

Claim Your Territory



Joshua 1:1-8
Student
Material



Hillcrest Baptist
Church

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CLAIM YOUR TERRITORY JOSHUA 1:1-8 APRIL 24, 2022

MAIN POINT

The kingdom man or woman claims God's destiny for his or her life by living according to God's Word.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever seen an animal claiming its territory? What was the animal's behavior?

Animals tend to become territorial when they feel someone is trying to take something that belongs to them. When in your life have you been territorial?

What territory, or destiny, does God have in store for you?

If you have ever visited the zoo, watched Animal Planet, or owned a dog, then you know what it looks like when an animal gets territorial. The lions at the zoo roar. The gorillas in the Amazon beat their chests. Your dog might ruin a piece of furniture. Tony Evans stated in a sermon on Joshua 1 that God has decided to give us territory, to give us a destiny; yet in order to claim this territory, we must take action. Unlike animals, the action God requires is not necessarily a show of dominance. Instead, what God requires from us is that we stand with Him and trust Him. Like Tony Evans says, “When you’re a kingdom man there’s an inheritance to claim because there’s a destiny to fulfill.”

READ JOSHUA 1:1-2.

What tragedy has occurred in this passage?

The opening words of this book are, “After the death of Moses.” Why do you think Joshua would have been afraid?

How is Moses referred to in verse 1?

What is God’s instruction to the people of Israel?

What is your “Jordan River” that you need to cross over in order to receive the inheritance God has promised you?

Which of these instructions do you relate to, or need to hear, most? Why?

What is significant about God's instructions to the Israelites following the death of Moses is that He tells them to go. Moses was a great servant of the Lord and a great leader of the Israelites, but their territory, their destiny, their Promised Land, still awaited them. The Lord had already prepared the land for His people, but His people had to arise and seize their inheritance. God did His part, now the people of God had to do theirs.

READ JOSHUA 1:3-4.

What was God's promise to the Israelites?

What are a few things in your life that prevent you from taking action?

Just because Moses died doesn't mean that God's promise to Moses died, too. His promise was alive, but God had no interest in spoon-feeding it to the Israelites. The same is true for us today. God has a territory for us to take hold of a destiny for each of us to claim, but He will not simply serve it to us on a silver platter. As Tony Evans asserts, "When God does something significant in the life of a man in the Bible, it's after the man moves, not before." With this in mind, we must move.

READ JOSHUA 1:5-8.

What was God's promise to the people of Israel if they followed His Word?

According to this passage, what did their success and greatness hinge on?

The Lord told Joshua, "You will have success wherever you go" and "you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do." How would you define success? How does the world define success?

God's Word and Israel's commitment to it would be the cornerstones of their success and greatness. God wanted people whose confidence emerged from faith in His Word, rather than arrogance in their own abilities. As Tony Evans says, "Kingdom men first ask, 'What does God say about this?'" God is not looking for arrogant men who are impressed with themselves. God is looking for kingdom men who draw their courage and take their direction from the Word. If we have any hope of following in the footsteps of God's people, claiming the territory He has prepared for us, taking hold of the destiny He has planned for us, then we must be those who lean on His Word and act on His promises.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

In what areas of your life do you find yourself relying on yourself rather than leaning on God and His Word?

What territory, or destiny, might God be calling you to walk into and claim?

