

THE PROMISE LAND

應許之地

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JOSHUA 1: 6-9

1:9 “Have not I commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” !

INTRODUCTION

I want to thank the Principal James Chen for inviting me to participate in this chapel service. It has been my privilege to be a part of Chungtai seminary for more than 30 years, so I have many wonderful memories, Chungtai has been like a Promise Land for me.

We serve a God who likes to do new things. He created the world, then he created a new human family. And because of sin, he now is working to re-create this family through the new birth, to make us new creatures in Christ Jesus.

I. THE PROMISE LAND

The Lord chose Abraham to be the father of a new nation, the nation Israel, for God wanted a people and a nation for a new beginning for his new kingdom. And God wanted them to live in the Promise Land, and to become a blessing to the whole world.

II. CHUNGTAI BECAME LIKE A PROMISE LAND

When I think of all the wonderful events that led

約書亞記一章 6~9節

一章9節，「我豈沒有吩咐你嗎？你當剛強壯膽！不要懼怕，也不要驚惶，因為你無論往哪裡去，耶和華你的神必與你同在。」

前言

我要感謝陳院長的邀請，使我能參與在這個崇拜裡。三十多年來，很榮幸能夠有份於中台神學院，並且擁有許多美好的回憶。對我而言，中台就像是應許之地一般。

我們所事奉的神是一位喜歡造作新事的神。祂創造了世界，並且也創造了一個新的人類家庭。為了罪的緣故，現在祂正藉著賜下新的生命，再一次來創造人類家庭，使我們在基督耶穌裡成為新造的人。

I. 應許之地

神曾揀選亞伯拉罕成為一個新的國家之父，也就是以色列國，因為祂要開始祂新的國度，所以需要一群百姓和國家。同時神要他們居住在應許之地，並且成為普世的祝福。

II. 中台就像是應許之地

當我想到過去那些美好的事，以至建立了中

to the founding of Chungtai, it was like the Lord leading the Holiness Church leaders and OMS to a new Promise Land here in Taichung. It became a spiritual oasis in central Taiwan.

I first came to Chungtai in 1953. (This chapel room was quite different, no balcony, this stage was not here, it was at the other end where the balcony is now.) I came to take a group of students to the south of Taiwan to plant churches. This was, and still is, the purpose of Chungtai, to train workers to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. (Also faculty and students planted a new church right here on campus).

This campus was very adequate for the preparation of the first generation of faculty and students. But there was need for more and better facilities for the second generation. So in 1972 we built new dormitories and faculty homes. More faculty were trained, the academic programs expanded, and accreditation with the Asia Theological Association was achieved. The Lord fulfilled his promises to us and for two generations we enjoyed and were blessed here in this Promise Land.

But now we must prepare for the next, the third and fourth generations, and for this the Lord is leading us to a new Promise Land. In this time of transition, let me share from Joshua chapter one, three admonitions.

III. THREE ADMONITIONS

1. DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED

Joshua 1:9 We remember all the difficulties and problems Moses faced as he led Israel toward the Promise Land. At one point Moses was so discouraged he said, “Lord, if you do not go with us, we will not go!” And the Lord replied, “I will go with you!” And the Lord kept his promise!

There will always be those who do not share the vision of the Promise Land. But as the board, faculty

台神學院，我覺得就好像是主帶領聖教會的領袖和國際宣教會進入台中這應許之地。對中台灣來說，這是一處屬靈的綠洲。

我第一次來到中台是在一九五三年。那時候的禮堂和現在大不相同。以前沒有二樓的看台，講台也不是在這裡，而是在另外一頭，就是在目前二樓看台的地方。我當時來到中台，是要帶一批學生到南部去開拓教會。這個目的－訓練工人把福音帶到地極，是過去中台神學院的方向（當時老師與學生就在這裡建立了一個新的教會），現在也依然如此。

這個校園對第一代教職員生的預備是非常合適的，但是對於第二代來說，則是需要更多、更好的設施。所以在一九七二年，我們蓋了新的學生和教職員宿舍，訓練更多的師資，擴大學術課程，並且得到亞洲神學協會的認證。主向我們這兩代成就祂的應許，使我們在這應許之地得享祝福。

但現在我們必須要為下一個階段作預備－第三代和第四代，而為了這個目標，主正在引導我們向著新的應許之地前進。在這變動的時期，我要用約書亞記第一章來與大家分享。這裡有三個勉勵。

III. 三個勉勵

1. 不要驚惶

從約書亞記一章9節我們記得，當摩西帶領以色列百姓走向應許之地的時候，他面對著許許多多的困難。他一度非常灰心，說：「主，若是你不與我們同往，我們就不去！」主回答他說：「我將與你們同去！」而主的確實現了祂的應許！

當然，不見得所有人都認同於這應許之地的異象。然而就中台而言，當董事會、教職員和學

and students begin this transition to a new location, remember this admonition, Do not be discouraged, for the Lord has promised to be with you, he will bring you to the new Promise Land.

2. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

Joshua 1:6,7,9,and 18. The kind of strength that is needed to occupy the new Promise Land is more than physical strength. Strength that is needed is inner spiritual strength, to overcome fear, discouragement, and what seems like insurmountable obstacles. Strength to wholly trust the Lord when accomplishing the task may seem impossible.

Courage is acting in faith, standing on the Promises of God, facing the challenges ahead with confidence, because the Lord has promised to go with you. We know God has said, “Nothing is too hard for God” !

3. DO NOT LET THE BOOK OF THE LAW DEPART FROM YOUR MOUTH!

Joshua 1:8. The Bible is our road map to the Promise Land. God’ s Word must continue to be the foundation for all we believe and do as we occupy the new Promise Land. God told Joshua, and he would remind us, “be careful to do everything written it” . Let me add my admonition: never, never depart from God’ s Holy Scriptures, always make the Bible the foundation of all you teach and do.

Let me remind you of the four mottos of Chungtai, you see them here on the Chapel walls in gold letters, (and printed on the back of today’s program)

“KNOW GOD’S WORD,
BE SPIRIT EMPOWERED,
EXALT THE CROSS,
PROCLAIM GOD’S GRACE” !

To this, the Lord makes another great promise (Joshua 1:8) “Then you will be Prosperous and successful” !

生開始要搬遷到一個新的地點時，請記住這個勉勵 – 不要驚惶，因為主已經應許要與我們同在，祂將帶領你到新的應許之地。

2.要剛強壯膽！

約書亞記一章6,7,9和18節。要居住在新的應許之地所需要的力量不只是物質的力量，所需要的更是內在屬靈的力量，如此才能克服恐懼、沮喪和那些似乎是難以跨越的障礙。當完成使命似乎是不可能的任務時，我們就需要那種專一信靠主的力量。

勇敢是信靠中的行動，站立在神的應許上，以確信來迎接面前諸多的挑戰，因為主已經應許要與我們同去。我們知道主說過，「在神沒有難成的事」！

3.這律法書不可離開你的口！

約書亞記一章8節。聖經是我們前往應許之地的路線圖。而當我們定居在新的應許之地時，神的話必須持續做為我們所信和所行的基礎。神告訴約書亞，而祂也會如此提醒我們，「謹守遵行這書上所寫的一切話」。在此我也要加上我個人的勸勉：絕對、絕對不要離開神的聖言，總要使聖經成為你們一切教導和行為的基礎。

讓我以中台神學院的校訓這四句話來提醒你們：你們可以從禮堂兩邊牆壁上金色的大字看到（並且印在今天程序單的背面）：

「明聖經
得靈力
舉十架
傳主恩」

為此，神又提出另外一個應許（約書亞記一章8節），「如此，你的道路就可以亨通，凡事順利」！

IV. CONCLUSION

As I said at the beginning, God likes to make new things. In fact, the Bible closes with God saying he is going to make a new heaven and a new earth. As God is in the process of making new people for the new kingdom, Chungtai is a vital part, preparing those who can serve the Lord both here in Taiwan and around the world. We have had two generations of a wonderful Promise Land, but it is now time to move to a new Promise Land, so:

“DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED!

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

KEEP TRUE TO THE BIBLE IN EVERY-
THING!

FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE
WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO!”

AMEN!

IV. 結論

正如我在開頭所說的，神喜歡造作新事。事實上，聖經就是以神說祂要創造新天新地來結束。在神為了祂新的國度而造就新百姓的過程中，中台神學院扮演了極重要的角色，預備那些在台灣並全世界，能夠來服事主的人。在這美好的應許之地我們已經有過兩代，但現在應該是向著新的應許之地邁進的時候了，所以：

「不要驚惶！

要剛強壯膽！

在凡事上忠於聖經！

因為你無論往哪裡去，耶
和華你的神必與你同在！」

阿們！

（此文講於校園遷移感恩禮拜） 



校園遷移感恩禮拜與會者合影留念