

THE NEW YOU Sermon Series: Hoshea Becomes Joshua

Numbers 13:16-14:11

There is a difference between knowing what your name means and experiencing what your name implies!

Again, my name (Daniel) means “God is my judge!” To know my name is to believe that God is the One with the power to make the decisions in/for my life... to protect, to defend, & to preserve my life... past/present/future...

I know what my name means, I believe it, but have I experienced it?

Daniel, in Scripture, knew/believed in the meaning of his name, & He lived it as well... God protected his life from the lions... God defended his life before his accusers... God preserved his life thru many miraculous events... all because Daniel trusted God to be the decision maker in his life, His judge!

Daniel, the pastor before you, knows/believes God to be his judge as well! And I too, in my own life, have come to experience the reality of my name!

- God has protected me from many harms throughout my life...
- God has defended me against many accusers...
- God has preserved my life, my calling, my family again & again...

I have learned the meaning of my name by living it out in my daily life! With every decision, there's a choice between God being my decision maker or me!

Today we are looking at the name, the life, of Joshua! Joshua was given this name by Moses prior to sending him & Caleb to spy out the land of Canaan!

Joshua's name was originally “Hoshea” which means “salvation”. He not only knew the meaning of his name, but he too experienced it as well, in Egypt.

He knew what it was to be in bondage, & to be set free in the Exodus... And now he sits at the edge of the promised land, being sent in to spy out the land, & Moses changes his name from “Hoshea” to “Joshua!” Why?

Hoshea means “salvation”, but Joshua means “God saves”! It's as if Moses is reminding Hoshea/Joshua of the One who has been, who continues to be, & who will be the source of their victory/salvation... It is God, and only God!

In the exodus, salvation belonged to the Lord! Moses was only an instrument! & God will be their salvation again as they enter into this promised land!

But for Joshua, that belief would be tested! Ten of the twelve spies sent to check out the land returned with a negative report – “We can't win!”

But Joshua had a new name, as well as the perspective & the experience that His God would be their salvation in Canaan, just as He was in Egypt!

Joshua's name, & his experience, led him to conclude that victory/salvation against these giants would not be not due to their own might, or Moses' leadership, but due to God's ability to save, & His promise to do so!

Joshua's new name was put to the test, and Joshua lived up to his name! However, only he and Caleb trusted in the God of salvation! The distrust of the rest of God's people resulted in 40 yrs of wilderness wondering & death.

Only Joshua & Caleb would come to experience the promised land, because they were the only two who trusted in “God's salvation!”

Joshua would take over for Moses... He would go on to become a fierce warrior and brilliant leader... But at every turn, he would have the choice to trust in himself for salvation, or in God, & God's ability alone to save them!

Joshua trusted God, & salvation came to him again and again... Crossing the Jordan... Defeating Jericho... Overcoming the sin at Ai... Conquering the promised land! It all was a work of God, not the accomplishment of Joshua!

God wanted His people to know the true source of their victory, as well as experience Him as the God of their salvation – “Joshua”, not just “Hoshea”!

God wants the same for us today! The name “Jesus” is a derivative of “Joshua!” Both names point to the salvation that comes from God alone!

And just as God wanted Joshua to not only know the source of salvation, but to experience the God who saves as well, so too does God want that for us!

If I were to ask you if God saves, most/all of us would say “Amen!”

But if I were to ask you if you have experienced the God who saves... Or if His salvation has altered the trajectory of your life... If He is your salvation?

God has saved... God can save... God will save... It is who He is & what He does! That's what the names of Joshua & Jesus teach us... But have we come to know this truth for ourselves? Is God the God of your salvation?

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God _____ saved... God _____ save... God _____ save... It is who He is & what He does! That's what the names of Joshua & Jesus teach us... But have we come to know this truth for ourselves? Is God the God of your salvation?