

JOSHUA 1:10–18

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INVASION

After narrating Joshua’s receiving a divine commission from the Lord as Moses’s rightful successor (see Joshua 1:1–9), the second half of Joshua 1 describes the preparations the Israelites undertook before they began their invasion of the land of Canaan. This included preparing “victuals” (Hebrew *tzedah*, “provisions”) and organizing various military units (see verses 10–15).

Joshua first addressed his officers (Hebrew *shoterim*) in verses 10–11 and then the three Transjordanian tribes (Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh) in verses 12–15, setting into motion the imminent invasion. The goal of the Israelite conquest is given in the boundaries specified by the Lord previously in verse 4: “From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.” The narrative leaves no doubt as to what Israel is owed as a result of God’s promises to its ancestors; the family of Abraham claims the entirety of the land.

The Israelite response to Joshua ratifies his status as Moses’s successor. “All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses” (verses 17–18). The Israelites likewise echo the reassurance given by God earlier in verse 9: “Only be strong and of a good courage” (verse 18). The chapter ends on a note of anticipation as the conquest of Canaan is about to begin.

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