



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE<sup>®</sup>

1, 2 Kings Sermon Series

Supports Session 4: Divided

Sermon Title: "United in Wisdom" (Joshua 1:10-18)

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### Connection to 1 Kings 12:6-19

Rehoboam, the king of Israel, was extremely foolish in that he ignored sound advice. His actions resulted in a division amongst the people. Joshua, who succeeded Moses, received sound advice, and chose to follow it. The result was the unity amongst the people and the children of Israel inherited the Promised Land.

### Introduction/Opening

Wisdom and foolishness are opposites. Wisdom creates direction and foolishness destroys momentum. Wisdom listens to others and foolishness ignores sound advice. Wisdom unites a people around a vision and foolishness divides people into separate camps around personal agendas. Rehoboam chose to ignore sound advice which resulted in division. In contrast, Joshua created unity and not division by following sound advice.

### Outline

#### 1. Joshua's Unifying Efforts

**a) He empowered others (v. 10-11).** The context of this passage is that Moses had died, and Joshua was now leading the children of Israel. The Lord had spoken to Joshua and had told him to be strong and courageous three times in verses 6-10. After the Lord had assured him that he would not be alone in this journey, he began to act.

We see his first action in verse 10 in that Joshua commanded the officers of the people to begin to position themselves to take the Promised Land. Foolishness, which results in division, would say that one person can act alone. Foolishness would say, "If I want it done right, then I must do it myself." Wisdom, which creates unity, seeks to take the marching orders which have been handed down and enlists others in fulfilling these orders. Joshua had received a message from God, and he immediately shared it with other leaders.

**b) He focused on others (v. 13-15).** Those who are foolish like to hear themselves talk. Those who are wise tend to listen to and quote others. Joshua once again shows his wisdom in that he led the children of Israel to recall the words that Moses received from God. Joshua's goal was not to divide the people to gain control. Instead, he wanted to unite the people around a common vision of being obedient to God and trusting Him to do what He said He would do. All of this was built around God's message and not his own.

## 2. A Unified Response to Joshua's Efforts

**a) The people obeyed (v. 16-17).** The people rebelled against Rehoboam when he refused to listen to wise counsel. We see in this passage, however, that the people obeyed Joshua's commands and followed his leadership. A natural response to godly leadership is to unify around a common message that is based on God's Word.

**b) The people trusted the Lord (v. 17).** Those following Joshua knew that the Lord was with Joshua. Verse 17 indicates that they were certain of this. Many of us know the stories of conquest as the children of Israel began to occupy the Promised Land. This could not have taken place apart from God's presence with Joshua and the Israelites. The unified vision was from God and through Joshua.

Where is God calling us as a church today? Where is God leading us as individual followers today? We are called to lead in our community, schools, homes, etc. He has placed this calling upon our lives and we need to be willing to lead out like Joshua did. This does not mean it will always be easy, but He will be with us like He was with Joshua.

**c) The people were committed to action (v. 18).** God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous three times in verses 6-9. The children of Israel told Joshua to be strong and courageous in verse 18. They are mirroring the words of God and telling Joshua that it is time to act. They were asking him to lead them and were fully committed to the plan that God had given him. Unity was soon to be lived out as they acted upon the plans God had provided.

## Conclusion

Any foolish person can sow seeds of discord and divide. It is difficult to sow seeds of unity and lead. But, if we know that the Lord has called us to something, then it is time to be strong and courageous and begin to act upon the calling while trusting Him for the results.

What is God calling you to do today? Is He calling you into a personal relationship with Himself through His Son? If yes, then be strong and courageous and we as a church will support you as you obediently follow Him. Is He calling you to be active in your faith, to lead out in your family, school, or place of work? If yes, then be strong and courageous and we as a church will support and follow you. Joshua had a message from the Lord, and he faithfully followed. Would we be willing to do the same thing today?

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