

**Bridgeway Christian Church Oct. 11/12, 2025**  
**Invitation to Promise**  
**On the Edge of Promise**  
**Introduction to the Book of Joshua**  
**Joshua 1:1-18**

We are starting a brand new series this weekend, it's our last series of 2025. If you're new around here, we like to pick a theme for every calendar year and this has been our Year of Invitation. We've looked at God's invitations to us in the books of John, 1 Samuel, and Titus, and we are closing out the year with a series we're calling Invitation to Promise through the Old Testament book of Joshua.

I have a question for you as we get going: How do you define success?

The answer to that question seems obvious until you think about it for a minute. Isn't that right? Because if we're honest, 'success' is kind of a slippery concept.

Part of the reason it's slippery is we can think of 'success' as some grand moment of accomplishment. And certainly, there are grand moments of accomplishment in life that are well worth celebrating, but they all come with an annoying follow-up question. What's next?

In other words, almost never is success permanent. It almost always causes us to look ahead.

On Thursday, I was volunteering at my kids' school, talking with another parent who has two kids who are going to graduate this year, and I, of course, asked the question, do they know what's next?

On Friday I was at a family wedding, and at the reception I sat next to my uncle who literally just retired on Tuesday from decades working for Boeing. And of course, I congratulated him, and I also asked him what's next. Those questions aren't wrong, and they're a normal way to make conversation, but they are a reminder that success is rarely final.

I am a slow runner, and earlier this year I completed the longest race of my life, and within ten minutes of finishing I was asked if I wanted to attempt the next distance.

I remember once watching a college football championship game, and they interviewed the winning coach on the field, and in this glorious moment of celebration, he talked about how he needed to get out and start recruiting for next season later in the week. That was a little weird.

But the truth is that it's easy to think of success as a moment in time. But the truth is, after every moment of great success, we still wake up the next day.

Success, at least in my experience, can also be a little anxiety-producing, can't it? Because with success comes expectations. And now, we can hardly even enjoy our success because we're stressed out about trying to replicate it.

And don't get me wrong, I'm not anti-success by any means. I'm all for setting goals and trying to achieve them and I certainly do that myself. But I also believe there is a deeper kind of success that we can pursue.

One of my kids just finished their middle school cross country season this last week, and from a competitive standpoint they had a pretty successful season, and there was a lot for them to be proud of. But when I talked to their coaches to thank them, one in-person and one over email, I mentioned how fun it was watching the kids improve and do well in their races, but what I really thanked the coaches for was the culture they created on the team. They set high expectations for team spirit, sportsmanship, and character. They created a culture on the team that other coaches noticed and complimented. And I told them, you are teaching these kids values that will serve them well long after we've forgotten their race times. And I said, as a parent, that's what you hope your kid will get from their coach when they play sports.

That's that deeper level of success. It's about lasting formation and values more than moments.

And I believe that is the sort of success that God is after for us. Grand moments of accomplishment are wonderful and ought to be celebrated, but they will nearly always leave us looking ahead to the next one. I believe God offers us a deeper way of thinking about success. It's about who we are becoming, it's about the small moments, it's about pursuing what the Scriptures call 'godliness with contentment', and it nourishes our souls in a way that worldly accomplishment simply can't.

If you've been a church attender for a while, perhaps you're familiar with the term spiritual formation. The great author and Bible scholar M. Robert Mulholland defined it this way:

**“Spiritual formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others.”**

That, to me, is a beautiful picture of success as a process. Success is about being formed and shaped to be more like Jesus for the sake of others.

Am I submitting myself to the work of the Spirit in my life to make me more like Christ? That's success.

Am I delighting in God's love for me and allowing that love to overflow more and more into the people around me? That's success.

Another way to say this is the fill-in the blank on the handout you received when you walked in here or on the Church Center app:

**Success is determined by OBEDIENCE.**

And this obedience is obedience to the one who loves us more than we love ourselves. It is obedience to the one who is a loving Father seeking to guide us into health and wholeness, not a taskmaster looking to weigh us down.

Success is a process of becoming less enamored with the things of this world so that we can joyfully delight in God's love and make Him the center of our lives.

And as we turn our attention to the book of Joshua, what we're going to see again and again is the idea that success, in God's eyes, is about trust and obedience. It's about process and formation, and trusting him with the outcome.

Please open in your Bibles to Joshua 1, page 178. In order to understand the book of Joshua, we first need to see where it fits in the grand overall story of Scripture.

All the way back in Genesis 12, the 12th chapter of the entire Bible, God calls a man named Abram, who would eventually be known as Abraham. And in some of the most famous verses in the whole Old Testament, it says this,

**"Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."**

As part of God's call, he promises that he will be the father of a great nation. This nation would, of course, be the nation of Israel. There is also the promise of blessing, and in this calling is the promise of land.

I don't have a slide for this one, but in Genesis 15, God makes a covenant, or promise with Abraham, and it says,

**NO SLIDE "On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates..."**

Later, in Genesis 26, God speaks to Abraham's son, Isaac and says this,

**"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands."**

God is reiterating this promise of land, reminding Abraham's son of the promise he made to his father. And if you know the story, you know that eventually the nation of Israel, of which they are a part, grows quite large, but by early in the second book of the Bible, Exodus, Israel finds itself enslaved in Egypt. And it's during this time of enslavement that God appears to Moses and says this,

**"I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey."**

I have seen the injustice done to my people, God says, and I have heard their cries. And he promises not just to free them from slavery, but to bring them into a land. Are you starting to pick up a theme here?

If you know the story, you know that eventually God does, in fact, use Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. And not long after they've escaped from Egypt they find themselves in battle in Exodus 17, and Israel wins. And we learn the field general in that battle was a young man named Joshua, and this is his first of 30 times that Joshua is mentioned in the books of the Law, the first five

books of Scripture.. And God tells Moses when the battle is over to remind Joshua of what God did through him, perhaps a nod to Joshua's future leadership.

The name Joshua, by the way, means Yahweh is salvation. And Yahweh is God's proper name. I wonder if that is meaningful in some way. We'll see, I guess.

We learn that Joshua very quickly becomes a trusted aide for Moses, even going so far as accompanying Moses when he goes to meet with God. One example of many, **Exodus 24:13, "So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God."**

Fast forward two books from Exodus to Numbers. Israel is nearing the promised land, and in Numbers 13 God tells Moses, **"Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel."** So Moses selects out a group and says, go take a look and tell us what you see. Are there rivers? Are there mountains? How do the golf courses look? Do they have any good local coffee shops, or just the big chains? These are the things we need to know.

So these spies go out and spend 40 days scouting out the land, and they tell Moses and the rest of the people that the land looks wonderful, the golf courses are in great shape and they have a terrific farmer's market on Tuesdays. But the people are really buff, their spears are very pointy, and the city walls are pretty massive.

And upon hearing this, the people of Israel absolutely lose their minds.

Why did God bring us here to die? It would have been better to die in Egypt! And two men, Caleb and our guy Joshua, try to talk some sense into the people and remind them that God had promised to give them this land. And the people said, "You're right, Caleb and Joshua, great point." Actually, that's not what they did at all, they tried to stone them. Some of you might need to write this down: Don't try to talk sense into an angry mob.

But God's response to the grumbling and disobedience of the people was to say, "Ok, none of these people will live to enter the land, and you're going to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. And out of all of the spies who went into the land, only Caleb and Joshua were spared judgment, and by judgment, I mean death.

Then in Numbers 27, years have passed, Moses is nearing the end of his life, and it is time for him to appoint a successor. And God says this in **Numbers 27:18-20, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey."**

God says Joshua is the guy to take the mantle of leadership from you. He has my Spirit in him, so he will be ready to go.

Fast forward to the very last chapter of Deuteronomy, the end of the five books of the Law known as the Pentateuch.

**"And the Lord said to (Moses), 'This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.'**

**So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord."  
-Deuteronomy 34:4-5**

And just a few verses later,

**"And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses." Deuteronomy 34:8-9**

Moses, the great leader is dead, and it's time for his successor to take charge. Stories about the difficulty of following up a great leader are commonplace, from business, to sports, to churches, and that is the position Joshua is in as we turn our attention to the book that bears his name.

This book contains four main parts.

Joshua 1-5 is about entering the Promised Land. After 40 years in the wilderness, the promise finally comes to pass.

Joshua 6-12 are all about opposition in the Promised Land, as Israel fights major battles against the occupants of the land. And the accounts of these battles raise all sorts of questions. There is a lot of killing and not a lot of loving your enemy in Joshua, so how do we reconcile that with the idea that God is a God of love who desires to use Israel to bless all of the nations of the world? There are answers to those questions, but you'll have to wait for Pastor Lance to share them with you when we get to those passages.

Then, in Joshua 13-22, spoiler alert, Israel wins all of the battles, so now the land is being divided between the twelve tribes.

And finally, in Joshua 23-24, the covenant promise with God is renewed and Joshua, now nearing the end of his life, calls on the people to be faithful to their God.

Up until this point, God has fulfilled his promise to Abraham to make him a great nation and to bless that nation. Now, the book of Joshua, is about the fulfillment of the third promise, the promise of land. And as we study this book we're going to learn about the faithfulness of God, and this story is going to show us the practical implications of living a life of obedience to the God who keeps his promises.

With that, let's turn our attention to our text for today, Joshua 1. We'll read a little, talk about it, then read a little more and talk about it until we make our way through.

**1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,**

**2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.**

**3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.**

Joshua begins the way that Deuteronomy ends. There is an acknowledgement of the death of Moses and Joshua's appointment to leadership. And God makes it crystal clear that even though Moses has died, God's plan for his people is as alive as ever. The promises of God do not depend on a human figure, but on the faithfulness of God. This could have been a crippling moment for Israel. After all, Moses was their guy. Most of the approximately 2 million people had literally been led by Moses their entire lives. But God knew that, and was ready for it.

One of my favorite aspects of the character of God is omniscience. In other words, he is all-knowing. Beyond that, he exists outside of time. He knows the past, the present, and the future, and do you know what that means? He's never surprised.

There is nothing that happens in your life or mine that causes him to go, "Wow, I'm not going to lie, I did not see that coming! I guess we're going to have to come up with a whole new plan now."

And I take great comfort in that. I might be surprised, but God isn't. Something may happen in my life that causes me to freak out, but God doesn't. And I don't know about you, but I can be a pretty anxious little fella, so I'm really thankful for God's omnipresence and his utter lack of anxiety. The old hymn says, "His truth is marching on," and we can take comfort in that, whatever the circumstances might be.

And here, God begins his pep talk to Joshua by giving him two commands: Arise and go over the Jordan. And with these commands comes a promise: Every place you go I will give to you. This is the land I promised Moses, and it is the land I promised you.

First things first, this was a command for Joshua, not everyone. In the often brutal history of European colonialism, verses like this one in Joshua were used as divine justification for taking lands from indigenous people. That is a blasphemous misuse of the text. God said he will give his land to Joshua, not any land to anyone.

There is, however, a second principle in this verse that can be generalized. God says, I'm giving you the land, but you've got to get up and go take it. The Canaanites aren't going to come to the riverbank and invite you in.

In other words, God may provide the meal, but you still need to get out there and hunt. Or at least go to the grocery store.

God may provide the job, but it's up to us to get our resumé together, submit the applications, and go to the interviews.

God may provide the spouse, but you've got to do the work to learn to be mature enough to handle the demands of a marriage.

Once you and that spouse God provided start having problems, God may be the one to heal your marriage, but you've got to show up to the counseling session, and you've got to do the work of dealing with your own junk.

God is the one who forms us into people of Christlike love for the sake of the world, but we've got to develop good spiritual habits and quit doomscrolling and filling our minds with rage bait.

In other words, in the work of our formation, God is the ultimate mover, but he invites us into the process. And I just wonder if it's possible that some of us are sitting back and waiting for a breakthrough in our lives, and God is saying, "Get up. Step across the Jordan."

One beautiful truth about prayer that I have learned over the decades is that sometimes we pray and we are desperate for God to do what only he can do. But sometimes God calls us to be the answer to our prayers. Prayer can actually be the first step to partnership, as God uses prayer to draw us into active participation in his work.

Verse 4:

**4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory.**

This is a rough sketch of the land that he will be given.

**5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.**

These words strong and courageous and profound and we're going to talk about them in a second, but we must not skip over verse 5. God promises Joshua, I will be with you.

He made the same promise to Isaac in Genesis 26.

He made the same promise to Moses in Exodus 3, saying when you go to Pharaoh I will be with you.

Later he will make the same promise to Israel during their years of exile.

When the angel announced to Mary that she was going to give birth to Jesus, the angel's first words were, **"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you."**

And then Jesus, his last words in the gospel of Matthew are a promise to his disciples, **"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

This is a promise we can cling to because it's God's promise to His people across the generations. God is present with us. God is near to us. God is available to us.

**"I lift my eyes up to the hills, where does my help come from,"** the psalmist says, **"My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and Earth."**

God, who calls us into obedience, promises us his presence. And as we keep reading, we're going to get a better sense of what God is commanding when he tells Joshua to be strong and courageous.

Verse 7:

**7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.**

Is Joshua about to lead Israel into battle? Yes, he is. Will he need courage to do that? Heck yes. But the courage and strength that God is asking for from Joshua here is different. What does the text say? Be strong and courageous, being careful to follow the law that Moses has given you.

**The courage God has asked his people for from the days of Moses until now is the courage to live their lives with him at the center.** In Joshua's day, there was the temptation to go and serve other gods worshiped by the surrounding people groups. In our days, we've got plenty of false gods, they just look a little different, and there can be tremendous criticism for those who refuse to bow down before them.

In Joshua, before God is looking for a military leader, he is looking for a man who is willing to follow him, no matter the cost. He is looking for a man who understands that success is obedience, nothing more, nothing less.

He is going to lead people who will want to follow other gods and who will encourage him to do the same. And Joshua must have the strength and courage to continue to trust God himself and continue to lead his followers to do so.

**The strength and courage that God asks us is not first and foremost about the actions we take out in the world. It's first about an inner resolve to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That's where everything starts. Whatever courageous action we take on God's behalf is the outflow of that.**

Verse 8

**8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

The Hebrew Bible, what we know as the Old Testament, is divided into three parts. You have the Law or the Torah, which we've talked about already, and that includes the first five books. Then you have the prophets, which begin with Joshua and end with the book of Malachi. And then in the middle, you have the writings, which begin with the book of Psalms.

It's notable that Joshua, the first book of the prophets, begins with an emphasis on faithfulness to the Torah, and then in the third-to-last verse of Malachi, it says, **"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel."**

The prophetic books are literally book-ended with the importance of faithfulness to God's Law. And then the third section, the Writings, how do they begin in Psalm 1? Glad you asked. Listen to these words and listen for similarities to Joshua 1:8

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates**



**day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its seasons, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.**

The whole of the Hebrew Bible is thus oriented around this key idea of faithfulness to God's Word. That is an indicator that this isn't a command for Joshua alone, even if it was particularly important because of his leadership and influence. For the entire nation to be who God asked them to be, a deep understanding of God's Law and a deep conviction to obey it faithfully was going to be absolutely crucial. For us today, a deep understanding of Jesus' teaching and a deep conviction to obey it faithfully is just as crucial.

And so God says, Do not let the Law depart from your mouth, but meditate on it day and night. This word for meditate is not a solo activity that just takes place in a person's head. The word can also be translated 'murmur', so the idea is that the Law of God would literally be on Joshua's lips as he leads God's people. That also means this was not just a private action, but a public one, as Joshua would lead the people in knowing and obeying the law themselves.

And if Joshua keeps the Law of God in his mouth, meditates on it day and night, and is careful to do everything written in it, the promise is, **"then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."**

This is the promise that comes with letting the word of God sink deeply into our hearts, with keeping it on our lips, but orienting our lives around it. The promise to Joshua and the promise to us is prosperity and success.

But before you get too nervous about where I'm going with this, it's not what you think. God is not promising Joshua a Lamborghini and a mansion in the hills.

These words for prosperity and success are found throughout the Old Testament, and they are virtually never used to describe anything financial or material. By the way, you can have a Lamborghini and a mansion in the hills and still be stressed out, lonely, unsettled, insecure, and unhappy. I'm not sure I'd call that prosperous or successful.

This word for "prosper" refers to succeeding in what really matters in life. This is what happens when our lives are built around obedience to God. This is godly character, it's a heart that is sensitive to the things of God and an ear that can hear God's voice and respond in obedience. It's humility to not obsess over our own ego. It's discernment to know what pleases God and what doesn't.

That is true prosperity. And that's why throughout the Old Testament, whether it's kings, or leaders, or ordinary people like us, God is constantly calling his people to love him with their whole heart and obey his commands.

**"Oh taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."** Psalm 34:8 says.

God desires for us to experience this goodness as we experience the fruit of obedience. It's something far greater than material wealth.

And then the word for success occurs 78 times in the Old Testament, most commonly meaning “have understanding” or “be wise.” That’s the promise.

Joshua, keep my word on your lips, commit yourself fully to obeying my commands, and then you will succeed in the ways that really matter in life, and you will grow in understanding and wisdom.

When I first started following Jesus early in high school, my youth pastor taught me to memorize Scripture, and this was one of the first verses he had me memorize. And while this verse was obviously written long before we had the entire Bible and it’s written in a particular context, there is still profound wisdom in it for us today.

God still invites us to meditate on His Word, to allow that to be what shapes our values, thoughts, and actions. Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things will be added to you.”**

And my goodness, we can spend so much time giving lip service to God while chasing worldly prosperity and success, can’t we? Or we can give so many other voices an influence in our hearts that is greater than the influence of the Word of God, can’t we?

But God’s gracious call to us again and again is to delight in Him, to meditate on His Word, to be shaped by Him more than the world. It’s a call to define success by obedience. It’s the call to be formed into the image of Christ for the sake of others.

When the Word of God is in our hearts and on our lips, it will lead us to true prosperity and success. When biblical literacy is lacking, so will prosperity and success in the biblical sense.

Verse 9,

**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**

There is a direct line in Scripture between God’s presence and godly courage. If you look at nearly every calling story in the Bible where God calls a specific person to something, it comes with the promise of His presence. Israel is not going to be victorious because of Joshua’s brilliance or the superiority of their weaponry. They are going to be successful because God is with them.

Verse 10,

**“And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, ‘Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”**

Now that Joshua is clear on the mission, he gets into preparation mode. He gets his officers together and says you need to tell your people to get ready because it’s almost time to move across the river. And we need to understand, they’re not fording a river like this is Oregon Trail or something here. We’re talking about moving an entire civilization.

Obedience is not just about what happens in a moment; it's about preparation. The truth is, we don't know when the big moments of our lives are going to come.

When is our character going to get tested?

When will we be faced with a huge decision?

When are we going to get provoked emotionally beyond the norm?

When will God need us to do something that will make a big impact?

Sometimes we can see these moments coming, but often we can't. In this case, they knew the time to cross was coming, so they needed to do the practical work to get ready for it.

I'm a firm believer that the so-called big moments of our lives, while important, are not actually the big moments. The real 'big moments' are the small moments of preparation along the way.

Do we immerse ourselves in the word of God so that it is what leaks out of us when we are tested?

Do we keep our connection with the Lord strong in the day-to-day so that our first instinct is to lean into him in moments of crisis?

Do we seek to love those around us, even our enemies, in small ways?

Do I invest myself in honoring the Lord with my time, with how I approach my work, with how I manage my money, with how I raise my children?

These are the decisions that aren't flashy, that don't tend to attract a lot of attention, but they are acts of preparation that set our values so that we're ready to respond in ways we won't regret when pressure is high.

It's those small acts of obedience that lead to a life of success.

Verse 12,

**12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land. ' Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise. "**

Here Joshua is making sure that these tribes know they need to support the rest of the tribes as they enter in to take possession of the land. These tribes had been allowed to settle East of the Jordan by

Moses in Numbers 32, under the condition that their men would still come help the rest of the tribes take the Promised Land when the time came. Here, Joshua is reminding them of that promise.

Verse 16

**And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous. ”**

The people say, ‘we’re in’, and now they’re ready to cross the Jordan and enter the land.

And as we wrap up, I want you to notice how twice in these last few verses, Joshua refers to settling in the land as rest. We see this language a few times earlier in Scripture as God promises Israel rest in the land, and then later in Joshua they experience that rest.

In the New Testament, in Hebrews 4:8, it says this, **“For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.”**

What the heck does that mean? This story of Joshua and the land, while amazing in its own right, points us ahead to something else.

Because over a thousand years after Joshua, there was one who, like Joshua, had a name that means God saves.

And he actually did have the words of God on his lips at all times.

And while Joshua crossed a river with his people into a new land, this God-man stepped out of heaven into Earth.

And while Joshua defeated a human enemy with military force, he defeated our greatest enemies, Satan, sin, and death, by dying on the cross.

And he didn’t just lead Israel to rest in a new land, he made it possible for all people to experience the eternal rest that comes through a restored relationship with God and the promise of salvation.

His name is Jesus, and through his perfect obedience and perfect sacrifice, we are saved. And so we are invited into a life of obedience to Him, not because we must earn something or prove ourselves, but because in Christ we have been given everything, we have been rescued from our sin, and we are now invited into the freedom and joy that comes from being formed in His image for the sake of the world.