

Joshua Chapter 01 Commentary

INTRODUCTION

The last chapter of Deuteronomy records, Moses went to his death alone. Now God, who buried Moses, tells Joshua: Moses is dead, get you up and fulfill the office I have given you, as leader of my people Israel.

Joshua is from the Hebrew word *Y@howshuwa`* (pronounced: yeh-ho-shoo'-ah) and means: *Jehovah-saved, have or be salvation, deliverer, he will save*. In its various forms it may be recognized by these names: Jehoshua (i.e., Joshua); Jehovah, the Lord; Hosea, Hoshea, Oshea; Jeshua or Jesus. Some put the definition as: God is deliverance, Jehovah the Saviour. In the New Testament Joshua is called by the name of Jesus, seen in: **Ac 7:45** *"Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;"* In this text Joshua is textually called by the name Jesus.

Just a recap of some things we know of Joshua:

- Joshua was first chosen by Moses to be commander in chief for the armies of Israel, seen in: **Ex 17:9-10; 9** *"And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. 10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill."*
- Joshua was chosen to be a minister under Moses, seen in: **Ex 24:13** *"And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God."*
- Joshua was a servant unto Moses, who had a special relationship with God, seen in: **Ex 33:11** *"And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle."* We understand that Joshua remained in the tabernacle, in the very presence of God. Now, we have no record in scripture of God speaking to man face to face, except in the case of Moses, However, I believe that God communicated with Joshua in some way. We know he found favor in the eyes of God, or, when he remained behind in the tabernacle, God would have slain him.
- Joshua needed spiritual growth, seen in: **Nu 11:28** *"And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them."* This is when the Lord anointed the seventy men to assist Moses and two did not come to the anointing service but remained in the camp. However, God put his spirit upon them and they all prophesied where they were. Word came that these two also prophesied and we see Joshua's answer. Thus, we see: Joshua still has need of much spiritual growth.
- Joshua had great faith in God: **Nu 14:6-9; 6** *"And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not."* We see the real, and whole, faith that Joshua had in God's delivering power.

- Joshua had a promise from God to enter the land of promise: **Nu 14:30** *"Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun."* Because of their faithfulness, Joshua and Caleb receive the promise of God that they will enter the land of promise.
- God appointed Joshua to take Moses's place as leader over Israel: **Nu 27:18-20; 18** *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient."* Joshua was chosen by God and anointed to be the leader of Israel after Moses's death.

1 ¶ Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, **2** Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even to the children of Israel.* **3** Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. **5** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. **6** Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.

Joshua could have no better encouragement than God giving him these promises. God knows the heart of Joshua, and God knows that Joshua will be faithful in doing what God says. Therefore, God can make these promise to Joshua:

- **"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you,"** Wherever you walk shall become your possession, within the confines of the land of promise.
- **"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life:"** No person shall be able to defeat you in battle as while you live.
- **"as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."** I will be with you all your life. You have the testimony of Moses to verify you can believe my word.
- **"I will not fail thee,"** I will not fail to protect and keep you.
- **"nor forsake thee."** Believe me, because you saw that I stayed with Moses.

Therefore, we know that Joshua will be true to God, because, if God will not fail him nor forsake him, we understand that God will be with him always. That doesn't mean that Joshua will not mess up. After all, he is a man, and all persons are sinners.

We, as Christians, have these same promises given to us, seen in: **Heb 13:5-6; 5** *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

This is the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the security of the born-again sinner. When we are born-again, by God's free gift of Grace, we are given eternal life. If you have eternal life, then you also have the promise of God to be with you, wherever you go in the land of promise here, the church. You have God's promise that he will not fail you, nor forsake you, and you know this is the truth of

God. Why? Because when we were born-again, the Holy Spirit took up residence in the new creature, and he will not leave because our new life is eternal. What a glorious redeemer God we have. Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord Jesus, the Christ.

God tells Joshua, my leader over Israel; I am going to use you to fulfill my promise, which I made to my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their seed after them. Likewise, we have the promise of our leader, our Sovereign Head, our Lord, our Saviour, and our King, Christ Jesus. God used Christ to supply us a land of promise here, the church of salvation by grace. Christ has divided to us our places of occupation in the land of promise. We are to occupy the land of promise, the church, until he comes again. We know that he will not fail, for we have the word of God, which says: ***Mt 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."*** Shall is a verb which means that it must, and so, it will happen.

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

"turn not from it to the right hand or to the left," As we have pointed out several times already in previous commentary; God is serious about being in complete subjection to, and compliance with, ***"thus saith the Lord."*** There is a blessing to be had by living thus, which is ***"that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."***

Notice, how Joshua is to accomplish this duty of being completely faithful to God? Joshua is to have God's law in his mouth always, and in his mind always in meditation. This can only be accomplished in our lives by continual reading and meditating on God's "Word."

God's people today, and especially the ministers and church leaders, are to be constantly reading and studying God's word of truth, the King James Bible, which we believe to be the true translation of God's Word. Every born-again believer should be daily in God's word of truth. Else, how shall they know the truth?

Parents are to bring up their children as commanded in: ***Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*** Parents should teach their children at home ***"thus saith the Lord"*** as recorded in the bible. We find an example of this in: ***2Ti 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."*** We believe; Timothy's mother, and grandmother, did their duty well, in teaching Timothy the word of God. Every born-again sinner, and every person, should endeavor to learn all they can of the bible.

Bible study and teaching should begin at home and be continued by the church. Churches should have bible studies to teach the parents, and the children, the bible, so they can teach others.

10 ¶ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

Joshua, having received his orders from God, immediately begins to prepare the people. He tells them; before three days are over you will cross the river into the land of promise.

12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, 13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; 15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

Joshua reminds the two and one-half tribes, who took their possession of property on the east side of Jordan; you gave your word to God and Moses, and now it is time to fulfill your oath. Your warriors are to go to battle with Israel, and remain with the armies of Israel, until the land of promise is the possession of Israel.

Here is a good time to remind everyone, if you have been born-again, you are automatically drafted into the army of the living God. The Christian life is a continual warfare for every Christian. Let none be found to be uncourageous, unwilling, or to be deserters in our duties in the army of Christ.

16 ¶ And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. 17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. 18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

They respond to Joshua telling him; we are ready and willing to go and do all we promised. They further stipulate; we will follow you and obey you in all things, as we did your predecessor, Moses. If any of our people rebel against you; we will put them to death.

They do have one request which is "***only be strong and of a good courage.***" Joshua, you be a good strong leader, setting the good example, by which we may be also encouraged in doing God's bidding.

This is an admonition to all Christians, and churches, be strong in performing your duties, that those who are following, or watching, you may be encouraged, as seen in:

- ***1Th 1:2-8; 2 ¶ "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; 4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6 ¶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having***

received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything."

- **Heb 6:9-15; 9 ¶ "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."**
- **Heb 10:19-25; 19 ¶ "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."**

It is easily discerned from these and many other scriptures, we are to be living examples to other believers, and to the world around us. It is our testimony, of our faith and trust in the completed work of salvation, and eternal life, in Christ Jesus. Praise and glory to his name! Hallelujah! Amen!