

The Growth of Joshua

TEXT: Josh. 24:15, 31; Rom. 15:4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. HIS DECLARATION AN INDICATION OF JOSHUA'S CHARACTER.
1. No record anywhere of a confrontation between Joshua and God.
 2. Consider his influence(**Josh. 24:31**).
- B. CONSIDER HIS LIFE BEFORE HIS ELEVATION TO LEADER OF ISRAEL AND SEE WHAT INFLUENCED HIM TO BE AS HE WAS.

I. WHAT EXPERIENCE TAUGHT HIM, WHAT WE MUST LEARN.

- A. **Exodus 17** - FIRST MENTION: WATER FROM THE ROCK, MOSES' ARMS.
1. From Amelek's defiance(**vs. 16**). *God will not tolerate rebellion.*
 - a. God demands obedience today(**2 Thess. 1:7-9**).
 - b. If we rebel(**Heb. 10:26**).
 2. From Moses' arms. *Victory is in God's power, not man's.*
 - a. In God we defeat sin and death(**1 Cor. 15:57**).
 - b. In Him we complete our work(**Phil. 2:12-13; 4:13**).
- B. **Exodus 24:9-13** - JOSHUA SEES GOD.
3. *God is there* - the reality of the unseen(**Psa. 53:1; Rom. 1:20**).
- C. **Exodus 32** - THE GOLDEN CALF, JOSHUA HEAR THE SOUND OF WAR.
4. *War is not the worst thing that can happen to God's people.*
 - a. Turning from God is worse(**2 Pet. 2:20-21**).
 - b. We lose more than in war(**Mark 8:36-37**).
 5. *Turning from God leads to moral breakdown* (**Rom. 1:18-32**).
 6. *Merely using God's name does not evoke God's approval.*
 - a. The calf represented God(**vs. 4-5**).
 - b. Built contrary to God's instruction(**Ex. 20:8**).
 - c. God's will must be honored(**Matt. 7:21; 15:7-9; 1 Sam 15:22**).
- D. **Numbers 11:26-30** - ELDAD AND MEDAD PROPHECY.
7. *The humility of God's prophet.*
 - a. Jesus had the same experience(**Luke 9:49-50**).
 - b. In all things, God must have the glory(**1 Pet. 4:11**).
- E. **Numbers 13** - AT KADESH-BARNEA, THE TWELVE SPIES.
Numbers 14 - THE PEOPLE DECIDE TO STONE MOSES, AARON, JOSHUA AND CALEB.
8. *God + one = Majority* (**Rom. 8:31**).
 9. *God keeps his promise!* All mature men died in the wilderness.
 - a. God keeps his promise to save(**Heb. 6:18-19**).
 - b. And his promise to punish(**2 Tim. 2:11-12**).
- F. **Numbers 27** - JOSHUA CHOSEN TO LEAD.
Deut. 31:2-8 - LAST CHARGE OF MOSES TO JOSHUA.
10. *God goes before us.* Be courageous (**vs. 7-8**).
 - a. We have the same promise(**Matt. 28:20; 2 Cor. 13:11**).
 - b. We must have the same courage!

II. THE LESSONS EFFECTED JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP AND HIS LIFE(Joshua 24:15, 31).

- A. KNOWLEDGE OF THESE LESSONS SHOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON US (**Rom 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:4**).
- B. BUT WE MUST SHARE HIS GREAT RESOLVE.

CONCLUSION:

- A. ARE YOU HEADED FOR THE PROMISED LAND?
- B. OUR TAKING OF THE LAND IS AS DIFFICULT AS THEIRS.
- C. WE MUST HAVE THE SAME OBEDIENT CHARACTER.