

New Beginnings, Joshua, 2026 – “Now, therefore...”

Joshua 1:1-10a

Welcome to 2026!

God has been gracious to allow us another New Year, another New Beginning. As we prayerfully strive to make the best of the opportunity once again before us, let's go back and learn from God's people long ago when they found themselves at the exact same place.

It was an exciting, new beginning for them, and before it was over, an amazing story.

- They overcome a disastrous past
- They faced and handled the inevitable obstacles that awaited
- They finally arrived at the place where the promise of God – the “promised land” – became their dwelling! Their reality! Even their identity!

How'd they do it?

We have the privilege of knowing their story and how it turned out.

We have God's record so that **we can learn from them how to make the most of our New Beginnings.**

Jesus said to search the Scriptures for they testify of Him. **We will get to see Jesus in their experiences in ways they could only see in shadows.**

Hopefully, **He will lead us through these truths not only to New Beginnings, but the destination that awaits those who will choose to go where He leads.**

“Joshua”

- The Book of Conquest and Victory.
- The faithful servant of Moses.
- One of two who tried to convince the multitude to trust God and enter the promised land.
- Now, 40 years later, the leader of God's people **and lesson for us!**

I. The Place.

Let's talk about where they were and connect to where we are, today.

A. The past was past.

There were **great moments to be remembered.**

A you glance back in the rearview to 2025, what great blessings can you thank God for this morning? What stands out?

There were tough moments **to be remembered, but left behind.**

Any of those come to mind?

How do you get past major mistakes and disappointments?

- They were never intended to live in the past, never looking ahead. We aren't to stay stuck on the past.
- There comes a time when God says –
The time for suffering, paying, regretting was past
The regrets of wrong decisions, past.
The results – Going around in circles, eating dirt, getting nowhere, and eventually dying – shouldn't keep us from moving forward.

B. The “period”, the “ok” time for mourning, was over.

It was natural and needed, but never meant to be permanent.

C. Their Perspective Needed “Tweaking”, Needed To Change.

Changes were coming. Inevitable. They are for us, too.

John Maxwell put it simply – ***“Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.”***

- **Leadership** - Moses – their leader for 40 years, was dead. They would have to turn to and listen to a new voice.
- **Land** – Their surroundings the last 40 years (at least familiar)
- **Lives** – “**Normal**” was going to change! **Routines** to which they had been accustomed, were going to end.

II. The Person: Joshua.

There are a few things to note as the focus changed from Moses to Joshua.

A. His Name (Reveals a lot!): “Joshua” = “**Jehovah is salvation**”

B. His Nature: His Superpower: Faith In His God Defined Him.

Tim Keller: *"It requires more prowess and greatness of spirit to obey God faithfully than to command an army of men; more greatness to be a Christian than a captain."*

Joshua's faith moved him to...

- **Serve faithfully as Moses' servant.** No ego. No ulterior motives or ambition.
- **Strike out fearlessly.**

As a young man, he and Caleb and 10 more were sent into the promised land... They went. They returned. They reported

- **Stand Confidently.**

When the majority- 10-2 – was wrong, he had his eyes on the Majority of 1 that always wins- ***His God!***

When the multitude panicked and rioted, **he tried to encourage them and refused to bow to them.**

- **Stick It Out Patiently.**

After the disaster, Joshua faithfully served Moses and the people,

A people who didn't deserve it.

Who does that remind you of?!

C. His New Role

1. The Chosen One! Jehovah God – The LORD –

I will work through you!

You will be my voice and representative.

The people will see and hear from me through- You.

Do you realize – that we have each been chosen- just as Joshua- to be the witness and servant of God for our generation?!

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!

2. The Shadow:

Moses – Represented the law. The great lawgiver. But the law cannot save. It condemns. Moses, as great as he was – God even said so! - couldn't enter in.

Joshua – Began on the side of disappointment and death and led them through to the “promised land”, the “land flowing with milk and honey”, the dream of generations!

As great as the story was, it was a shadow of another. A greater.

- The One through whom God would reveal Himself in flesh.
- The One who served faithfully, suffered incredibly, and rose victoriously!
- The One who would lead everyone who would trust Him from sin and death and the horrible life of being lost, to victory and life eternal!

We are going to learn a lot from Joshua, and we’re going to see in and through Him a lot about Jesus.

So what about our New Beginning? What did God tell Joshua that was recorded for us?

III. Promises

*There will be perils. There will be challenges. There always are!
But – rather than focusing on them, focus on me!*

God Promised Joshua...

A. A Place. (A Divine Destination) Vs. 3 (vs. 6)- An vast inheritance that nothing can change! *God promises us...!*

B. His Presence! Vs. 4, Vs. 9 – *I will be with you and all you need!*
God promises us...!

C. A Divine Purpose.

Life isn’t just about surviving. It is what we do along the way. The lives we impact. The difference we make.

God promises Joshua - Cf. vs. 6 –

- From who you are, where you are right now –
- To...

- A day-by-day journey. Job even. His calling. His purpose!
- ONE DAY YOU WILL DIVIDE UNTO THIS PEOPLE AN INHERITANCE!
 - They will thank you. You will be – fulfilled.

God's purpose was far bigger than Joshua!

God's promised us a purpose bigger than ourselves!

We have the privilege - not only to make the journey hand in hand with God, but to lead others to do the same with us!

D. Prosperity and Successful by God's standards! Vs. 7b, 8b

- Success defined by faithfulness, not ease
- Prosperity measured by obedience, not outcomes

IV. Paths : *God gave Joshua a Roadmap to blessing*

God says...

- 1. Be Strong and courageous.** Repeated three times: Vs. 6,7,9!
- 2. Mediate day and night on what I have told you.** My Word. Vs. 8
- 3. Observe to do it all!**

One of the greatest dangers WE face is picking and choosing God's word and will. Doing part of it.

God's Word and will are not a smorgasbord to pick and choose.

God encourages -

- ***Don't forget. Don't turn left or right.***
- ***Do it all!***

Vs. 9 - "And remember – I command you. If you obey my commands, the results are not up to you, but Me!"

Our text ends... Vs. 10- Then Joshua... The rest is history. It is written and done, and let for a template for us this morning!

Now, what will we do this first invitation of 2026, this morning of New Beginnings?