

Old Promise, New Leader, Faithful God

Joshua 1

I. The Context of Joshua

A. Recap of the storyline so far (Pentateuch review)

1. Genesis – Beginnings. God's people, in his place, under his rule (Gen. 1, 3, 17:4-8)
2. Exodus: God's Rescue and Rule
3. Leviticus: Living in the Holy God's Presence
4. Numbers: The People's Rebellion and Wandering
5. Deuteronomy: The New Generation Renews the Covenant

B. Joshua is a continuation of the story that began back in Genesis (Deut. 34:4-5, 9; Josh. 1:1-2).

II. Introducing Joshua

A. Theme: God keeps his promise to bring his people into his land (Josh. 21:44-45).

B. Outline of Joshua

1. 1-5 Entering the Land
2. 6-12 Conquering the Land
3. 13-21 Possessing the Land
4. 22-24 Serving the Lord in the Land

III. Joshua 1

A. Yahweh's promises and presence (Joshua 1:1-9)

1. Yahweh's promise lives on (1-4)
2. Yahweh's presence (5, 9, cp. to Matt. 28:18-20)
3. Because of God's promise and presence, Joshua is commanded not to be afraid but to be strong and courageous (6, 7, 9, 18)
 - a. God doesn't focus on military strategy when he tells him he will go take the land.
 - b. Instead, the focus is on obeying God (Verse 8 is a key verse)
 - (i) **Command** Meditate on the book of law (get it inside of your mind and heart)
 - (ii) **Purpose** So that you may be careful to do according to all that is written
 - (iii) **Result** For then you will make your way successful
2. Meditating on God's Word is key to obeying and having good success
"As digestion turns food into nourishment for the body, so meditation turns the truths received and remembered into warm affection, firm resolution, and a holy lifestyle." (Richard Baxter, *The Saint's Everlasting Rest*, 58).

B. Joshua assumes command, pointing the people to God's promises (Josh 1:10-15)

1. "The Lord is giving"
2. "Rest"

C. The people respond by promising to obey and pointing Joshua back to God's promises and commands (Josh. 1:16-18)