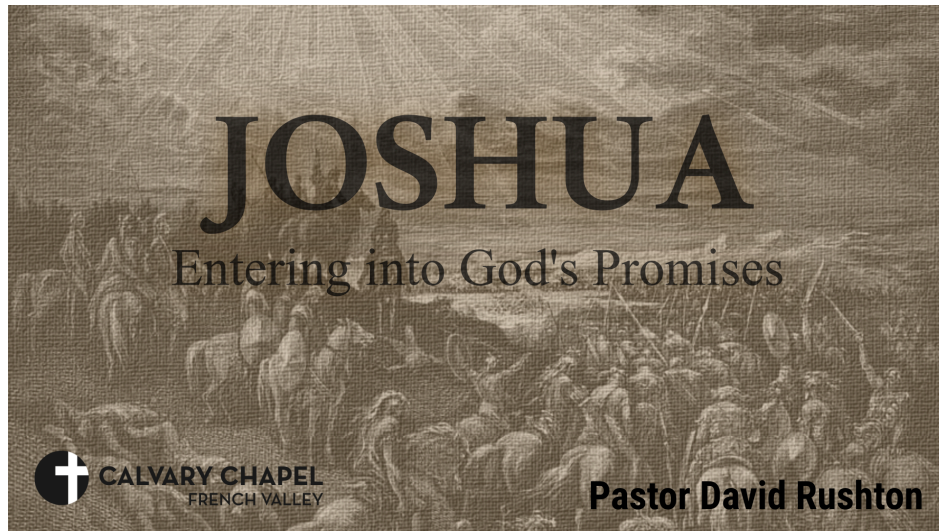


JOSHUA: Entering into God's Promises
I Am With You
Joshua 1:1-18



Joshua 1:1-18
July 19, 2025
Message 1 of ???

1. Intro

1.1 Starting **Joshua: Entering into God's Promises**

1.2 Overview

1.2.1 Genesis 17:8 - God promises the land to Abraham and his descendents

Genesis 17:8

⁸Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

1.2.2 Joseph and his brothers end up in Egypt

1.2.3 After 400 years, God calls Moses to lead the people out of Egypt

1.2.4 Pillar of cloud and fire, crossing the Red Sea, mana from heaven and water from a rock

1.2.5 Mount Sinai, the ten commandments, the golden calf, the tabernacle

1.2.6 Numbers 13 - 12 spies sent in to scope it out

1.2.7 Joshua and Caleb were ready to go

1.2.8 Because of the nation's lack of courage, they will wait a generation

1.2.9 Moses leads the people during the 40 year wandering

1.2.10 Deuteronomy records Moses' words to the people towards the end of his life

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

⁷Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. ⁸And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

1.3 There are some interesting connections made in this book

1.3.1 God made a promise to the Jews, a promise of a land

1.3.1.1 Moses represented the Law, Miriam represented the prophets, and Aaron the priesthood

1.3.1.2 None of them could lead the people into the land of promise

1.3.1.3 Instead, another had to come along to be used by God

1.3.2 God has made another promise to all man kind, a promise of salvation

1.3.2.1 We are not saved by the Law, as we've been learning in Romans

1.3.2.2 The prophets didn't bring salvation, but spoke of One to come

1.3.2.3 The priests who administered the sacrifices did not provide salvation, but their duties pointed to One who would come

1.3.3 Only Jesus can fulfill God's promise of salvation

1.3.3.1 God Himself, God the Son, would be obedient in all things

1.3.3.2 He would then offer His life as the sacrifice to cover our sin

1.3.3.3 A final sacrifice, bringing believers into fellowship with God

1.3.4 Just to bring the connection home - Jesus is Greek, Joshua is Hebrew

1.3.4.1 Both mean "the Lord is Salvation"

1.3.4.2 It's the same name

1.3.5 The book of Joshua, a promise specific for the Jews and their land

1.3.6 Also a picture of God's faithfulness to fulfill all promises in Christ

- 1.3.6.1 You can't overstretch the connection
 - 1.3.6.2 But there are many principles to learn from Joshua's leadership that can be applied to the Christian life
 - 1.3.6.3 In chapter 1, we will see 2 important principles
 - 1.3.6.4 These principles are key themes to the entirety of the book
 - 1.4 Pray
- 2. Message
 - 2.1 **Joshua 1:1-2a**
 - 2.1.1 Moses has been God's appointed leader since leaving the promised land
 - 2.1.2 Through all circumstances, the people always looked to him
 - 2.1.2.1 Leaving Egypt, the Law, feasts and festivals, tabernacle, instituting priesthood
 - 2.1.3 Transfer of power was always dangerous in ancient times
 - 2.1.3.1 God had been preparing Joshua for a long time
 - 2.1.3.2 Exodus 17 records his battles against Amalek - first mention of him
 - 2.1.3.3 Joshua is called Moses' assistant regularly
 - 2.1.4 Moses had spoken on behalf of God to establish Joshua as the next leader
 - 2.1.5 Here we see God Himself speak to Joshua, sealing-the-deal
 - 2.2 **Joshua 1:2-4**
 - 2.2.1 God begins to fulfill His promise to Abraham
 - 2.2.1.1 Won't be fully attained until King David
 - 2.2.2 **Maps**
 - 2.3 **Joshua 1:5**
 - 2.3.1 This is the key - to the book, to life, to our walk
 - 2.3.2 To know this truth, and let it affect our action
 - 2.3.3 We will see it again a couple times before the end of this chapter
 - 2.4 **Joshua 1:6**
 - 2.4.1 I like this verse - a commandment, a promise, and a fulfillment
 - 2.4.2 "Be strong and of good courage" - again, we'll see this a couple times before the end of the chapter
 - 2.4.3 "You shall divide...the land" - God is bringing this into existence
 - 2.4.3.1 No maybe, no doubt - it is going to happen
 - 2.4.3.2 Reminds me of Abraham and Isaac - faith in these kinds of promises pleases God
 - 2.4.4 "...the land which I swore to their fathers..."
 - 2.4.4.1 Long awaited fulfillment, 450-600 years
 - 2.4.4.2 Are we that patient?
 - 2.5 **Joshua 1:7-8**
 - 2.5.1 Deuteronomy 28 says what will happen if they don't obey God's commands
 - 2.5.2 The land is promised to the Jews forever - prospering in the land is conditional
 - 2.5.3 The nature of God's covenant with the Jews is shown here
 - 2.5.3.1 The land is theirs unconditionally
 - 2.5.3.2 Their success or prosperity is dependent on obedience
 - 2.5.4 They are reminded to observe the Law
 - 2.5.5 They are also encouraged to meditate in it

- 2.5.5.1 Not modern meditation - trying to empty your mind and have some transcendental experience
- 2.5.5.2 Biblical meditation - to focus on God's Word, to chew on it and consider it's meaning and application
 - Hopefully, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to better understand or encounter the Transcendent One

2.6 **Joshua 1:9**

- 2.6.1 This verse sums up a key theme throughout this book
 - 2.6.1.1 Turn to **Ephesians 6**
- 2.6.2 First: A call to be strong and courageous
 - 2.6.2.1 Those who are witnesses of God are called to be bold
 - 2.6.2.2 Joshua will be leading Israel into war
 - 2.6.2.3 In human terms, fear is understandable
 - 2.6.2.4 But the conquering won't be in human terms - God has already assured them victory
 - Jericho walls falling
 - The sun standing still in the sky
 - The armies entering into the land in the first place is miraculous
- 2.6.3 We also receive a commandment to be strong, and to put on our armor
 - 2.6.3.1 Read **Ephesians 6:10-18**
 - 2.6.3.2 Turn back to **Joshua 1**
 - 2.6.3.3 Our battle isn't against human powers though
 - 2.6.3.4 Our battle is spiritual
 - 2.6.3.5 Israel's calling was to rid the land of a wicked people - through violent means
 - 2.6.3.6 We hope to clear the world of wickedness too, but through the spreading of the Gospel and salvation for the unbeliever
 - To plant seeds and harvest the crop that God has grown
 - 2.6.3.7 We are called to stand against advances of evil
 - But in most cases, not through violence or the sword
 - But to love people as God loves them, to speak truth to them
- 2.6.4 Second: To know God is with him
 - 2.6.4.1 God's commandment to be strong comes with a reminder of the source of strength
 - "For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"
 - 2.6.4.2 Those who are called are not left to chance
 - 2.6.4.3 God promised Joshua that His presence would be the source of courage
- 2.6.5 We also receive a similar promise
 - 2.6.5.1 Again, we aren't being called into physical war (probably)
 - 2.6.5.2 But the spiritual battle we face has challenges
 - Despised, rejected, ridiculed, fired, etc.
 - 2.6.5.3 We are encouraged to stand firm through these trials
 - 2.6.5.4 Not in our own strength, because we are weak
 - 2.6.5.5 But by an intimate relationship with God, we know that victory is assured in Christ

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2.6.5.6 This is something that sets Christianity apart from all other religions

2.6.5.7 God is a personal God

- Not like polytheist gods
- Not like allah in islam
- God was in the garden with Adam and Eve
- God calls Abraham His friend
- Told Moses His name
- God the Son came in flesh and blood

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

2.7 Joshua 1:10-11

2.7.1 Shift focus, first verses was God talking to Joshua

2.7.2 Now Joshua addresses the people

2.7.3 Chain of command - Joshua addresses the leaders, it trickles down

2.7.3.1 This was instituted by Moses in Exodus 18

2.7.4 Another interesting connection here - “within three days”

2.7.4.1 The people are at the threshold - the promise is about to be fulfilled

2.7.4.2 In three days they will enter into the promises of God

2.7.5 When Jesus died, humanity was at the threshold of the fulfillment of a promise

2.7.5.1 On the third day, Jesus rose again

2.7.5.2 Humanity was ushered into a new and better covenant

2.8 Joshua 1:12-15

2.8.1 In Numbers 32, these tribes found it desirable to stay on the east side of the river

2.8.1.1 Moses speaks frustration about it

2.8.1.2 Ultimately agrees if they promise to fight for their brethren in Canaan

2.8.1.3 This is Joshua calling them to fulfill that promise

2.8.2 The word “rest” is used as the end state for the tribes on either side of the river

2.8.2.1 The promised land would be a land of rest - secure borders, quietness, to set down

- No longer moving their tents from place to place

2.9 Most commentaries indicate v16 is a response from the entire nation, not a continuation of v15

2.10 Joshua 1:16-18

2.10.1 The people acknowledge Joshua’s leadership

2.10.2 The people repeat / reinforce those two important themes

2.10.2.1 End of v17 - “Only the LORD your God be with you...”

2.10.2.2 End of v18 - “Only be strong and of good courage”

3. Closing
 - 3.1 The people recognize that they are reliant on God for the task before them
 - 3.2 We need to recognize this same thing
 - 3.2.1 We should not be facing this world in our own power - we are weak
 - 3.2.2 We need to cling to the One who is all powerful and able to save
 - 3.3 There is no promise that things will be easy
 - 3.3.1 Jesus specifically said that if they hated Him they'll hate us too
 - 3.3.2 I pray we find the strength and courage to stay bold
 - 3.3.2.1 Not within ourselves, but because God is with us
 - 3.3.3 Peter and John, shortly after Christ ascended into heaven, were told they couldn't preach
 - 3.3.3.1 How often do we see in the headlines people being told they can't share Jesus
 - 3.3.3.2 A woman was arrested in the UK for "maybe" praying on a sidewalk
 - 3.3.3.3 Children in schools are told they can't share their faith
 - 3.3.3.4 At work, you can't talk about it
 - 3.3.3.5 I hope our response can be like theirs

Acts 4:18-20

¹⁸So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

- 3.4 Pray
- 3.5 Last song
- 3.6 Pray for food