

SUNDAY SCHOOL **Quarter Preview** **Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem**

- **September 2026:** From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People – **Joshua**
- **October 2026:** From Settled People to Judges – **Joshua, Judges**
- **November 2026:** From Judges to Kings – **1 Samuel, 2 Samuel**

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
09/06/2026

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People

Joshua Leads Courageously

Joshua 1:1 – 11

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Background

- Joshua was born Hoshea, meaning 'salvation' or 'he saves', the son of Nun from the tribe of Ephriam.
- Moses renamed him 'Joshua' – meaning 'Yahweh is salvation' (Numbers 13:16)

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Background

- Joshua is anointed to be a leader and the successor to Moses (**Numbers 27:18 – 23; Deuteronomy 31:1-7**)

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Background

God judged the people of Israel by making them wait 40 years to enter the land. He also promised that every person 20 years old or older would die in the wilderness and would not see the land with two exceptions—Caleb and Joshua. (Numbers 14:22-24,30,38)

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*Context Text

NUMBERS 14:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.



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Lesson Text



JOSHUA 1:1 (NKJV)

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

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Lesson Text



JOSHUA 1:2 (NKJV)

² “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

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Lesson Text



JOSHUA 1:3 (NKJV)

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

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Lesson Text

JOSHUA 1:4 (NKJV)

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

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Lesson Text

JOSHUA 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

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Lesson Text



JOSHUA 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Be strong and of good courage,
for to this people you shall [a]divide
as an inheritance the land which I
swore to their fathers to give them.

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Lesson Text



JOSHUA 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may ^[b]prosper wherever you go.

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Lesson Text

JOSHUA 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you^[c] shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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.

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Lesson Text

JOSHUA 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

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Lesson Text

The Order to Cross the Jordan

JOSHUA 1:10 – 11a (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, ¹¹ "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, —

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Lesson Text

The Order to Cross the Jordan

JOSHUA 1:11b (NKJV)

¹¹ for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.' ”

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Commentary: Courage

courage noun

cour·age

'kər-ij

'kə-rij



: mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty

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Commentary: Courageous

- In **verses 6-7** we learn of the type of courage Joshua expected to exhibit – particularly after the conquest of Canaan. The military victory, while important is guaranteed by God, but the wisdom and courage needed to lead in the aftermath is just as important

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Commentary: Courageous

- The dividing of the land to Jacob's descendants can be a very political and personal matter. Like in all families, dividing of assets can bring out the worst in people.
- Joshua needs the courage to make tough decisions that many will not be pleased with

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Commentary: Courageous

- His decisions lay the foundation for the nation state of Israel, i.e., its borders, which we see today is a hotly contested issue within modern Israel and its neighboring states
- These decisions start to move the people from nomads to landowners

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Commentary: Very Courageous

- In **verse 7**, and adverb 'VERY' is added to Joshua's next admonition from God.
- This suggests that what God is asking of Joshua is going to require more of him than what was asked in verse 6 – i.e., it will require more courage than the tasks in **verse 6**

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Commentary: Self Discipline

- There's more to being a leader than just making decisions or telling people what to do.
- Leadership starts with self discipline and personal integrity.
- A true leader doesn't just 'tell'. A true leader shows AND tells thru example

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Commentary: Very Courageous

integrity noun

in·teg·ri·ty (in-'te-grə-tē)



: : firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : i.e., INCORRUPTIBILITY

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Scripture References



Refer to Lesson text

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

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Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN