

TAKE GROUND Part 1 “MOVE”

OVERVIEW:

This is a book about the people of Israel moving into the land that God had promised to them and their future generations.

-This would fulfill the promise made to Abraham over 430 years earlier by God, who never goes back on a promise.

-The land could be possessed only when they walked in obedience to God's direction and when they depended on His strength, not their own.

-It was a lesson they would see again and again.

Joshua recounted a story of contradictions.

-On the one hand, God gave the land that He had promised to Israel.

-On the other hand, the people failed to possess the land completely, allowing some inhabitants to remain.

-God fulfilled His side of the bargain, but the Israelites did not finish the job.

The Canaanite peoples became a damaging influence on Israel as years went by.

The book is about obedience to God's command and God's blessing.

OUTLINE:

- Chapters 1-12: Entering and conquering the Promised Land.
- Chapters 13-22: Instructions for distributing the portions of the Promised Land.
- Chapters 23-24: Joshua's farewell address.

TIMELINE:

The historical setting for the book of Joshua is given in the first line of the book:

Joshua 1:1 “After the death of Moses”

This is a time marker: (ABOUT 3500 YEARS AGO)

-The Israelites had been stuck in slavery for 400 years

-and God delivered them from Egypt.

Famous stories like Pharaoh and Moses and the parting of the Red Sea.

THEY WERE FREE AND MOSES WAS LEADING THEM TO THEIR NEW HOMELAND!

-Getting to the Promise Land was supposed to be a 10 month journey

-going 381 miles with over a million people.

BUT...

The people complained and bickered and worshiped other Gods!

-So God put them in a time out! An entire generation! 40 years!

Numbers 14:1-3 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?”

-Whenever you move forward, there is always temptation to go back!

Numbers 14:20-23 The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked.²¹ Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, **22 not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—** **23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors.** No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

Numbers 14:26-30 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: ²⁷ **“How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.** ²⁸ So tell them, **‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say:’**²⁹ In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. ³⁰ **Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.**

-Joshua and Caleb were the 2 spies that brought back a good report!

Numbers 14:34-35 For **forty years**—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—**you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.** ³⁵ I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. **They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die.”**

-So instead of 10-11 months.....It was 40 years!

-An entire generation was going to miss out!

NOW LET’S MEET JOSHUA:

-The author of this book and Leader Moses was raising up!

-Joshua was about 20-30 years old at the Exodus

He was granted Immunity with Caleb in the wilderness and survived the 40 years

-So Joshua was estimated to be between 60-70 years old when he crossed the Jordan to enter the promised land.

Deuteronomy 32:44–47 Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. **45** When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, **46** he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. **47** They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

MOSES WAS PASSING THE BATON OF LEADERSHIP TO JOSHUA.....

-To lead the people into the “Promise Land”

NOW TO OUR TEXT:

Joshua 1:1-10 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 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. ⁸Keep 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. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” ¹⁰So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹“Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.’”

1) Maybe you feel stuck in the desert!

-They were stuck going around in circles!

-As soon as God didn't show up the way they wanted....

.....they worshiped Idols.

There are lessons to be learned in the desert!

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. ² Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Our time in the desert reveals:

- What's in your heart?
- Will you keep God's commands?
- Will you trust Him to take care of you?

God is always preparing you for what is next!

Luke 16:10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

- Will you be faithful with little??

..... That is how he knows he can trust you with much!

Maybe you are on the same rollercoaster of faith!

- Insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results!

God wants to deepen your reliance on Him so you can learn to trust him.
Everyone goes into the wilderness but you don't have to stay there.

-It's your choice to live there or not.

-Wilderness was supposed to be a SEASON not a LIFETIME.

God BRINGS those He CALLS through the WILDERNESS

-Moses in wilderness for 40 years before He brought the Israelites through it

-He got a 'WORD' in a bush in the wilderness while serving his father in law

-Joshua was in the wilderness with all of Israel before he led them out!

-David went into the wilderness fighting for his life! (intimate moments)

-John the Baptist got a WORD from God in the wilderness

-Jesus even went through temptation in the Wilderness, before his ministry

Most of what I preach, I have learned in wilderness experiences in my own life!

The Wilderness is TESTING and PREPARING ground

God brought you into the WILDERNESS because He is PREPARING YOU.

-There is PURPOSE in your Wilderness and in your Season.

You can't shorten a season but you can lengthen it.

-Learn, grow, step up, and step out into God's Best.

2) Maybe you have settled for Good Enough!

Numbers 32:1-5 The Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were suitable for livestock. ² So they came to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the community, and said, ⁴ the land the Lord subdued before the people of Israel—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock. ⁵ If we have found favor in your eyes,” they said, “let this land be given to your servants as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan.”

God was pretty frustrated with this request!

-GOD’S RESPONSE -You are not getting out of fighting!

-All you men have to fight then they can go back to settle the land.

-HE REMINDED THEM OF THE 40 YEAR TIME OUT!

They didn’t want to go to the promised land! Only 2 tribes wanted to stay.

-They were comfortable where they were!

-So Many settle for good enough!

-Good is the enemy of great!

-We can take the Path of least resistance

SO....Joshua reminded them of the deal they had made with Moses to still fight!

Joshua 1:12-15 But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, ¹³“Remember the command that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you after he said, ‘The Lord your God will give you rest by giving you this land.’” ¹⁴Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them ¹⁵until the Lord gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the Lord your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

They settled short of God’s PROMISES

CHOOSE not to SETTLE

WE SETTLE: “This is good enough“This will do””

-We settle for relationships that are not ideal for us, because we don’t trust God to provide the better one.

-We take the path of least resistance rather than fighting for what is right

-We accept a less intimate knowledge of God rather than working harder to get close to him.

We JUSTIFY why we SETTLE

-This is just who I am

-I am doing better than others!

-I don’t deserve more or better

-*“this is better than I have ever had”*

-I am not going to find better

-God just wants me to be Happy

These tribes settled on the wrong side of Jordan...

**They didn't trust God enough to give them something better than they found!
-So they Settled just outside the promises**

“The only thing harder than waiting on God is wishing you had.”

3) Maybe you are ready to TAKE GROUND!

Joshua 1:16 Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

It's your CHOICE everyday about how and WHERE you will live in your FAITH

**-Will we Continue to walk in circles in the Wilderness,
will we SETTLE, or will we decide to LIVE in the PROMISES?**

**-Don't settle for less than you are called to be.
-Don't Settle For LESS, when GOD has MORE**

Keep pressing in....God has more for you.

Trust God for MORE, Believe God for MORE!

God took 70 years to prepare Joshua for his leadership.

-30 years in slavery and 40 years in the wilderness!

Are you waiting on God? WHAT ARE HIS PROMISES??

Joshua 1 3 times he says “BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS”

His Provision – v.3 –“ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.”

His Presence – v. 5 — “as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”

His Power – v. 5 – “No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life.”

His Providence – 7 – “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.”

His Protection – v. 9 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

This whole series is preparing us to MOVE!

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG) “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Isaiah 43:19 “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”