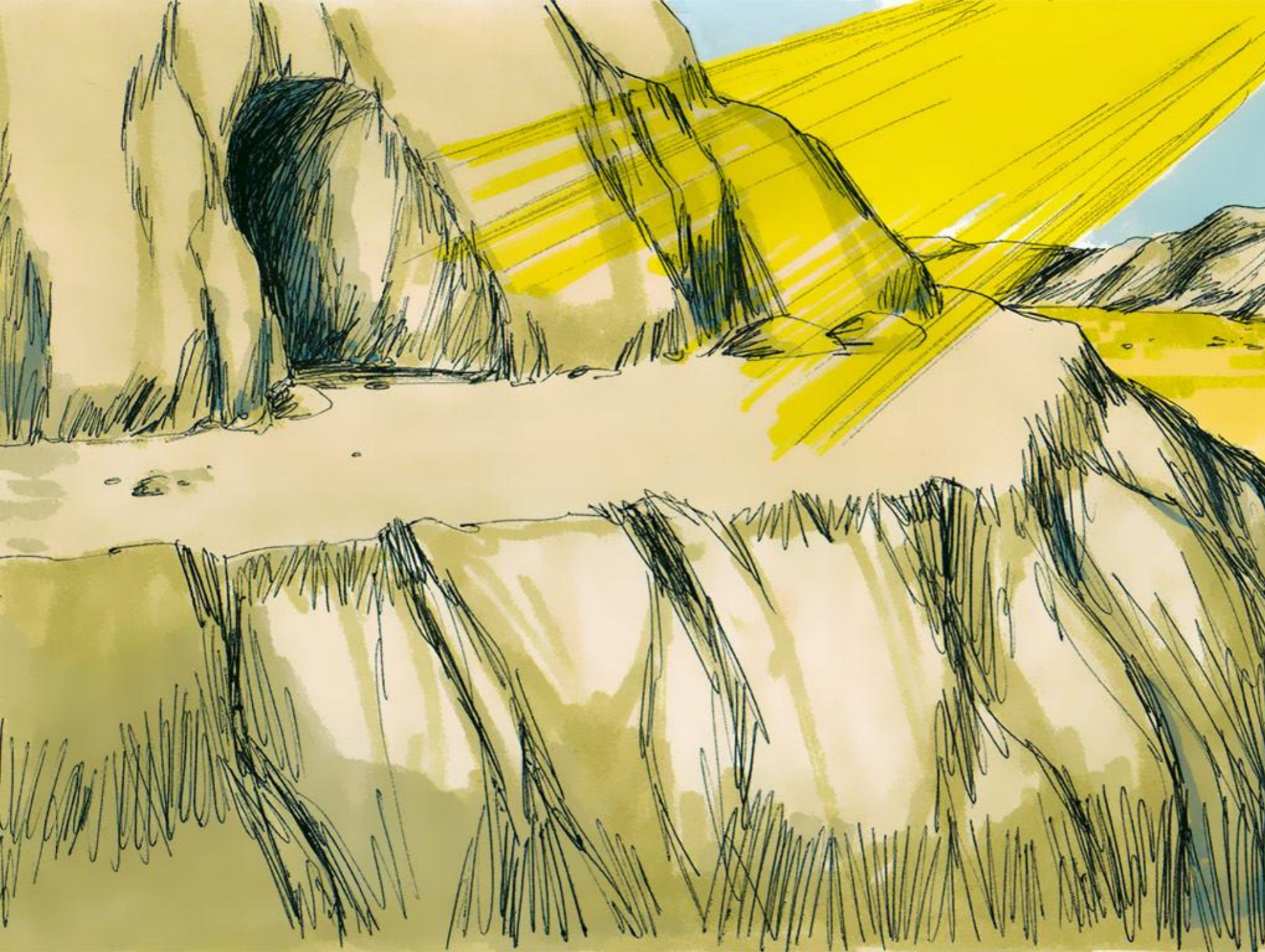


Moses climbed from the plains of Moab to Pisgah Peak in Mount Nebo, across from Jericho. God pointed out to Moses places in the Promised Land including the Jordan Valley and Jericho.



The Lord explained, 'This is the land I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. Now you have seen it, but you will not enter it.'

Deut 34:4



So Moses died in the land of Moab as the Lord had said. The Lord buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but no one knows the exact place. Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was perfect and he was as strong as a young man.



The people of Israel mourned for Moses for thirty days on the plains of Moab. There has never been another prophet like Moses, for the Lord talked to him face to face.



Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him. He was now their leader and the people of Israel obeyed him and the Lord.

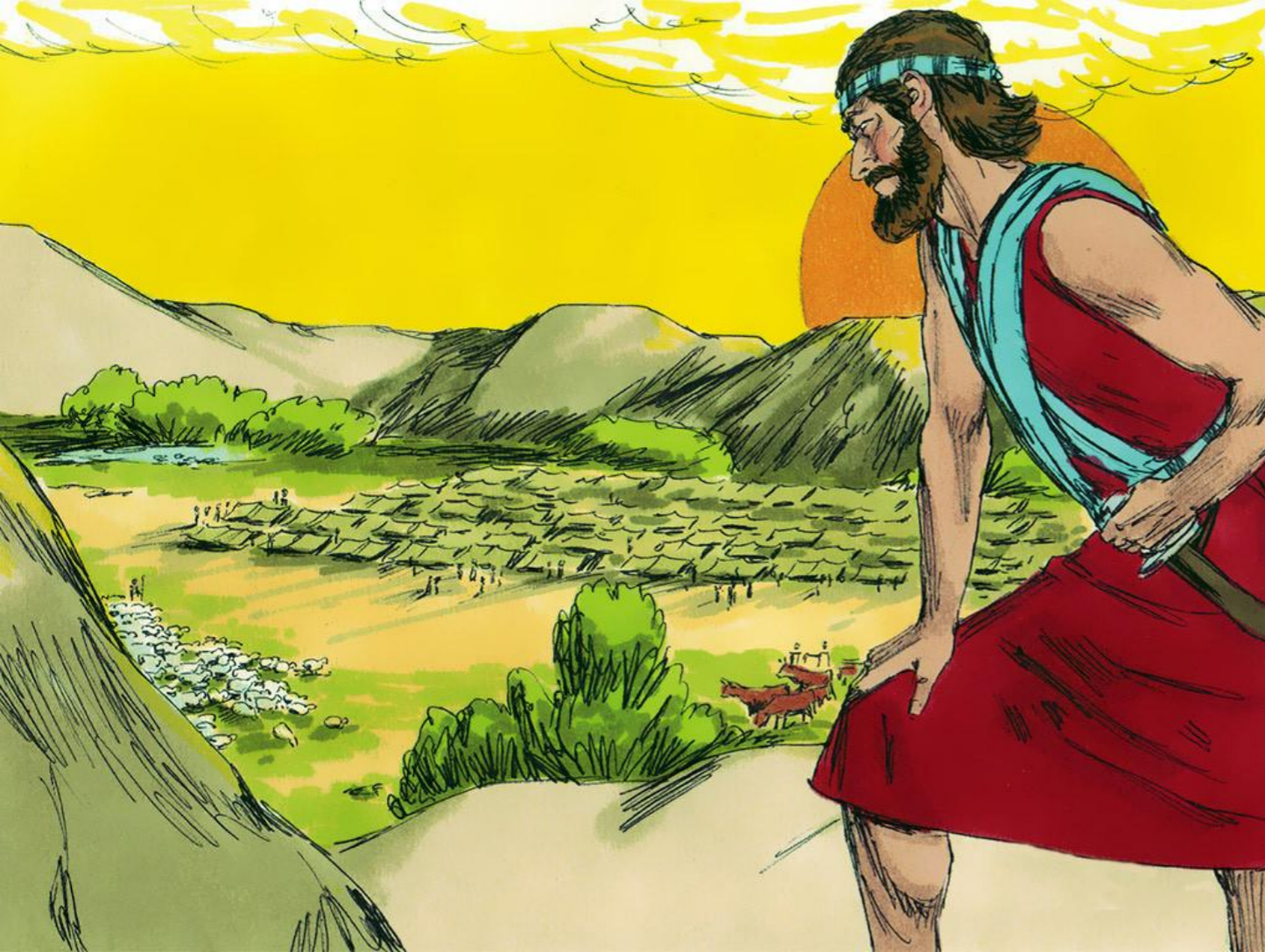


God told Joshua, 'You are the new leader of Israel. Lead my people across the Jordan River into the Promised Land.'

It extends from the Negeb Desert in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, and from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Euphrates River in the east, including all the land of the Hittites.

I will be with you just as I was with Moses. I will not abandon you or fail to help you.'

Joshua 1:2-5



‘Be strong and courageous.

Obey every law Moses gave you and you will be successful in everything you do.

Remind the people about these laws, and think about them every day and night.

Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt!

For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’

Joshua 1:7-9



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# The Narrative of Joshua 1

The first chapter of Joshua is a transitional moment in the history of Israel.

Moses, the great prophet and leader who led the people out of Egypt, has died.

The Lord now commissions Joshua, his assistant, to take his place and lead the people into the land He promised their ancestors.

The chapter can be broken down into three main sections:

**(A) God's Charge to Joshua** (v. 1-9): The Lord gives Joshua a direct command. God said that Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them. (v. 2).

**God makes a series of powerful promises to Joshua:**

- (a) He will give them every place they set foot,
- (b) no one will be able to stand against them, and
- (c) He will be with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

(Joshua 1:3-5)

However, these promises come with a **condition**: Joshua must be strong, courageous, and, most importantly, he **must meditate on and obey the Law**.

(Joshua 1:7)

## **(B) Joshua's Command to the People (v. 10-15):**

Joshua immediately **acts on God's command:**

- (a) He orders the officers of the people to prepare provisions and
- (b) to get ready to cross the Jordan River in three days.

(Joshua 1:10-11)

He also reminds the eastern tribes (Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh) of their promise (Numbers 32:25) to Moses: after they settle their families, their armed men must cross the Jordan with the rest of the Israelites to help them conquer the land.

(Joshua 1:12-14)

## **(C) The People's Response to Joshua (v. 16-18):**

The people respond with great respect and obedience.

- (a) They pledge their allegiance to Joshua, promising to do everything he commands.
- (b) They also affirm their faith, echoing God's words back to Joshua: "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" (v. 17).
- (c) They end with a powerful encouragement for Joshua to "be strong and courageous."

## **Spiritual Lessons from Joshua 1**

Joshua 1 is a treasure trove of spiritual principles. Here are a few key lessons we can learn:

**(1) God's Presence is Key:** The most important promise God makes to Joshua is not that the victory is guaranteed, but that **He will be with him.**

- In verses 5 and 9, God repeats this promise: "I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you." And "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- This is the ultimate source of Joshua's strength and courage. When we know **God is with us, no obstacle is too big.**

**(2) Obedience is Non-negotiable:** God's promise of success is directly linked to Joshua's **obedience to His Word**.

In verses 7 and 8, God tells Joshua to "be strong and very courageous; **be careful to do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you." He is not to turn from it "to the right or to the left."

The key to success is to:

- (a) meditate on the Word "day and night" and
- (b) to "do according to all that is written in it."

It's not enough to just read the Bible; we must **actively live it out**.

**(3) Courage is a Choice, Not a Feeling:** God commands Joshua to "be strong and courageous" **three times** in this chapter (v. 6, 7, 9).

This is not just a suggestion; it's a **command**.

**Courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision to act despite it,** trusting in God's presence and promises.

Joshua likely felt overwhelmed, but he chose to be brave because God told him to be.

## Applying the Lesson to Our Lives

So how does this ancient story apply to our modern lives?

**(i) When Facing a New Chapter:** Just like Joshua stepping into a new role, we all face new beginnings—a new job, a move, a new school, or a new challenge in life.

• **Joshua 1 reminds us that we don't have to face these transitions alone.** We can find courage in the promise that God will be with us.

**(ii) The Power of God's Word:** We are not given a sword or a shield for our battles, but a book.

God's instruction to Joshua to meditate on the Law is a profound lesson for us today. The Bible is not just a book of stories; it's a living, powerful guide for life.

When we are feeling lost or afraid, **spending time in God's Word is our ultimate source of direction and peace.**

Make it a daily habit to read, study, and meditate on Scripture.

Personal example.

**(iii) Choosing Courage Daily:** Life will present us with challenges that require courage—

(a) speaking up for what's right,

(b) forgiving someone who wronged you, or

(c) stepping out in faith to follow God's calling.

**Remember Joshua 1 and choose to be strong and courageous,** not because you feel like it, but because God has commanded you to and He has promised to be with you.

What is one area in your life right now where you need to be strong and courageous?

## **For further reflection and discussion:**

- What is the biggest "Jordan River" you are facing right now?
- How can you make a more intentional effort to meditate on God's Word "day and night"?
- How does the promise "I will be with you" change how you approach challenges?