

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** (יְהִי רָקָע 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

Psalm 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

כל	לעיג	ו	אל	וַיֹּאמֶר	לְיְהוָה	עַ	מֵשֶׁה	ה	וְיַקְרֵב	א
called	And Moses	unto Joshua	and said		H413		unto him in the sight			H3605
H7121	H4872	H3091		H559				H5869		

תְּבוֹא אַתָּה כִּי כִּי קְרַב אַתָּה כִּי כִּי קְרַב
לִשְׁרָאֵל כִּי כִּי קְרַב וְאַמֵּץ כִּי כִּי קְרַב
of all Israel Be strong and of a good courage H3588 H859 for thou must go H935

נִשְׁבַּע אֶת־עַמּוֹ בְּעַמּוֹ בְּאֶלְעָם בְּאֶרְצָה בְּאֶרְצָה בְּאֶשְׁר בְּאֶשְׁר נִשְׁבַּע
H854 with this people H2088 H413 unto the land H834 H7650
H5971 H776

וְאֶת הַלְּבָבָם לְתַת יְהִי הַלְּבָבָם לְאֶבֶת מֵעַדְתָּם
which the LORD unto their fathers to give H0 H859
H3068 H1 H5414

אתם תִּנְחִיל בָּה
them and thou shalt cause them to inherit H853

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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