

Saint Philip AME Church
240 Candler Rd S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30317
Rev. William D. Watley, Ph. D., Senior Pastor
Rev. Roy Jones, Jr. D.Min., Executive Minister (Presenter)
Joshua: Preparing to Crossover
Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Deuteronomy 31:1-13

Just before he died, Moses formally presented his successor, Joshua, to the people. Moses had been mentoring Joshua for years in preparation for this day. Knowing that he (Moses) would not be able to enter the Promised Land himself, he realized he had to equip the next leader to finish what he had started. Note what Moses did for Joshua:

- He convinced the people that the new must replace the old (vv. 1, 2).
- He reminded them of God’s commitment to fulfill His promise (v.3).
- He endorsed the new leader and passed on his authority to Joshua (vv. 3-5).
- He forecasted victory under Joshua and cited his record of accomplishment vv. 3-6).
- He commissioned Joshua with the task of leading the people into the land (vv. 7-8).
- He directed Joshua to read God’s Word repeatedly (vv. 9-13).

Joshua represents and encourages every second-generation leader. He did not establish the free nation of Israel – Moses did. Nevertheless, Joshua succeeded Moses respectfully and naturally upon the death of Moses. Joshua completed the work that Moses could not complete and led the people of Israel to victory in the Promised Land. Joshua challenges us to lay hold of God’s promises and walk in His victory despite adversity.

While Moses was alive, Joshua remained loyal and submissive to him. He never once attempted to displace Moses. Joshua displayed patience until the torch was passed. He waited and served faithfully just as David had waited for King Saul to exit the scene.

- Joshua learned to be strong and courageous in his own style of leadership.
- We do not always have to imitate others to be successful.
- Learn to be yourself.

He was a Warrior (Exodus 17:9-11). Joshua was born to be a warrior. His first opportunity at leadership came as a military leader. God was preparing him for a much greater role, but it all began here.

He was a spokesperson (Exodus 17:14). Joshua received a prophetic Word from the Lord concerning his lifetime ministry, illustrating how God works in each of us. First, we receive a personal Word from the Lord; then we become bears of His Word to others.

He was a servant (Exodus 24:13). Joshua was first known as “the servant of Moses.” No one called him a servant of God until the time of the conquest. He proved his willingness to serve before asking anyone to serve him. Each of us must undergo the same process.

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He was a faithful coworker or co-laborer (Exodus 32:17). Moses took Joshua with him to meet with God on Mount Sinai, but when ordered to stop, Joshua halted halfway up the mountain. He experienced no glory, no cloud, no voice, and no presence, yet he remained faithful to the mission.

The Law of Timing: Joshua Begins with a Divine Call and Charge

Joshua 1:1-9

Consider this: It took 40 years for Joshua's leadership style to match the need of the moment. Moses led diplomatically. He sat and judged the people patiently as they grumbled through long years in the wilderness. By the time the Israelites reached The Promised Land, fierce enemies awaited them. They needed a much more confrontational leader, a military man skilled in war. God chose Joshua. Note the difference between Moses and Joshua and see how timing can dictate appropriate leadership styles:

Moses

- Led through 40 years of desert travel
- Was a political, diplomatic leader
- Patiently listened to complaints
- Led people as a peacemaking shepherd
- Provided water from a rock when the people got thirsty (Miracle)

Joshua

- Led through 30 years of conquering Canaan
- Was a military, in-your face leader
- Confronted laziness and fear of the enemy
- Led people as a tough commander
- Told the people to dig their own wells when they got thirsty (hard work)

Lessons in Leadership

- Difficult times demand a different style of leadership.
- Good Leaders help their people remember past blessings and divine victories.
- Leaders must be willing to take the risks and pay the price; courage elicits commitment.

Leaders in the book of Joshua

Joshua, Calab, Achan

Other People of influence in Joshua

Rahab, Eleazar the priest, the Gibeonites

The Law of Influence: God uses Rahab

Joshua 2:1-21

The story of Rahab proves that God can use anyone to accomplish His Divine purpose. Rahab was a prostitute in Jericho. When Joshua sent the spies, they needed someone to assist them on their

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journey. As they prepared to conquer the city, Rahab made herself available. There seemed little logical reason why Rahab should have been considered for the role:

- She occupied no position and held no official title in the city.
- The Israelites looked upon women as lower-class citizens.
- As a prostitute, she held an even lower social rank than the average woman did.

However, because leadership depends less on titles than it does on influence, God chose Rahab. She helped the spies by her quick wisdom, gusty style, and clever plan. By doing so, she saved not only her own life, but aided in accomplishing the purpose of God in Jericho. The name Rahab even occupies an honored place in the Hall of Faith. **Hebrews 11:31** (NLT), declares, *“It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.”*

Rehab: An unusual woman of faith

- Her act of faith saved the spies
- Her act of faith assisted in saving the Israelites
- Her act of faith saved her life
- Her act of faith saved her family members

Israel crosses the Jordon

Joshua 3

Joshua had to cross a mighty river, defeat armies, destroy cities and take territory while leading people with no skill or experience in such activities. The task was to be accomplished without his leader and mentor, Moses. If Joshua was to move forward, he needed courage. Three times in Joshua 1, God encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous.

Let God fill you with courage to move past your failures. An entire generation died in the wilderness because their fears were greater than their faith in God. However, Joshua kept the faith. Do not allow past failures to keep you from future successes.

Let God fill you with the courage to move forward into new territory. Crossing the Jordon with about two million people and no boats or bridges was a great challenge. Joshua found courage to move forward by keeping God in the picture. He instructed the people to keep their eyes on the Ark as their reminder that God was with them. As a leader, you must find ways to keep God in the picture not only for yourself, but for the people you lead, so they too can *“be strong and of good courage”* (**Joshua 1:9**).

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Competence rarely happens overnight. Even the great Joshua had to be prepared over many years to handle the enormous task that was given to him.

Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”