

A Change In Season

Purpose: to prepare God's people for the change that is coming and to encourage them to be strong and courageous.

What do we mean by a change in season? We refer to a gradual period of time when things change. One definition defines the word "season" as: a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature (Merriam-Webster). It is a way of describing the four weather changes of the year, but it is also used to describe sports, holidays, and even television programmes.

When we say that we are moving into a new season, we believe that it is time for change. God has given us lessons to follow from the children of Israel:

- They were now about to leave the wilderness and enter into the land that was promised to them
- They were now going to stop fighting among themselves and begin fighting their enemies
- They were now going to be led by a new leader in a new direction

He gave them direction -

Jos 1:2 - "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

Jos 1:3 - Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

Jos 1:4 - From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

He gave them a promise –

Jos 1:5 - No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

He gave them encouragement –

Jos 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Jos 1:7 - 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.

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- You need faith when you face something that is too big for you.
- You need strength when you are about to compete or in a battle.
- You need courage when you are afraid – courage is the opposite of fear.

He gave them instruction –

Jos 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

He gave them assurance –

Jos 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

So here is a great example for us to follow:

- God has given us direction with a promise-

Isa 25:6 - And in this mountain
The LORD of hosts will make for all people
A feast of choice pieces,
A feast of wines on the lees,
Of fat things full of marrow,
Of well-refined wines on the lees.

Isa 25:7 - And He will destroy on this mountain
The surface of the covering cast over all people,
And the veil that is spread over all nations.

Isa 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever,
And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;
The rebuke of His people
He will take away from all the earth;
For the LORD has spoken.

- We must be strong and courageous
- We must follow the pattern in the book
- We have been assured that He will be with us