

Deuteronomy 31:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel—this public commissioning before the entire assembly (le'ene kol-Yisra'el) transfers authority transparently, preventing succession disputes and confirming Joshua's divine appointment. **Be strong and of a good courage** (חָזַק וְיָמַץ chazaq ve'emats)—this command appears repeatedly in Joshua's commissioning (Deuteronomy 31:6, 23; Joshua 1:6, 7, 9, 18). Chazaq means to be strong, firm, resolute; amats means to be alert, determined, courageous. These aren't psychological qualities to manufacture but divine imperatives to obey.

For thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them—Joshua's courage rests on God's sworn oath (nishba) to the patriarchs, not on military superiority or personal ability. The promise is certain; Joshua's role is to lead Israel into what God has already guaranteed. **And thou shalt cause them to inherit it** (ve'atah tanchilenu)—the Hiphil (causative) form indicates Joshua will actively mediate the inheritance, dividing the land among the tribes (Joshua 13-21).

Historical Context

This commissioning (circa 1406 BC) follows Moses' private anointing of Joshua (Numbers 27:18-23) and precedes God's direct commissioning in Deuteronomy 31:23. The public nature was crucial—all Israel witnessed the leadership transfer, obligating them to follow Joshua's authority. Moses' death and Joshua's leadership transition occurred smoothly because of this careful preparation. The phrase "be strong and courageous" became Joshua's defining mandate and appears at critical junctures throughout his life.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does grounding your courage in God's promises (rather than personal ability) change your approach to leadership?
2. What leadership transitions in your life need transparent, public affirmation to prevent confusion or conflict?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	לְעֵינַי י	אֶל יוֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	לִיהוֹשֻׁעַ	מֹשֶׁה ה	וַיִּקְרָא
H3605	unto him in the sight	H413	and said	H3091	And Moses	called
	H5869		H559		H4872	H7121
תָּבוֹא	אֶתְּ ה	כִּי	וְאֶמֶץ	חֲזָק	יִשְׂרָאֵל	
for thou must go	H859	H3588	and of a good courage	H553	Be strong	of all Israel
H935			H553		H2388	H3478
נִשְׁבַּע	אֲשֶׁר	הָאֶרֶץ	אֶל	הַזֶּה	הָעַם	אֶת
hath sworn	H834	unto the land	H413	H2088	with this people	H854
H7650		H776			H5971	
וְאֶתְּ ה	לָהּ	מִן	לָתֵת	לְאֲבֹתָם	יְהוָה	וְהִנֵּה
H859	H0		to give	unto their fathers	which the LORD	
			H5414	H1	H3068	
אֲוֹתָם:	תִּנְחִילָם	וְהִנֵּה	וְאֶתְּ ה	לָהּ	מִן	לָתֵת
H853	them and thou shalt cause them to inherit					
	H5157					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 3:28 (Parallel theme): 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.

Deuteronomy 31:6 (Good): Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 1:38 (References Israel): 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.

Ephesians 6:10 (References Lord): Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Joshua 1:6 (Good): Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Deuteronomy 31:23 (Good): 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.

Daniel 10:19 (References Lord): And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

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