

Joshua 1:1-9 Joshua's Courage

Good morning Church Family – Happy New Year to you!

A) Today we are beginning a brand new Series - **FIND YOUR WAY TO JOSHUA CH. 1**

B) Calling this NEW series Deliverer needed!

C) **Jesus is the Ultimate Deliverer!** – Delivers people from Sin, Shame, guilt, and From an eternity in Hell.

1) But Jesus invites us to play a part in His Rescue Mission.

We live in a world that is Broken, - Broken lives, hearts, hopes, dreams,

A) all around us people are disillusioned about Government, Economy, **their world** and the future of World.

Aa) When you study God's word, here is what we find – whenever God's people found themselves in that type of situation –

B) God would raise up a deliverer, - Someone who was chosen by God to make an impact

1) Help God's people get out of a rut, Help them move forward into what God had promised his people.

C) God would raise up a person to make **A HUGE IMPACT IN THEIR GENERATION.**

Now it is true that very few, if any of us in this room will impact a whole Generation. –

A) But I do believe God wants us to impact our immediate Spheres of influence. – We all have a **Sphere of influence**

B) **A setting, Job, neighborhood, family, school,** a team, - a setting that we are in regularly.

C) I believe in this coming year God wants to give each of us the opportunity to make an impact in our sphere of influence.

D) Help someone **move forward** in the Lord, Help **rescue someone out of bondage**, **help reconcile** a broken relationship.

E) I believe God is going to use this series to help us be better vessels / As we see Who God was in the lives of **these men & women in Scripture**

1) We will Gain some insight into who He wants to be in our lives!

RD. 1-9 PRAY

The Year was 1966 – Bubba Smith was the Star Defensive end for the Michigan State Spartans.

A) Bubba was a huge man – 6'7 280lbs of brute force.

Went on to have **a hall of fame career** in the NFL.

B) **But on this particular day: Michigan State – was playing Cross State Rivals the Michigan Wolverines**

1) Big Bubba was playing both ways – **Offensive line.**

C) His job was to block a little guy – 5'9 180lbs Leon Morris!

1) **NO PROBLEM FOR BIG BUBBA RIGHT?**

D) First play of the day – they line up – Bubba thinking – intimidate the little guy – says: **YOU ARE ALL MINE TODAY – LITTLE MAN**

1) Leon Morris responded – We will see about that.

Ball was snapped: Leon slipped through legs..... tackled for a loss.

A) 2nd play: Bubba I am going to **Crush you** – Go for it- drops to Knees
Leon darts around Big Bubba sacks the QB

B) Big Bubba was embarrassed to say the least and Angry as all get out.

1) Third play: **I am going to Bite your head off** – “Go ahead and when you do there will be more brains in your stomach than there are in your head.

C) Leon Morris though he lacked size was successful in sports – through **hard work, quick thinking and sheer determination.**

That is the way that a lot of people approach the Christian life.

A) They believe the key to success in the Christian life is about **hard work, and sheer determination!**

B) Just try harder – can overcome my addiction

1) Just try harder I can be a better husband.

C) If I can just find the right program things will come together for me!

D) The Christian life is not so much about trying harder it is about **submission and surrender**

That is why a study of the book of Joshua is so important!

A) The book of Joshua illustrates practically that the abundant life that Jesus offers is not found in trying harder, hard work & sheer determination.

B) But rather it is achieved through surrender to Jesus and submission to His word.

C) **CANNAN’S LAND SONG – NOT HEAVEN**

1) Giants and Enemies strongholds in the land – Battles to fight

D) No the promised land is a Picture of the Spirit filled life – Spirit led life.

1) **Believing in the Promises** of God and stepping into them by Faith.

Notice v.3 of our text- God says to Joshua: **“Every place that the soul of your foot will tread upon, I have given you.”**

A) Notice **PRESENT TENSE**: Not I will give it to you – No - God says I have already given it to you.

B) Key to the book of Joshua and it is a Key to the Christian life.

C) **PROVISION** has already been made by the Lord, but **APPROPRIATION** must be made by Joshua and the Children of Israel.

1) **PROVISION IS THERE –**

2) **THE DECISION IS THEIRS**

This my friends is the key to the Christian life:

God made Provision:

A) **Appropriation must be made by You.**

B) When God saw the world lost in sin and Darkness – God made Provision

John 3:16, 17 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

D) Provision was made by God – He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins

1) Provision was made by God – Appropriation must be made by us – by believing!

Jesus says: John 10 “I am the good shepherd and I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly.”

A) He has made Provision for abundant life –

Aa) Appropriation must be made by us in order to experience it we must follow Him.

B) That is what the book of Joshua so beautifully illustrates for us.

C) Today we want to look at Joshua’s Courage!

V.1 Gives us the setting of the book- time of transition. After the death of Moses.

A) Worth mentioning that sometimes before we can move forward in the direction that God wants

WE NEED TO LET GO OF THE PAST!

B) We need to realize when something has died.

B) **Like all the Elvis fans** { Hate to burst your bubble – Elvis is Dead

1) Elvis hasn’t just left the building – He has left the planet – He is dead – time to move forward.

C) Moses is dead and the Children of Israel have been stuck in a rut, wandering in the wilderness for 40 yrs. Due to their own unbelief 38 yrs earlier

D) But it is Time to move forward and God calls Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the blessing that are theirs in the land of Promise.

But Joshua feels completely inadequate for the Job! Rightly So!

A) He is replacing a legend and the thought of that scares and overwhelms him!

C) Imagine – **You are taking over for the CEO of your company – who has been there for 40 yrs** and has done an amazing job.

1) Glimpse of how Joshua Probably - felt

Joshua is taking over for the man who would shape their entire culture of over 2,000 yrs! Present day – came through Moses –

A) Moses credentials - **He Led them out Egypt**

B) **Gave the ten commandments**

Instructions for the Tabernacle including the ark

C) **God’s spokesman**

1) Wrote the Pentateuch – first 5 books

D) Gave them the Law of Moses- the ceremonial law of Israel including all of their dietary laws.

1) **NO WONDER Joshua feels intimidated** –

He is afraid and fear often holds us back in moving forward in the thing that God has for us.

That is why I believe the book of Joshua begins the way that it does!

A) God tells Joshua three times in V.1-9 and once more at the end of the chapter to be strong and courageous!

B) because – **He is not feeling that way at all.** – God says Be strong because **Joshua feels weak.**

1) God says be of good courage because
Joshua feels Cowardice

C) God says don't be afraid because Joshua feels like God should get someone else for the Job.

But this is a beautiful picture: God almighty stooping down to encourage the human heart that feels hesitant and afraid.

A) To the human heart that is saying – I don't know if I can do this – **God is saying – YOU CAN!**

One summer evening, during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her small boy into bed.

She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy."

A long silence was broken at last by a shaken little voice saying, "The big sissy."

B) Well Joshua wasn't a big sissy – but it was a big task —

1) So in the remainder of our time this morning I want us to consider God's exhortation to Joshua to be Strong and Courageous.

C) See three reasons why he could lead with Courage and Strength!

#1 God's Promise was upon him

#2 God's Word was to guide him.

#3 God's people were with him.

D) We will see this morning that we can be strong and courageous for the same three reasons!

1) WHATEVER GOD HAS FOR US IN THIS COMING YEAR!

#1 God's Promise was upon him:

A) As we look back at verses 1-6 we see that the Lord makes several promises to Joshua: noted already

V.3 The Promise of Provision ² ³ **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses**

V.5 The Promise of his Presence: *As I was with Moses, so I will be with you! I will not leave you nor forsake you*

V.5 The Promise of Power: ⁵ **No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life;**

B) Joshua could be strong and Courageous because the Land was already given to him.

1) God's Presence was with Him and God's Power would protect him.

Sometimes we read the Stories of the Bible / Missionaries – That is not the God that I know – God doesn't do that anymore

A) Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

B) It is that same Jesus who says to the Believers today: **“I will never leave you or forsake you”** Hebrews 13:5 –

1) **I will be with you always even until the end of the age.** Matthew 28:20

C) The Promise of His presence to us is even greater:

1) Jn 14 told his Disciples – I will not leave you orphans – Send the Helper my spirit to live in your hearts

D) In fact in Luke 24 and Acts chapter 1 - The Holy Spirit is called “the promise of the Father.”

E) Jesus gives us a GREAT PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE - His spirit in our hearts – Guide us and empower us to live for God in their fallen world.

Blessing of the New Covenant: Ezekiel 36:26

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷{Do a work on the inside that affects the outside.} I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.”

A) No longer trying to earn God’s favor by following external laws and rituals

B) Done with Trying to clean up the outside – - - no the work is INSIDE!

The Lord gives us the Promise of His Power

Philippians 4:13 **“We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.”**

A) Nothing comes into your life that is too big for you to handle thru Jesus

B) It is in those times that we discover what Jesus says in 2 Corinthians 12 –

Is true: 12:9 He says - **“My grace is sufficient for you and my Power is made perfect in your weakness.”**

C) **So if Job loss, Cancer, you name it** – You will discover – His Grace is sufficient his power is made perfect in your weakness.

The Lord gives us the Promise of His Provision: Philippians 4:19

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 **“being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”**

A) Whatever situation you find yourself in right now – You are not there by yourself – He is w/ You { Disciples in the Storm / Shad....fiery furnace

B) **Daniel** in the Lions den/ **David** – against Goliath – He is there – the same Lord who was w/ them is w/ you

C) The Lord who was **for them is for you!** – The Lord who strengthened them will strengthen you as well.

SO The question is not is God with you – no the question is are you with Him?

A) Are you an unbeliever who is unwilling to open your heart to him today?

HS HAS BEEN CONVICTING YOU

B) Provision has been made to pay the price of your sins – **Provision has been made for Forgiveness.**

1) Appropriation is needed – You need to give you heart to Jesus – place your faith in Jesus – follow....

C) Are you someone who is backslidden

1) Walked away from Christ – and He has been pleading with you to return.

D) Jesus says: For me or you are against me –

NO NEUTRAL GROUND

Are you a believer who has been unwilling to surrender a certain area of your life to his leading and care.

1) Have you been unwilling to wait on His leading / trust in His Provision / Rely on His Power

There was a man who had to cross a wide river on the ice.

He was afraid it might be too thin, so he began to crawl on his hands and knees in great terror.

He thought he might fall through at any moment.

Just as he neared the middle, exhausted, he heard a noise behind him

It was another man in a horse drawn carriage was coming across the ice, the man in the carriage flew past him on the ice.

The difference between the two men was the guy in the horse & carriage knew the ice was thick enough to hold him!

A LOT OF CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE THE GUY CRAWLING ON ICE

A) Headed for Heaven, they tremble at every step lest the divine promises break under their feet.

B) DO you know that His love for you is big enough to protect you and his strength is great enough to keep you secure.

C) God wants us to be people who are strong and Courageous living confident lives in 2014 assured of the Promise of His Presence, Provision and Power.

D) Joshua could be strong and courageous because

#1 God's Promise was upon him.

#2 God's word would guide Him.

⁷ "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. ⁸ 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.

4 Things were to mark Joshua's relationship to God's word – same 4 things should mark our relationship to God's word

Joshua was to Know the Word, He was to talk about the word, He was to mediate on the word and He was to obey the word.

A) In other words Joshua's whole life was to revolve around the Word of God.

B) God wanted Joshua to understand that –

1) that if He was going to have Success / if he was going to carry out – His calling –

C) God's word would have to be a huge part of his life.

1) Part of his **thought life** – (**meditating**) – chewing on like the cow chews the cud.

D) Part of his conversation – on his lips

Same is true for us!

A) The direction that we need for our lives / for ministry / for being lights in this world –

B) For leading our families / for dealing with Problems

1) It is found in the pages of this Book –

The Bible is our Playbook / our guidebook for living – We are to Know it

A) heard of – 3rd String QB for one of the teams who when it came time to play –

B) 1st & 2nd Stringers were hurt

1) He Didn't know the Play book – Receiver played QB

C) This guy is on the team all year – thinking – I am never going to get to play – I don't need to study – {
When called upon he wasn't ready

2 Timothy 2:15 *“Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

Charles Haddon Spurgeon “Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.”

Certain movies – Watch again & again – see something New

A) God's word is that way – Something new something fresh

B) **The Bible is like a telescope:** If a man looks **AT** a telescope – he doesn't see anything – but if he looks thru it – expands his Horizon

1) It Broadens his perspective –

C) That is how the Bible is – Look at it sitting on the shelf – nothing – Look INTO IT – see the world – different light

D) Joshua was to know the word. Talk / mediate

C) Too often we take in the word – like fast food – on the go – scarf it down {

1) Out the door – hour later – what did I read today

D) Oh I don't have time to meditate on God's word! – You have more time than you think?

1) The person sleeps 8hrs a day, and works 8 hrs a day- leaves **56 hrs in a week for doing whatever you want.**

E) You have time to spend in the word!

Joshua was to know the word, talk about the word, meditate on the word – but most of all Joshua was to OBEY THE WORD!

A) *Other books were given for our information, the Bible was given for our transformation.*

B) It didn't matter how much of the Word, Joshua Knew / Didn't matter how often he talked about it / **How long he meditated on it**

C)What Matter the most – key to his Success – **obeyed it in it's entirety**

D)Sometimes it seems hard – illogical – love enemies

Principle - GOD'S COMMANDMENTS ARE GOD'S ENABLEMENTS

A)God never **asks us to do something that He doesn't also supply us with the power to carry it out.**

B)Most of the time we don't experience the power until we take the steps to carry it out.

C) We will see two great examples as we continue in our study of Joshua – one this Wed –

Ch. 2 time to Cross over - Jordan river – over flowing flood season –

A) God says - step in and rivers will stop.

B)They had to believe the word of God and step out in faith before they would see the power of God.

1) Great illustration of how God's word works

C)See again Chapter 6 Jericho

D)God's word is not just for information but it is for transformation –

1)**Transformation occurs when we step out in faith to believe it!**

So Joshua could be strong and Courageous because

#1 God's promise was upon him.

#2 God's word would guide him.

#3 God's people were with Him!

A)After God's gives this word to Joshua – Joshua sends the commanders through the camp – to let the people know – God has chosen him to lead.

B)V.16,17 We see the people's response –

So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

Here we see the fourth time in this chapter Joshua is told to be strong and courageous –

A)Be strong and Courageous – God is with you and we are with you too!

B)**Good to remember we are not in this alone. -**

1)RUNNING IN A RACE –

2) RUNNING NOT AGAINST EACH OTHER BUT WITH EACH OTHER.

C)**Relay Race** – We all have our leg to run – we are on the same team
Cheering each other on to Victory!

D)Diet Programs – Exercise programs – Recovery programs – **work best in groups** – because people realize what God knew all along – We need each other

No lone Ranger Christians – God calls us into a family – because we need each other – Encourage – Stir up -

A)You are a part of a family: Dysfunctional yes – but the best Dysfunctional family around.

B) Sometimes people will come to a church and say: I don't **feel like I fit in** or I don't have anything in common with those pp.

1) Nothing could be further from the truth. More in Common than you realize.

C) **Early Church – Day of Pentecost 3,000 saved** - But the people had come from all over the region.

1) Other countries to celebrate at the feast – pop swelled to 3million

People from different countries, provinces, some were sophisticated others were country bumpkins

A) Some were rich others were poor – some were deeply religious others were not so much at all.

B) But the Bible says Acts 2:44 **“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common.”** why they had everything that was important in common

C) Common background Sinners – they fit together

1) Common need Salvation

D) Common Savior Jesus – Everything important in common.

The Beauty of the body of Christ is God puts us in a body – different backgrounds – ages – social status

Learn from each other – help each other –

Encourage -

Folks – This is a family – whatever you go through, don't go through it alone

Running for Jesus is Contagious – STORY OF DANIEL

Unbeliever – Fresh start – New Year New life

Provision has been made – Appropriation is necessary

You need to give heart to Jesus

Transformation is available – Sins forgiven – guilt removed – purpose –

Appropriation is needed – Believe God's word

Stand in the Jordan – Stand for Jesus today.

Backslidden: Surrender – Come Home

Fresh touch of Spirit -