TALKING POINTS

Lessons of Faith from Joshua

Quarter 4, Lesson 1
"Recipe for Success"

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MEMORY VERSE: "'Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.'"
Joshua 1:7, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson introduces a new quarter's study of the book and life of Joshua, "the servant of the Lord" (Josh. 24:29).

1. God has a plan (Sun, Mon)

- The book of Joshua chronicles Israel's conquest of Canaan.
    - Joshua is a *continuation* of Moses' ministry (Josh. 1:1-5; Num. 27:18-23; Dt. 34:9).
        - God had made a promise to His people, and a change of leadership would in no way hinder Him from its fulfillment.
        - So in our day, the success of our mission is not solely determined by God's leaders. Human leaders can (and will) fail; but God's promises will remain steadfast.
- Israel's conquest of Canaan is typical of God's last-day people.
    - "There remains a rest for the people of God" (Heb. 4:8, 9).
        - These physical battles foreshadow the spiritual battles of God'people (1 Cor. 10:11; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Tim. 2:3, 4).
        - "The church, under the leadership of Christ, the new Joshua, is summoned to advance toward the fulfillment of God's promises…. As the present generation stands at the border of the heavenly Canaan, the divine appeal still resounds powerfully: "'Only be strong and very courageous…'" Teacher's Qtly, p. 13

2. God's plan requires our effort (Mon-Wed)

- The quarterly identifies four "speeches" in chapter 1 that outline the rest of the book –
    - "Crossing" (Josh. 1:2-9; cf. 1:1-5:12)
    - "Conquering" (Josh. 1:10, 11; cf. 5:13-12:24)
    - "Dividing" (Josh. 1:12-15; cf. 13:1-21:45)
    - "Serving" (Josh. 1:16-18; cf. 22:1-24:33)
        - While under the direction of God, each of these sections delineate the response of God's people to His plans (see Qtly, Mon, last par).

- God's promises often appear in the "prophetic perfect"
    - The "prophetic perfect" tense is when a *future promise* is stated in a *present reality* (Josh. 1:2, 3; Heb. 10:14).
        - We hope for what we don't yet have (Rom. 8:24, 25).
    - The promised land was considered a *promise* and an *inheritance* (Josh. 23:5; 1:6).
        - The word "inheritance" comes from the Hebrew word *nachal*, which means "to possess." Although the Israelites did not yet possess the land, God spoke to them as though they had.
    - Our confidence in the *promises of God* are due to the power of the *presence of God* and the faithfulness of the *person of God!*
        - See Qtly, Tue, next to last par

In His promises and warnings, Jesus means me. God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that I by believing in Him, might not perish, but have everlasting life. The experiences related in God's word are to be my experiences. Prayer and promise, precept and warning, are mine…. As faith thus receives and assimilates the principles of truth, they become a part of the being and the motive power of the life. DA 390, 391 (Qtly, Fri, par 1)

3. God alone can bring true success (Thu)

- God promised Joshua prosperity and success (Josh. 1:7, 8).
    - The word "prosper" in v. 7 and "success" in v. 8 both come from the Hebrew word *sakal*, which means "to make or act circumspect and hence intelligent.
        - It is this word that is used in Genesis 3:6 to describe the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil as "*desirable to make on wise*."
- True success comes from faith-empowered obedience to God's commandments (see Rom. 3:31).
    - "…observe to do… then you will… [prosper] and have good success" (vs. 7, 8).

True success in any line of work is not the result of chance or accident or destiny. It is the outworking of God's providences, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and perseverance. Fine mental qualities and a high moral tone are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them. PK 486.2

CONCLUSION

We are standing, as it were, upon the very borders of the heavenly Canaan. We may, if we will, look over on the other side, and behold the attractions of the goodly land. If we have faith in the promises of God, we shall show in conversation and in deportment that we are not living for this world, but are making it our first business to prepare for that holy land. RH November 29, 1881