

Remnant Life Church
February 24, 2021
Joshua: A Man of Courage
Pt 1
Joshua 1:1-9

When you read through the OT, there are names that jump out at you as being the ones you have heard about since you were sitting in a SS class as a little boy or girl.

- Names like Adam, Moses, David, Samson, Daniel, and Joseph
- Joshua is also one of those who God worked through mightily
- Because it was through Joshua that God would lead the Israelites into the promised land after 40 years of wandering in the desert

Moses' story and why he did not get to finish the task God set before him is well-known (**Num 20**)

- It is one of the many times of the people's grumbling and complaining
- Interestingly, this takes place near the end of their 40 years in the desert
 - A demonstration of God's great patience (a powerful attribute of love)
 - They complained the entire time they traveled in spite of God's continued provision
- In the land of Kadesh (**Num 20:1**)
 - No water, so Moses goes to God on the people's behalf
 - God tells Moses to speak to a large, nearby rock, and water would come out
- But Moses sinned in 3 ways
 - First, he claims that it is he and Aaron who are supplying the water (**Num 20:10**)
 - Second, he struck the rock with his staff instead of speaking to it as God had instructed (**Num 20:11**)
 - Third, by his actions he did not demonstrate faith in God (**Num 20:12**)
- While Moses was a great man of faith, he was also a human with all the same frailties
 - His sister Miriam had just died (**Num 20:1**)
 - Second, you must recognize that he had been listening to their incessant whining and complaints for nearly 4 decades
- But you cannot disobey God, whatever the reasons, without there being a consequence
- Moses will see the promised land from Mt. Nebo, but he will not be allowed to enter

AN INTERESTING NOTE – Moses did finally get into Canaan when he appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Elijah and spoke with Jesus (**Matt 17**)

The Bible tells us that Joshua was the son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim

- He was born in Egypt sometime during the last few decades of the captivity
- He experienced the remarkable events leading to the first Passover and the exodus
- Very early on, he became Moses' assistant and learned what it meant to seek and obey God by being near Moses, including going up to Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 commandments and the law
- He remained at the tabernacle as Moses' representative whenever he went alone to fellowship with the Lord

- He was also the commander of the Israelite army when they engaged in their first battle and defeated the Amalekites (Ex 17:8-16)

But Joshua was about to come into his own as a man of faith

- Of course, he was one of the 12 spies sent into Canaan when the people first arrived at the Jordan (Num 13:8)
- And one of 2 who said that God would go with them to take the land
- Because of their faith, Joshua and Caleb were the only 2 men from that time who were permitted to go into the promised land after the 40 years of wandering

Just prior to the death of Moses, Joshua is chosen and commissioned to lead the people

- Joshua is going to take them across the Jordan
- He is going to lead them to defeat Jericho
- He will supervise the division of the land among the 12 tribes

Joshua's name is an Old Testament Hebrew equivalent of "Jesus."

- Translated means "the Lord is salvation."
- Just as Joshua would lead the people out of desert of sin into the promised land of Canaan, Jesus would lead all of mankind out of the bondage of sin and into the promised land of heaven
- And so, in his role of leading Israel into the promised land, he is a fore-shadowing or type of Jesus 1400 years before Bethlehem (as were Abraham, Joseph, David, and Elijah)
- God was always pointing His people to the coming of His Son

I want us to look just for a few minutes this evening, as well as next Wednesday, at what God says to Joshua at the beginning of his time of leadership

READ – Joshua 1:1-9

When God says something in the Scripture, we must give it our full attention

When He repeats it, there is an even more profound meaning and significance

But when He says something three times, it means it is a central theme that is vital and critical to the one hearing it

What does God repeat three times to Joshua?

- Be strong and courageous (Josh 1:6,7,9)
- There are many reasons why God needed to say this three times
- The most obvious to me is that Joshua was dealing with fear and doubt
- And why not?

Consider what he was facing now that he was in charge

- First, he is replacing Moses!
 - Robert Wadlow was born 1918 and died in 1940 at the tender age of 22
 - He holds several world records

- But the one he is most well known for is he is officially recognized as the tallest man to ever live
 - Verified at 8'11" at the time of his death
 - The second record is he wore a size 39 shoe
 - Well, Joshua had even bigger shoes than that to fill
- Moses started his life as a prince in Egypt – IOW he was royalty before he ever came into his role as leader of the Israelite nation
- He was the man God worked through to defeat Pharaoh
- Moses, who parted the waters at the Red Sea
- Who fellowshiped, in person, with God
- Whose face radiated and physically glowed with the very presence of God
- And even with all of that, God was not going to let Moses go into the Promised Land
- Did Joshua ever consider saying, "Thanks, but no thanks?"
- Now, add to that – he is suddenly responsible for a nation of former slaves with an army that has had only a couple of engagements in their entire history, and they are now going to go after the most perfectly fortified city in the world
- Joshua needed to hear God say 'be strong and courageous' three times, if not several more times