

CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

From the Exodus to the Promised Land

How to Kick-Start a Whole New Beginning

Joshua 1:1–9

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY



LET'S BEGIN HERE

After suffering the wilderness for forty years, the Israelites encamped at the plains of Moab near the River Jordan poised for entry into the land God promised them. Moses orated his final sermons, led Israel to renew their covenant with God, and then journeyed up Mount Nebo where he died.

Now, God tasked Joshua with leading the nation, telling him how to kick-start Israel's new beginning.

Timeless principles leap from the page of this first chapter of Joshua—principles for following God and living faithfully during new beginnings. Today we'll join Chuck Swindoll in studying Joshua so we can carry these principles with us no matter the lands we find ourselves in or the seasons we enter.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

Joshua, the sixth book of the Bible, records the history of Israel following the death of Moses. What Moses began, Joshua continued. As A. W. Tozer wrote, "Nothing of God dies when a man of God dies."¹

When someone who has been very significant in your life passes away, nothing of God has passed away. Nothing of God has changed when a man of God changes. Nothing of God falls when a man of God falls. Nothing of God moves on when a man of God moves on.

—Chuck Swindoll

Quotable

*To kick-start
a new beginning,
have courage.
Don't be afraid of
the unknown.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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Begin this study of Joshua by examining Chuck’s overview chart below. Do you see anything about Joshua you didn’t realize before?

JOSHUA

	Commissioning the Leader Preparing the People		Conquering the Enemy			Dividing the Spoil			Warning the Victors
	Invasion of land		Subjection of land			Distribution of land			The Conclusion
	CENTRAL CAMPAIGN		PHASE ONE	PHASE TWO	PHASE THREE				
OUTSIDE CANAAN / PROMISES GIVEN	The commission (1)	Jericho (6)	Southern campaign (10)	Rueben, Gad, ½ Manasseh (13)	Benjamin (18)	Cities of refuge (20)	Civil war threat (22)	Separation (23)	
	The spying (2)	Defeat at Ai (7)	Northern campaign and survey (11)	Caleb’s autobiography (14)	Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan, Joshua (19)	Levites – 48 towns (21)		Service (24)	
	The Jordan (3)	Victory at Ai (8)	Summary by kings (12)	Judah (15)					
	The memorials (4)	Gibeonites (9)		Ephraim (16)					
	The consecration (5)			½ Manasseh (17)					
	CHAPTERS 1–5	CHAPTERS 6–9	CHAPTERS 10–12	CHAPTERS 13–17	CHAPTERS 18–19	CHAPTERS 20–21	CHAPTER 22	CHAPTERS 23–24	
Theme	Obedient faith brings abundant blessing.								
Key Verses	1:8; 24:14–15								
Christ in Joshua	Typified by Joshua, a victorious leader whose name means “Yahweh is salvation”; pictured in Rahab’s scarlet cord, which symbolizes safety through Christ’s blood								
									INSIDE CANAAN / PROMISES FULFILLED

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Now take a moment to look up the [entry](#) for the book of Joshua in your Bible dictionary. Also, consider reading Chuck’s summary [article](#) of Joshua along with any other source you may have in your library. Why is the book of Joshua important in biblical history? Why is it important for Christians today? Answer these questions below, and record any other notes you find interesting in your research.



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Before we delve into the text, take a moment to pray that God gives you a soft heart and a receptive mind to understand and internalize His Word.

We learn so many great things from You, Father. With natures that are prone to wander, we learn from You obedience and holiness. Because we are selfish, we learn from You how to release. Because we are by nature shortsighted, we learn to see farther and to think deeper and to understand in a whole new way of life from that other dimension—the dimension of the divine. —Chuck Swindoll



Observation: Tending Closely

We begin the first step of our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method with a slow reading of the passage. We observe the Bible by asking basic questions of its contents. Do that now with *Joshua 1:1–18*, and record your key findings below.

The Lord's Charge to Joshua—Joshua 1:1–9

What promises did God give Joshua in Joshua 1:1–9?

Why did God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous?



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Joshua 1:1–9

What did God tell Joshua to do to ensure his success?

Joshua Assumes Command—Joshua 1:10–18

How soon were Joshua and the Israelites to cross the Jordan after God had spoken to him?

What specific charge did Joshua give the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and why was this charge given?

What did the Israelites promise Joshua as he led them, and how did they encourage him as their leader?

With God's crystal-clear plan and rock-solid promises, Joshua addressed the people. They pledged their obedience and encouraged their new leader. You couldn't ask for a better start.



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Joshua 1:1–9



Interpretation: Dividing Rightly

During interpretation, we dig into the details of the history and culture of the biblical text to understand its theology. Theology builds the bridge from the ancient world to ours. In this section, we'll use Chuck's six theological guidelines to walk through the passage together.

Guideline One: Face Reality

God didn't sugarcoat the new reality facing Joshua in Joshua 1:2. What did God first tell Joshua and why? Also, why is it important for Christians today to face the reality of the past before they can kick-start a new beginning?

Guideline Two: Move On

After pointing Joshua's gaze to the past, God then told him to set his eyes to the future (Joshua 1:2). Not only must we see the past accurately, we also must have a clear direction for our future—temporally and eternally. What do we—and what did Joshua—risk by not having a clear plan for what lies ahead and moving on from what lies behind?

Remember the words of Paul? “For in this hope we were saved” (Romans 8:24 NIV). When God saved us, He told us where to look: ahead. While we don't literally see our eternal home now, one day we will. That's God's promise.



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Joshua 1:1–9

Guideline Three: Don't Be Afraid

The unknowns, lack of resources, or enemies typically accompany new beginnings. These obstacles can paralyze us if we let them. How would God's presence have alleviated Joshua's fear of the future (Joshua 1:5, 9)?

How does God's presence alleviate our fears today?

Guideline Four: Stand Tall

No one likes to follow a bedraggled, slouching leader who slogs his emotional feet toward a new beginning. God told Joshua, "Straighten up!" Three times God said, "Be strong and courageous" (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9). How does this demeanor and attitude reflect faith in God?

I challenge us as we face the future that we not only face reality and move on and not be afraid, but that we stand tall when we come to those times. —Chuck Swindoll



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Joshua 1:1–9

Guideline Five: Stay Focused

According to Joshua 1:7–8, how was Joshua to stay focused during the Israelites' mission?

What does it look like today for God's people to stay focused in their walk with Christ?

Guideline Six: Enjoy Success

According to Joshua 1:8, God told Joshua he and the Israelites would enjoy success if they followed His instructions. Based on our previous studies, what would success have looked like to them?

What action not only gave them success for taking the land but also ensured their success once they inhabited it?

Remember the major statement of the Westminster Confession, the very first question? "What is the chief end of man? . . . The chief end of man . . . is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." . . . Let me ask you a question. Are you enjoying the Lord? —Chuck Swindoll



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Joshua 1:1–9



Correlation: Collating Critically

After enduring hardships like poverty and flogging, traveling to dozens of cities such as Derbe and Lystra, and persevering in decades of ministry to the Gentiles, the apostle Paul awaited execution in Rome under Emperor Nero. Tradition states that the Romans beheaded Paul circa AD 67. Less than a year or two before his death, Paul wrote 2 Timothy. In this epistle, we find some of the loftiest writing about the Word of God itself. As Joshua had to persevere in God's teaching, so, too, must we. In 2 Timothy 3:14–17, we read why.

First, read *2 Timothy 3:14–17*.

According to this passage, what makes God's Word unique?

In what ways is the Bible profitable, and what is the end goal of our profiting from it?

To run well and to finish well, one cannot cultivate a casual relationship with Scripture. Listening to expository preaching is a great start. Purchasing a study Bible is a wonderful next step. Devoting time to a commentary . . . takes you deeper. Don't stop! . . . I want to join Paul in urging you to set aside time-wasting activities to devote yourself to training in the Scriptures. Hear it. Read it. Study it. Memorize it. Meditate on it. Live it.² —Chuck Swindoll



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Application: Cultivating Personally

For this study, we encourage you to engage in one, simple application: enjoy the presence of the Lord. Draw near to Him because He is near to you.

- Set aside an ample amount of time.
- Find solitude.
- Praise Him, adore Him, and thank Him.
- Cast any burdens you have upon Him.



A FINAL PRAYER

In the final prayer below, we've provided a fitting hymn for you to meditate on, written in 1867 by William Walsham How.

O Word of God Incarnate

O Word of God incarnate, O wisdom from on high,
O truth unchanged, unchanging, O light of our dark sky;
We praise thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from her dear Master received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket, where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the Living Word.

It floateth like a banner before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon above the darkling world.
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging sea,
'Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.

O make thy church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,
To bear before the nations thy true light, as of old.
O teach thy wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see thee face to face.³



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ENDNOTES

1. A. W. Tozer, *The Divine Conquest* (Wheaton, IL: Living Books, Tyndale House, 1995), 5.
2. Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014), 242.
3. As quoted in Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), 72.



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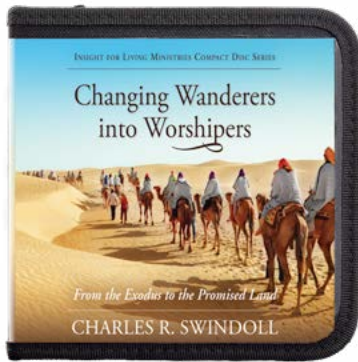
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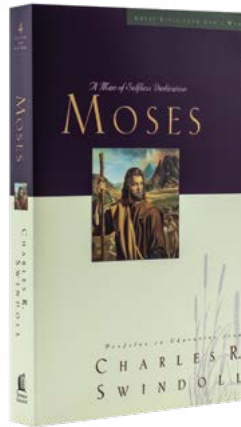
Joshua 1:1–9



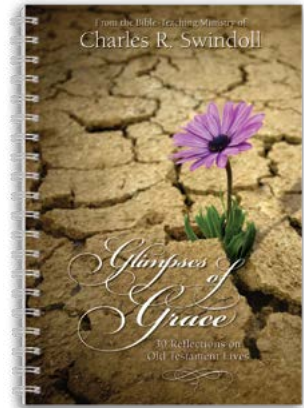
Tools for Digging Deeper



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For the 2018–2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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