

# THE GREAT ADVENTURE

Joshua 1:1-9

**INTRO:** Will you join me in giving God another great big hand clap of praise?!!! God has been so good to us here at Christ First Church. He has brought us into this beautiful new facility, and has done so in such a miraculous way. We could never praise Him enough.

Turn your Bibles to the Old Testament book of JOSHUA. Joshua is the 6th book of the OT. It's immediately after Deuteronomy, and just before the book of Judges.

Today starts a new chapter in the story of C1C. In just two months we will celebrate our 10th anniversary as a church. Who would have ever thought in just 10 short years we would be where we are today. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE GOD! He will bring about His purpose, in His time, and in His way. Well, as you can tell, we are not completely finish with the building, but it is shaping up beautifully. Last night when I got home, pretty late, I took a shower. And as I let the water run over my aching body, for just a moment I thought, "Man, it's going to be good to rest for a little while after getting into this building". I had no sooner thought that, than I was struck with the reality that, "we're not finished"! And I'm not talking about the odd and ends that need to be done here and there on the building and property, I'm talking about the great purpose and calling that God has for this ministry. There are so many things we are called to and want to accomplished. Brook-Stone Academy needs to be built. A fully inclusive school built specifically to meet the needs of those with physical and intellectual disabilities. We want to open at least five C1 Connect ministries in the next 3 years, where we go into a community and assess the needs that they have, then open a business that will meet that need, as well as, introduce them to the ministry of C1C. I would like to see us build a 24 bed assisted living home. Some of you are getting close to needing that. LOL! And then there's the day to day ministry of this church to come along side those with addictions and those wounded by a fall. NO NO, WE'RE NOT FINISHED, WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED!

Today I have titled my sermon, THE GREAT ADVENTURE. My prayer is that it will touch you and motivate you to a desire to accomplish great things for God.

Let's look together at a group of people who were facing their own new challenge, much like we are today. They had been given a new home by God, and they were about to go into it. Read with me from Joshua chapter 1 and notice...

**1) THE MISTAKE WE MUST AVOID:** **vv 1-9** *"Now after the death of His servant Moses, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore arise, you and all these people, and cross over the Jordan into the land that I am giving to the children of Israel. 3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot will tread, just as I promised to Moses. 4 Your territory shall extend from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great River Euphrates—all the land of the Hittites—and west as far as the Great Sea. 5 No one shall stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so will I be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give these people the inheritance of the land that I swore to their fathers I would give them. 7 Above all, be strong and very courageous. Be careful to observe all the law that My servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law must not depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

**I) THE MISTAKE WE MUST AVOID:** vv 1-9 Let's put this event in its proper historical context. If you've read the book of Exodus, you know the story. For 400 years, the Jews were slaves in Egypt. Moses was called by God to lead the children of Israel out of bondage. After the deadly Passover experience, Pharaoh allowed the Jews to leave, but then he chased them into the desert. The Red Sea parted and the Israelites passed through safely to the other side on dry ground. When Pharaoh followed, the sea crashed down on them and the enemies of Israel were destroyed. But that's only half the story, because Moses' job was not only to lead them out of bondage, but to also lead them into the Promised Land. Everything was going great—until they came to a place called Kadesh Barnea.

Kadesh Barnea was the staging area to enter into the Promise Land. It should have only taken 11 days from Mt. Horeb to enter the Promise Land, but the Bible tells us that they wandered in the desert for 40 years! What happened? You can read about it in Numbers 33. The Israelites chose a 12 man committee to secretly go into the land and spy out the city. When they returned, ten committee members said, "Yes, it's a lush land, but we can't do it—too many obstacles. It's going to cost us too much!" Only two of the committee members, Joshua and Caleb said, "Yes, there are obstacles but God can overcome all the obstacles—Let's go!"

Sadly, the only voice that really mattered was not considered. Do you know what God said when these people gave in to fear? In Deuteronomy 1:34: When the Lord heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore, "Not a man of this evil generation will see the good land I swore to give to your forefathers, except Caleb ... your assistant Joshua, son of Nun will enter it. And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it. But as for you, turn around and set toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea."

Therefore, since the children of Israel were not willing to trust God and go forward and claim God's promise, He basically said, "Take another lap around Mt. Sinai—and another and another." For forty years that's what happened. That's the mistake we must avoid! So here stands Joshua, forty years later, facing the same challenge.

For us, Kadesh Barnea is a place where we stand with an opportunity before us. This challenge can only be claimed by faith. At Kadesh Barnea, the Israelites failed to seize the moment and claim God's promise; as a result they wandered aimlessly for 40 long years.

Listen to me closely, there will always be critics. There will always be those who will tell us how or what we should do. There will be opposition but we must remember our battle is not against flesh and blood: it is spiritual warfare. In the next few months and years, I promise Satan will do everything in his power to try to divide us, distract us, and disrupt our unity. There is going to be opposition but I'm not afraid. Because "*Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.*" (1 John 4:4) I don't want us to look at the grasshopper in us; I want us to look at the God who reigns! The God who is bigger than any opposition that we will ever face. Notice...

**II) THE MISSION WE MUST ACCOMPLISH:** Rather than looking at the opposition, let's look at the opportunity. God has a mission for us. It's the same mission God had for His people in the Old Testament. We must understand:

**A) God's purpose: Blessed to be a blessing:** Thousands of years ago, God promised

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**A) God's purpose: Blessed to be a blessing:** CONTINUED that Abraham would be the Father of a mighty nation and they would have their own homeland. In Genesis 12:1-3: The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country... and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing ... and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

God made a promise to Abraham. But Abraham's descendants forgot the part about being a blessing; they just wanted to receive a blessing. From the start, God intended Israel to be a nation that would be a blessing to those who did not yet know Him. Israel became selfish and exclusive. God's chosen people became proud and self-centered.

We must remember God did not place us here to be a blessing Hog but rather to be a channel of blessings to others! Just as God wanted to bless the nations of the world through Israel, He wants to bless our community, our state, our nation, and our world through C1C.

That's what God wants us to do. Now how does He want us to do it?

**B) God's plan: Obey and share His Word:** v 7 "... Be careful to observe all the law that My servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may prosper wherever you go."

God's formula for success hasn't changed over the past 3,500 years. How do you define success? Here's God's definition of success: Knowing and doing the Will of God. You find God's Will in His Word.

Our strategy for being a blessing to those around us is to honor, obey, and proclaim the word of God. God said it must be in our mouths (proclaimed); He says it must be meditated upon (in our minds); and it must be obeyed (in our hearts). God has blessed us through the years because we have been a Bible church. That means that the only doctrine we hold is the teaching of the Bible. We don't have any creeds or codes or confessions. We have only the Bible as our basis of authority.

Now notice lastly...

**III) THE MIRACLES WE MUST ANTICIPATE:** The key verse for the entire book is found in **Joshua 3:5** "[sanctify, purify] yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." There are two parts to that verse: There's something for us to do, then there's something God will do.

When we clean up our lives, God will begin to do amazing things among us. Joshua's job was to tell God's people. Get ready! Prepare yourselves, sanctify yourselves and you will see God do amazing things. God made the walls of cities fall and He gave them victory against stronger armies; basically He showed Himself to be strong on their behalf. My job is to tell you the same thing today. Let's prepare our hearts, let's sanctify ourselves and we will continue to see God do amazing things among us. Here are some of the miracles I believe we can anticipate:

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God gives this word to Joshua in verse 5, “I will be with you; I will never leave you.” I believe we are going to sense the awesome presence of the Lord in a more powerful way than we ever have before. What’s the difference? It’s the same Lord, and we will be singing the same songs and studying the same Word—none of that will change. But what I believe will change is our ability to magnify the Lord. The word “magnify” means to “make larger.” God won’t get any “bigger,” what will get bigger is our ability to worship Him.

### (b) His financial provision

A miracle is when something humanly impossible happens, everyone acknowledges only God could do it. We have already seen several financial miracles over the past 6 ½ years as we have seen the 20 acres of land completely get paid off, a church sign put up and paid for, we have been able to purchase two vans, we have 3 staff members and of course the biggest being paying off the ten year note of the old building in 4 years. And I believe that this building was God’s will and because of that we will continue to be able to make our payment. How do I know? I know because we serve a God that will provide our needs if we are obedient to Him.

Here’s the final miracle, and it gets me most excited:

### c. His needy people

I am convinced that over the next months and years, God is going to bring new people in through the doors of our church; in fact He is already doing it. Some are going to come because they are just curious about this new building and that’s great. Hundreds of people followed Jesus out of curiosity and many of them were redeemed as a result. Everyone who comes to our church needs something: forgiveness. It’s our job to be ready to welcome them and to share Jesus with them.

## CONCLUSION: