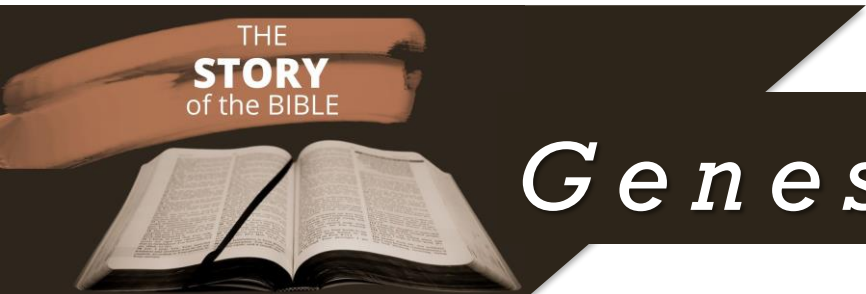


# THE STORY of the BIBLE



The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.



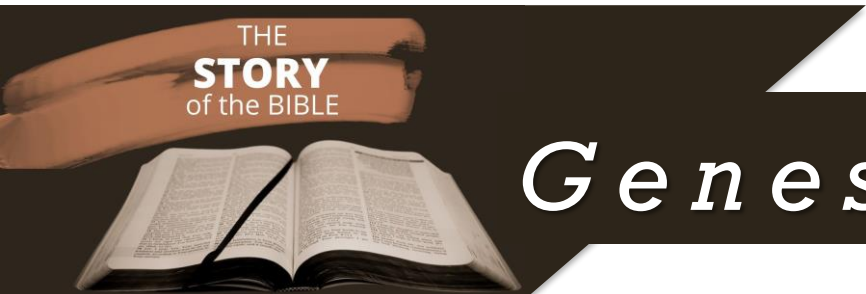
*Genesis 12:7 (NIV)*

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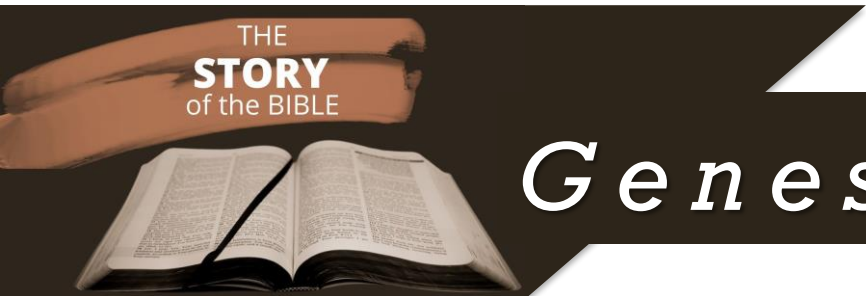
❖ God sees the big picture

Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.



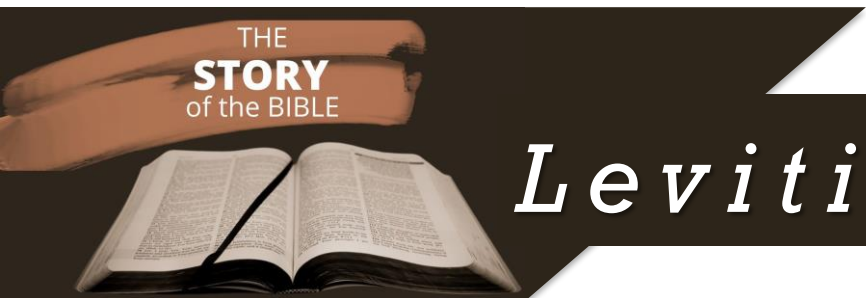
*Genesis 15:13–16 (NIV)*

You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, **for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”**



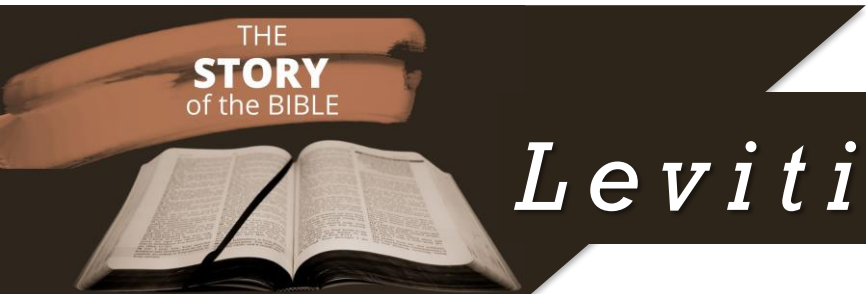
*Genesis 15:13–16 (NIV)*

“ ‘Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.



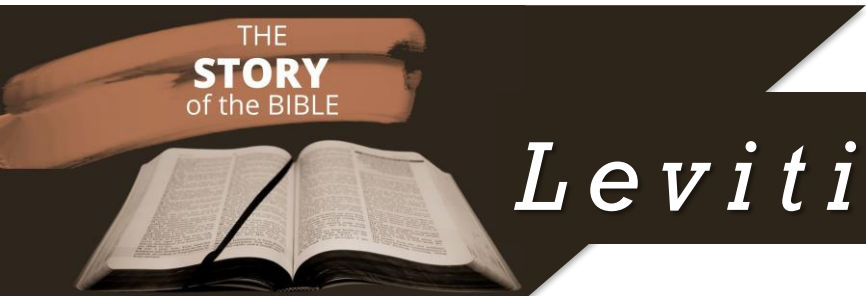
*Leviticus 18:24–25 (NIV)*

You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. **Do not follow their practices.**



*Leviticus 18:3 (NIV)*

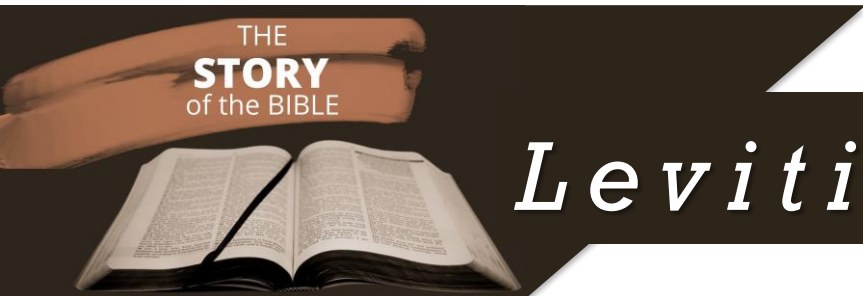
“ ‘Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.



*Leviticus 18:22 (NIV)*



“ ‘Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. **Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.**



*Leviticus 20:22–24 (NIV)*

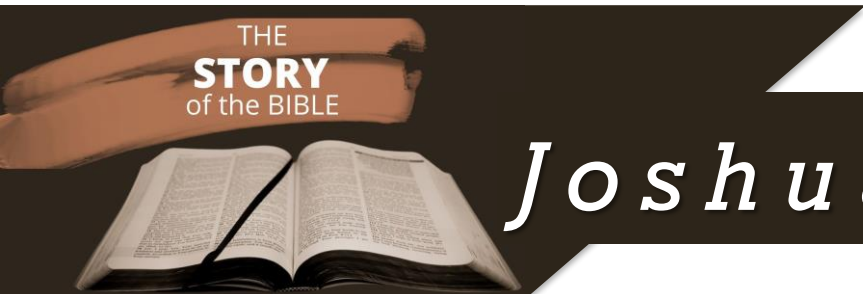
THE  
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- God sees the big picture

❖ God typically challenges our faith before  
He blesses us

After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, **the time has come for you to lead these people**, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.



*Joshua 1:1-2 (NLT)*

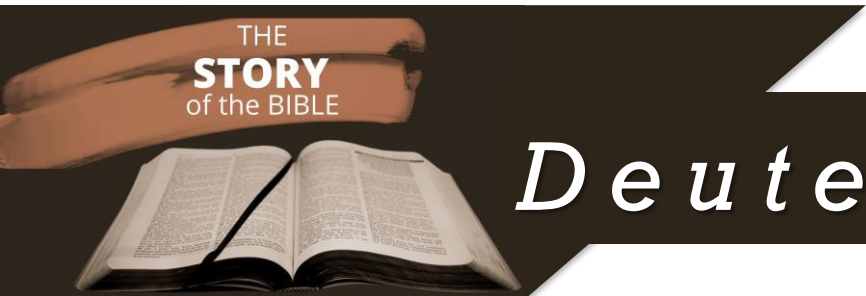
THE  
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- God sees the big picture
- God typically challenges our faith before He blesses us

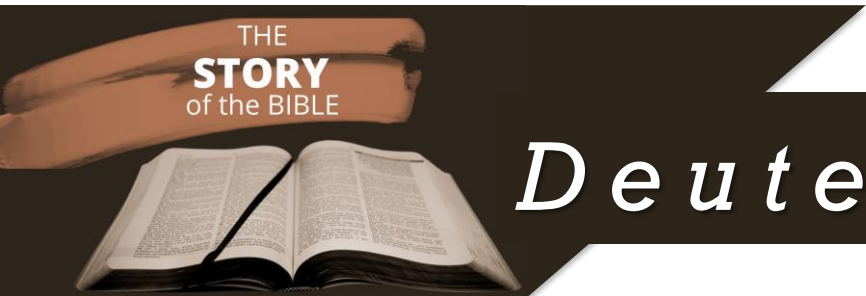
❖ God encourages us at the same time He challenges us

Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: “I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’



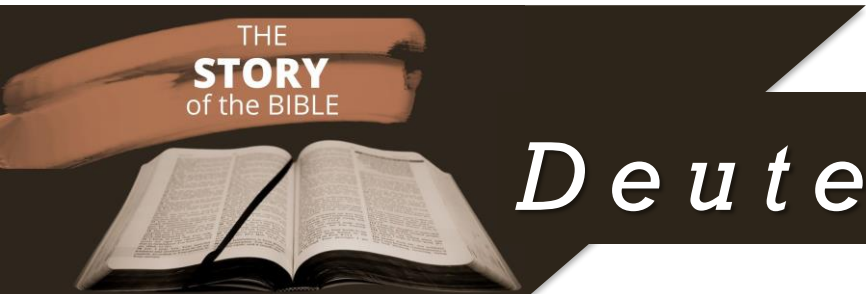
*Deuteronomy 31:1–6 (NIV)*

The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said.



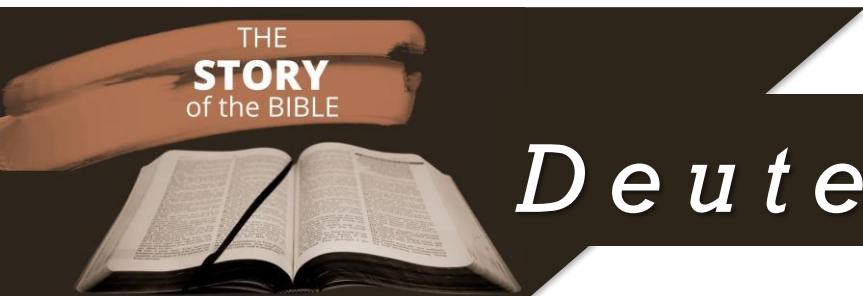
*Deuteronomy 31:1–6 (NIV)*

And the Lord will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. The Lord will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you.



*Deuteronomy 31:1–6 (NIV)*

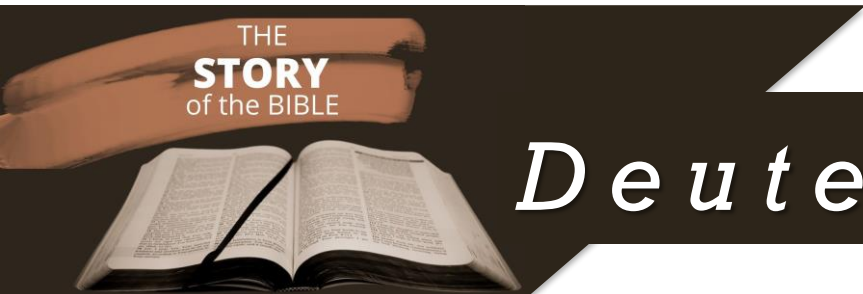
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”



*Deuteronomy 31:1–6 (NIV)*

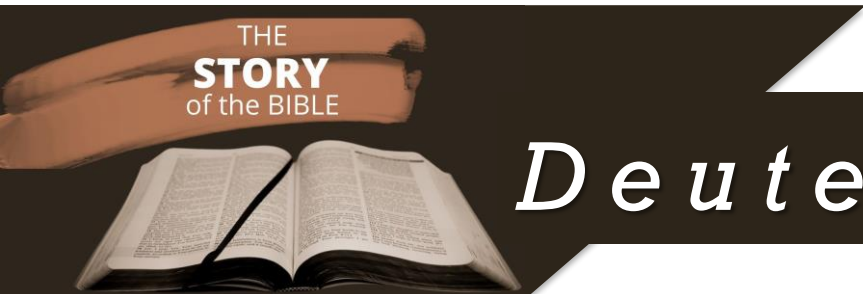


Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him  
in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and  
courageous, for you must go with this people  
into the land that the Lord swore to their  
ancestors to give them, and you must divide it  
among them as their inheritance.



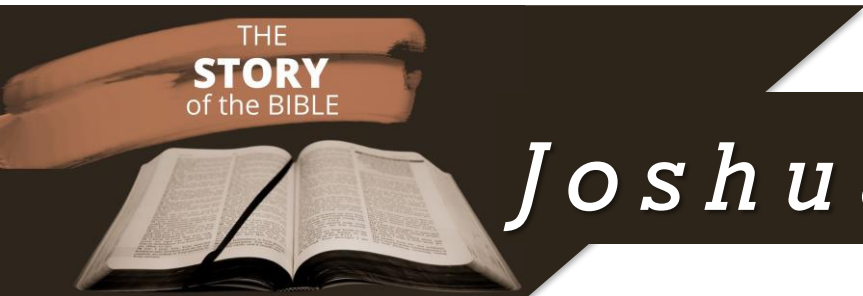
*Deuteronomy 31:7–8 (NIV)*

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”



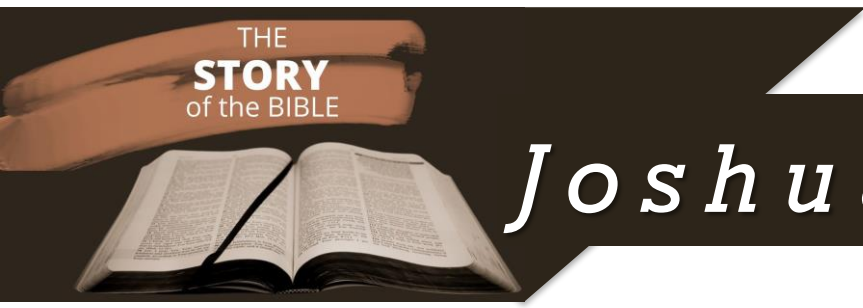
*Deuteronomy 31:7–8 (NIV)*

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "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.



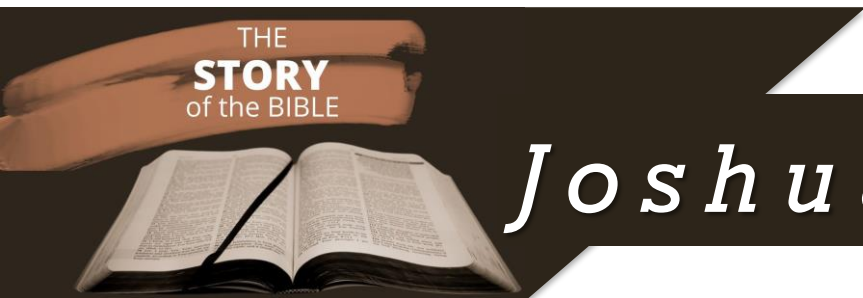
*Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)*

I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.



*Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)*

No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so **I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.** **Be strong and courageous,** because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.



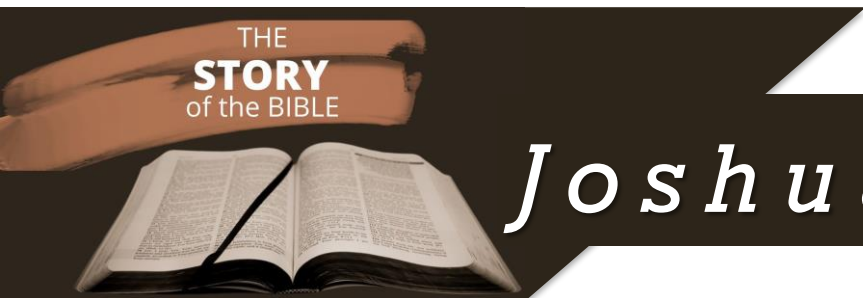
*Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)*

**“Be strong and very courageous.** Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.



*Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)*

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips;  
meditate on it day and night, so that you may be  
careful to do everything written in it. Then you will  
be prosperous and successful.



*Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)*

Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**”



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*Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)*



God may allow you to be in circumstances that challenge your faith, but He will stay by your side and encourage you through your faith journey.



## Oceans - Hillson

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep My faith will stand  
I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine  
Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand Will be my guide



Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now  
So I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

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Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior

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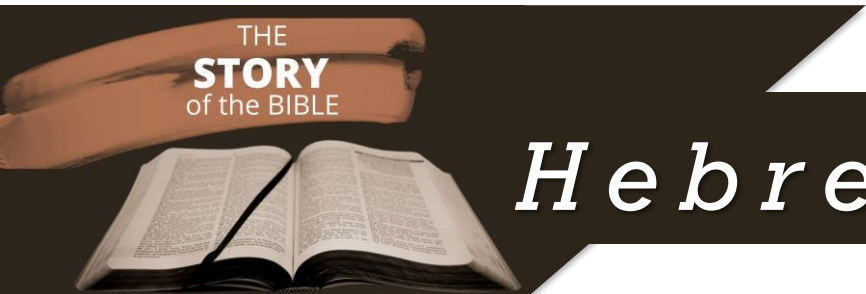


God gives us opportunities to step out in faith  
and trust Him.

God wants to reveal what happens when we  
have faith in Him..



And without faith it is impossible to please God,  
because anyone who comes to him must believe  
that he exists and that he rewards those who  
earnestly seek him.



*Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)*

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- God sees the big picture
- God typically challenges our faith before He blesses us

❖ How should we respond to challenges?

Be strong

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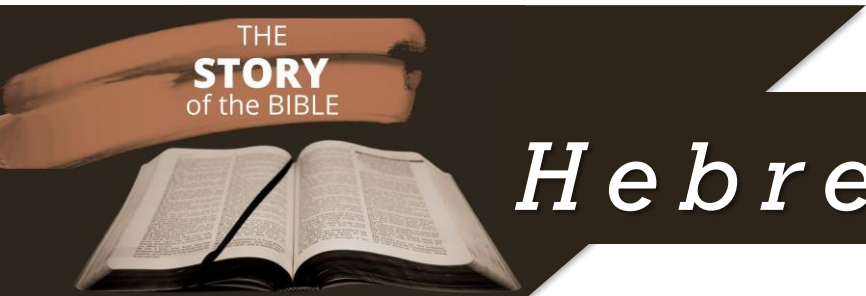


Your strength as a believer is derived from  
your awareness of your weaknesses

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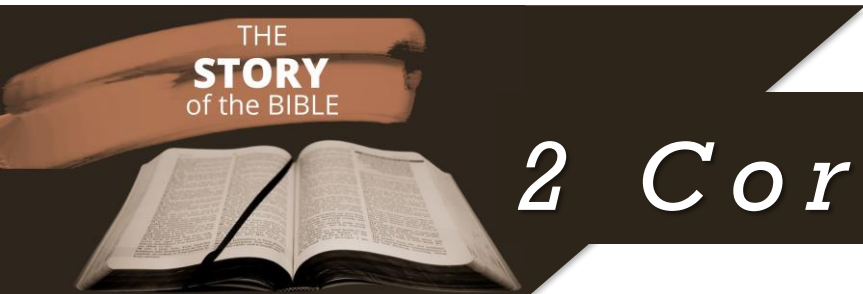
Out of weakness they were made strong



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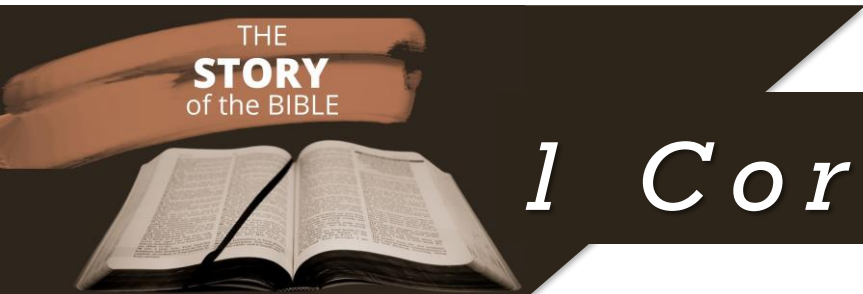
*Hebrews 11:34 (NKJV)*

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show  
my weakness.



*2 Corinthians 11:30 (ESV)*

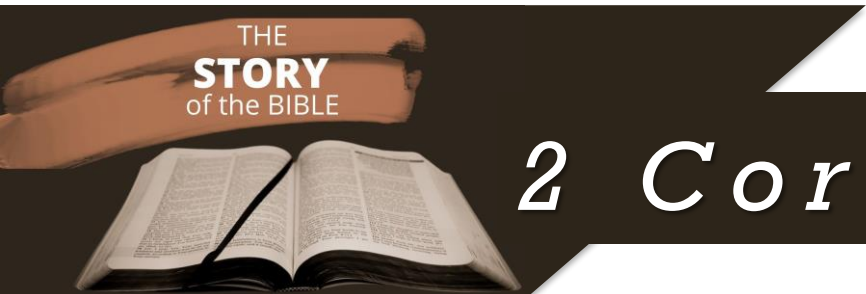
...God chose the weak things of the world to  
shame the strong.



*1 Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)*

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

For when I am weak, then I am strong.



*2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV)*

Most never feel good enough.

You don't have to be enough.

You just must believe God is enough.

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## Be courageous

*“Courage is the ability to do something that is scary for you. It is not the absence of fear. It is action even though you are afraid.”*



# Do it God's way

*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.*

*Joshua 1:8*





# Get started

*Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, '**Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan,** to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.' "*

*Joshua 1:8*



You don't need all the answers to get started.

You just have to know enough to take the  
next step.

If you don't take that first step, you will never  
go anywhere.



- God sees the big picture
- God typically challenges our faith before He blesses us
- God encourages us at the same time He challenges us
- How should we respond to challenges?
  - Be strong
  - Be courageous
  - Do it God's way
  - Get started



# THE STORY of the BIBLE

