

Deuteronomy 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him:
for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause
them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.

Analysis

God's command to Moses—'charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him'—shifts focus from personal disappointment to investing in the next generation. Moses must actively prepare his successor through specific charge (instruction), encouragement (emotional support), and strengthening (confidence-building). The reason 'for he shall go over before this people... cause them to inherit' emphasizes Joshua's crucial role. Finishing well means empowering others to continue God's work.

Historical Context

This began Joshua's formal preparation for leadership, culminating in public commissioning (Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 23). Moses' willingness to invest in Joshua despite personal disappointment models selfless leadership. Joshua's success depended partly on Moses' faithful mentoring, showing how leaders create legacy through developing others.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Who are you actively encouraging and strengthening to continue God's work after you?
2. How can personal disappointment become motivation to invest in others' success?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵל	אֶת	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	וְחִזְקָה	הוּא	וְאַמְצֵהוּ	כִּי	הוּא
But charge		Joshua	and encourage		him and strengthen		
H6680	H853	H3091	H2388		H553	H3588	H1931
יַעֲבֹר	לִפְנֵי	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	וְהוּא			
him for he shall go over	before	this people					
H5674	H6440	H5971	H2088	H1931			
וְיִנְחַל	אֹתָם	אֶת	הָאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר			
and he shall cause them to inherit			the land				
H5157	H853	H853	H776	H834			
תִּרְאֶה:							
which thou shalt see							
H7200							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:3 (Parallel theme): The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

Deuteronomy 31:23 (Parallel theme): And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.

Deuteronomy 1:38 (Parallel theme): But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 31:7 (Parallel theme): And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

Acts 7:45 (Parallel theme): Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;