

Chapter 1

Iofue encoreged by our Lord, 10. admonisheth the people to prepare themfelues to paffe ouer Iordan; 12. and al the able men of the tribes of Ruben, Gad, and halfe Manaffes to march armed before the rest. 16. Al promise to doe whatfoeuer he commandeth.

The firft part.
Of the paffage
of Ifrael ouer
Iordan.

And it came to paffe after the death of Moyfes the feruant of our Lord, that our Lord fpake to Iofue the fonne of Nun, the minifter of Moyfes, and faid to him: ² Moyfes my feruant is deade: arife, and paffe ouer this Iordan thou and al the people with thee, into the Land, which I wil geue to the children of Ifrael. ³ Euerie place, the fteppe of your foote fhall treade, wil I deliuer to you, as I haue fpoken to Moyfes. ⁴ From the defert and Libanus vnto the great riuer Euphrates, al the land of the Hetheites vnto the great fea againft the going downe of the funne, fhall be your border. ⁵ No man fhall be able to refift you al the daies of thy life: as I haue beene with Moyfes, fo wil I be with thee: I wil not leaue, nor forfake thee. ⁶ Take courage, and be ftrong: for thou fhalt by lotte diuide to this people the Land, for the which I fware to their fathers, that I would deliuer it to them. ⁷ Take courage therefore, and be very ftrong: that thou keepe and doe al the Law, which Moyfes my feruant hath commanded thee: decline not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayeft vnderftand al thinges which thou doeft. ⁸ Let not the volume of this law depart from thy mouth: but thou fhalt meditate in it daies and nightes, that thou maieft keepe and doe al thinges that be written in it: then fhalt thou direct thy way, and vnderftand it. ⁹ Behold I command thee, take courage, and be ftrong. Feare not, and drede not: becaufe the Lord thy God is with thee in al the thinges to whatfoeuer thou fhalt goe. ¹⁰ And Iofue commanded the princes of the people, faying: Paffe through the middes of the campe, and command the

people, and say: ¹¹ Prepare for your felues ^a)victuals: for after the third day you shall passe over Iordan, and shall enter to possess the Land, which our Lord your God will give you. ¹² To the Rubenites also and Gaddites, and halfe tribe of Manasses he said: ¹³ Remember the word, which Moyfes the seruant of our Lord commanded you, saying: Our Lord your God hath given you rest, and all this Land. ¹⁴ Your wiues, and children, and cattel shall tarry in the Land, which Moyfes deliuered to you beyond Iordan: but passe you over armed before your brethren, all that are strong of hand, & fight for them, ¹⁵ vntill our Lord give rest to your brethren as to you also he hath given, and they also possess the Land which our Lord your God will give them: and so returne into the Land of your possession, and you shall dwell in it, which Moyfes the seruant of our Lord gave you beyond Iordan, against the ryfing of the Amalekites. ¹⁶ And they made answer to Iosue, and said: All things, that thou hast commanded vs, we will doe: and whither soeuer thou shalt send vs, we will goe. ¹⁷ As we obeyed Moyfes in all things, so will we obey thee also: only be our Lord thy God with thee, as he was with Moyfes. ¹⁸ He that shall gainsay thy mouth, and not obey all thy wordes, that thou shalt command him, let him die. Thou only take courage, and doe manfully.

^a Besides Manna, which yet ceased not, they might if they would provide other meate: prefiguring that in the primitive Church, it should be lawful to vse legal ceremonies, with euangelical rites for a time, till the old law were buried with honour.