

What's Next

What's Next After the Wilderness?

Main Text

Joshua 1:1–9

Introduction

There are seasons in life that feel like wandering.

Not because you're lost... But because you're being led.

The wilderness is not always punishment. Sometimes it is preparation.

Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness—not because God forgot them, but because God was forming them. The wilderness strips you. It tests you. It exposes you. It humbles you.

But hear this clearly:

God never intended the wilderness to be your final destination.

And eventually, every believer faces this question: You've come through the wilderness... You've survived the hard season... You made it through grief, transition, uncertainty...

What's next?

Joshua 1:2

“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan...”

Three powerful words:

Now... therefore... arise.

God is saying: That season is over. That leader is gone. That chapter has closed. **Now move.**

1. You Must Accept That the Season Has Changed

“Moses my servant is dead.”

This is more than information—it is instruction.

God was telling Joshua:

You cannot lead people into the future while clinging to the past.

Moses represented:

- the old season
- the old structure
- the old way God moved

And as powerful as Moses was...

Moses was not going into the Promise Land.

Some people are stuck because they are grieving what God has already closed.

You can't step into what's next if you're still holding onto what was.

Isaiah 43:18–19

“Remember ye not the former things... Behold, I will do a new thing...”

God is not disrespecting your past.

But He refuses to let your past restrict your future.

2. Movement Requires Courage

“Arise, go over this Jordan...”

God didn't remove the obstacle. He commanded them to cross it.

The Jordan River was still there.

And often, after wilderness seasons, there is still one more barrier.

Fear says: “What if I fail?”

Faith says: “What if God is already there?”

Joshua 1:6

“Be strong and of a good courage...”

God repeats this multiple times because courage is not automatic.

Courage is a decision. Fear will keep you in the wilderness longer than necessary.

3. God's Promises Require Participation

Joshua 1:3

"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you..."

Did you catch that?

God gave it...

But they still had to walk on it.

Promise does not eliminate responsibility.

Provision does not remove participation.

God says: "I've already given it."

But you won't experience it until you step into it.

James 2:17

"Faith, if it hath not works, is dead..."

4. God's Word Sustains the Next Season

Joshua 1:8

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth..."

God gives Joshua the strategy for success:

- Speak the Word
- Meditate on the Word
- Obey the Word

The wilderness teaches dependence.

But the Promise Land requires discipline.

Psalms 1:2–3

"His delight is in the law of the Lord..."

If you neglect the Word in your next season, you will lose what God gave you.

5. God's Presence Is the Real Promise

Joshua 1:9

“For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

The real promise was not land.
It was presence.

Because land without God is emptiness.

But with God:

- battles are winnable
- obstacles are temporary
- victory is possible

You don't need everything figured out.
You just need to know God is with you.

Some of you are standing at your Jordan right now.
You've come out of a hard season...

But you haven't stepped into the next one.
You're hesitating.
You're overthinking.
You're waiting for perfect clarity.

But God is saying:

Arise. Go. Step. Move.

The wilderness is behind you.
But the Promise Land requires movement.

God didn't bring you this far to leave you standing still.
The same God who sustained you in the wilderness is the same God calling you into more.
But the next season will require:
Letting go. Stepping forward. Trusting deeply. Obeying fully.