

## FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE

### “OUR SPHERE OF MINISTRY”

An important thing for us all to learn is this, what is our sphere of our ministry and what are its limitations. The book of Joshua chapter 1 throws some light on these two questions. Joshua was given a ministry, to lead the people of Israel into, and possess the promise land. He succeeded Moses who had received the ministry to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. All through the bible we read of the different ministries people received from God.

Let's see what we can learn from Joshua. Chapter 1:1,2 “After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses aide, “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them – to the Israelites.”

Here we have God telling him what his ministry is going to be, the work God has for him to do, God's main intended purpose for his life. He was to lead the people of Israel into the land God had promised to give them.

V 3) “I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.”

When God makes a promise he always keeps it. We should believe his promises and act on them. “Every place you set your foot.” Is a promise of victory over their enemies who were also God's enemies. Just like God judged the people of Noah's day with a flood and swept them all away so now he was judging the people of Canaan by using the army of Israel to destroy them. Their wickedness and evil had become so bad that God had to bring his judgment upon them and in turn give their land to Israel as they had been promised.

V 4) “Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates---all the Hittite country---to the Great Sea on the west.”

This is a very important verse because it shows his ministry had limits. It shows he had a sphere of ministry an area of ministry.

V 5) “No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

What an amazing promise to receive as he was about to enter the land that was full of hostile nations. Joshua could claim this promise as he went into battle, “No one will be able to stand up against me !”

But what if winning victory after victory he was to say to himself, “Wow ! this really works! I think I’ll try it out in India and conquer it. Why not conquer the whole world! All I have to do is claim the promise, “I will give you every place where you put your foot and no one will be able to stand up against you.” But if he did that he would fall flat on his face, totally defeated. The promise is for his area of ministry not out of it.

It means being comfortable with the ministry God has given us to do and doing it with all our hearts as unto him. In that ministry we can claim the promises related to it. Before Joshua entered into the ministry God had preparation years as he served under Moses and we will probably have preparation years also. In fact everything happening to you now could be your preparation years. Your present circumstances are either part of your preparation years where you can learn to serve God or you might be already in the purpose and plan he has for you.

How can I know I am fulfilling God’s purpose and plan in my life? Imagine, you found yourself sitting in a car with a winding road before you, that disappeared behind hills that would eventually go to your desired destination. But you are going nowhere, just sitting in the car. You have to start the engine and begin to drive to the first bend in the road. Then you drive around the bend and you see that part of the road you couldn’t see before and so you keep on driving forward around many twists and turns that lead you ultimately to your destination.

We can start our engine in finding God’s purpose for us by doing something that’s obvious in our present circumstances that we can do for God. It may only be a small thing but do it and then do another thing for God. God’s plan for us becomes clearer as we go forward around all the twists and turns of life seeking to do his will.



JUST AS GOD HAD A PLAN AND PURPOSE  
FOR JOSHUA, GOD HAS A PLAN AND  
PURPOSE FOR YOU.

**ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT IT ?**

FRANK HUTCHINSON