

concerning Yahweh were all about his intervention into human history

vss. 12-24
See also
Ex. 22:10,11
Lev. 5:4
Deut. 7:8

the making and keeping of an oath was a fundamental means for creating binding agreements throughout all of the first five books of the Bible—something of which these spies would be keenly aware

Application:

So, if you follow the truth of God's word and you practice Godly wisdom and things still do not go according to how you first thought, is it still okay? **Yes, the outcome is always in God's hand. Our part is to do what is biblically correct and wise. See James 4:13-17**

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BE COURAGEOUS



Enhancing Your Courage With Wisdom
Joshua 2:1-24

Intro: We can divide the Book of Joshua into two main segments. The first, chapters 1 –5, contain the preparations that Joshua undertook to ready Israel to enter the promised land. The remaining chapters, 6—24, contain the history of how Joshua followed Yahweh's lead as he executed his plans for conquest.

In chapter one, we learned that Yahweh clearly believed Joshua could be a strong and courageous leader...and he urged him in that direction. However, rather than exhorting Joshua to **first** find strength and courage through military preparation, he instructed him to keep the written word of God that he had given to Moses. Joshua's success depended on his walk with Yahweh and his truth.

This brings us to a very important point of application when we attempt to understand the Word of God: *a book of the Bible does not stand alone.* Therefore, if we are to understand the Book of Joshua we must understand the first five books—Genesis through Deuteronomy—given to Israel and all the world via Yahweh's prophet, Moses. This will become immediately evident as we tackle the first principle derived from the historical actions of Joshua...

I. Courage derived from God's faithfulness is never a license for presumption or folly. Joshua 2:1

Read: Joshua 2:1

Question: When a Bible study leader asks the following question, "Why do you suppose Joshua kept the fact that he was sending spies into Canaan a secret from his people," what process do many people engage in as they come up with an answer?

Facilitator's Note: Often times people resort to their own sense of wisdom. Others make a semi-educated guesses based on something they have heard or come to accept through their Christian experience. Still, others use biblical context to drive their analysis.

Of course, this last one, biblical context, is what we hope every believer will practice. So, let's see what it looks like regarding Joshua's actions.

Question: If God's people fail to utilize contextual principles to facilitate understanding the Word of God, what problems can they face?

Facilitator's Note: Private, personal, and non-contextual interpretations are almost always wrong. When a believer moves in this direction, he or she comes to believe something about God's word that is not true. Believing their false premise, they act on what they believe is God's truth. The result, at best, is missing the power and blessing of what God's word really teaches, and, at worst, a total disaster.

Application:

Let's put this to the test...

First premise: Joshua 2:1 did not occur in a vacuum.

Second premise: Joshua 2:1 obviously follows on the heels of chapter one.

Third premise: The Book of Joshua obviously follows on the heels of Genesis through Deuteronomy.

So...

Passage	Instruction About God's Word and Entering Canaan
Exodus 19:1-6	following the whole of Yahweh's truth was the ticket for Israel's success
Numbers 13:1	if sending spies was a method endorsed by Yahweh for Moses then...
Deut. 4:5-8	know, apply the whole of Yahweh's word if you want truth and wisdom
Deut. 4:9	be vigilant, be aware of how God works over time
Deut. 34:9	Joshua was given wisdom/it follows that he should use it

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Passage	Lessons Learned from Moses
Exodus 18:13-26	a little common sense, if it does not contradict Yahweh's truth, can be very, very helpful
Number 12:1-11	if the brother and sister of Moses proved untrustworthy, certainly others could be untrustworthy also
Numbers 13	while Yahweh encouraged the use of spies, 10 of the spies created a disaster
Numbers 16	yet another example of treachery within the Israeli nation
Numbers 25	Even in Israel's present location, Moab, briefly before the death of Moses and just previous to the appointment of Joshua as the successor to Moses, the people of Israel indulged in yet more treachery

Observation: While Joshua had Yahweh's instruction and assurance that this was not a mere human effort, that, in fact, Yahweh himself would produce the victories, he had observed for many years Moses being trained in the way of wisdom and he as well had been trained by Yahweh in the way of wisdom. Failing to respond according to the full counsel of God's word, while all the while claiming to be following his will, is both presumptuous and foolish.

Question: If we truly want to apply that which God wants us to apply, what must we be careful to do?

Question: What would following the example of both Moses and Joshua look like as we seek to be more productive servants of Yahweh?

II. Courage derived from God's faithfulness must always include willingness to accept God's sovereignty. 2:2-24

Read and Apply: As you read through the rest of Joshua 2, ask this question: "How does this section reveal the sovereignty of God?"

vss. 2-7: Rahab's good fortune was not merely her own doing
The spies good fortune was not merely their own doing

Vss. 8-13 Rahab's detailed knowledge and subsequent choices