

Joshua – Lessons in Good Leadership

Topic: How humility, long service and a willingness to worship alone should characterize leaders.

Text: The book of Joshua but read Deuteronomy 31:14-23

- **Deuteronomy 31:14-23 HCSB (14)** The LORD said to Moses, "The time of your death is now approaching. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, so that I may commission him." When Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the tent of meeting, **(15)** the LORD appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood at the entrance to the tent. **(16)** The LORD said to Moses, "You are about to rest with your fathers, and this people will soon commit adultery with the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will abandon Me and break the covenant I have made with them. **(17)** My anger will burn against them on that day; I will abandon them and hide My face from them so that they will become easy prey. Many troubles and afflictions will come to them. On that day they will say, 'Haven't these troubles come to us because our God is no longer with us?' **(18)** I will certainly hide My face on that day because of all the evil they have done by turning to other gods. **(19)** Therefore write down this song for yourselves and teach it to the Israelites; have them recite it, so that this song may be a witness for Me against the Israelites. **(20)** When I bring them into the land I swore to *give* their fathers, a *land* flowing with milk and honey, they will eat their fill and prosper. They will turn to other gods and worship them, despising Me and breaking My covenant. **(21)** And when many troubles and afflictions come to them, this song will testify against them, because their descendants will not have forgotten it. For I know what they are prone to do, even before I bring them into the land I swore to *give them*." **(22)** So Moses wrote down this song on that day and taught it to the Israelites. **(23)** The LORD commissioned Joshua son of Nun, "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I swore to them, and I will be with you."

I. Peshat – The facts of the matter

Picture of an Egyptian slave market



Born a slave during the final years of the Egyptian captivity, Joshua became a great soldier and statesman of the Jews. He was born to the son of Nun in the tribe of Ephraim (Numbers 13:8) and called originally Oshea which means "help".

Later, Moses changed his name to Joshua (Numbers 13:16), meaning "savior". Joshua in the Hebrew is the same Jesus' name does in the Greek (Hebrews 4:8).

Picture of the battle at Rephidim



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