Bible Study Guide for Joshua 1

Day 1 – Introduction and Review

The book of Joshua records the establishment of the land (Israel), promised by God to the descendants of Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3** and again to Jacob in **Genesis 35:9-12**. It is in **Genesis 35:9-12** that Jacob's name is changed to Israel and from which the term "children (sons) of Israel" is derived. Jacob's immediate family had fled to Egypt to escape a seven-year famine and remained there 400 years. Although Jacob's son, Joseph, had great prestige in Egypt, Jacob's descendants grew to such a great numbers that the Egyptians became fearful of them and made them their slaves. The book of Exodus is the story of the deliverance of the sons of Israel under God's appointed leader, Moses. Moses led the children of Israel to the border of the promised land of Canaan, but because of the fear and unbelief of the people, they were caused to wander forty years before they entered into the land. As we begin the book of Joshua, the forty years of wilderness wanderings are over, and a new generation is at the Jordan River ready to go in and possess the land. Read **Joshua 1**.

1. To gain greater understanding of the history of Israel, skim/read the following passages and answer the questions below:
   a. What did God promise Abraham and what was to be the duration of His covenant? **Genesis 17:1-8**.

   b. Read **Genesis 37:12-36**. Although it would seem that the treachery of Joseph's brothers caused Jacob's family to go to Egypt (**Gen. 46:1-7**), what does **Gen. 50:20** tell us was the true cause?

   c. God's plan to deliver His people from bondage began with one man. Who was he and how was his life preserved for that purpose? **Exodus 2:1-10**.

   d. From our study today, what truth have you learned that is applicable to your own life?

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