

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

הִיא כִּי אָמַרְתָּ לְךָ יְהוָה יְהוָשָׁעַ אֶת־יְהוָשָׁעַ
But charge H853 Joshua and encourage him and strengthen H3588 H1931
H6680 H3091 H2388 H553

וְיַעֲבֹר־רֹאשׁ לִפְנֵי מִצְרָיָם וְיַהֲוֵא בְּפִזְרָה
him for he shall go over before this people H2088 H1931
H5674 H6440 H5971

וְיַגְּדֵל אֶת־עַמּוֹת מִצְרָיָם אֶשְׁר־רַא־בָּאָתָּה
and he shall cause them to inherit the land H834
H5157 H853 H853 H776

תְּרַא־הַ
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 drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;