

# Church of God Sunday School

## JOSHUA BECOMES GOD'S LEADER

Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 31:7-8; 34:9; Joshua 1:1-18

Moses was very old and would soon die. Who would lead the children of Israel into the land of Canaan? Moses talked to God about this. He was concerned about the people. He did not want them to be as "sheep which have no shepherd." God knew exactly who should lead His people.

God chose Joshua, a faithful man, to be the next leader of His people. Joshua was an old man himself (eighty years old), but he was not as old as Moses (one hundred and twenty years old). God told Moses to lay his hands on Joshua in the sight of the people. Then Moses charged him to lead the people.

Moses charged Joshua this way: "Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

After Moses' death, God Himself gave Joshua the command to lead the people over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. God spoke in a definite manner to Joshua, saying: "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. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. . . ."

"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." God promised to be with Joshua, if he obeyed God and did certain things. Joshua had to "observe to do according to all the law . . . [to] turn not from it to the right hand or to the left."

God said that the Book of the Law should not depart out of his mouth. In other words, he was to meditate, or think, on the Law of God "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." These were important things that Joshua had to do in order to be a good spiritual leader.

God also told Joshua just what Moses had told him: to be strong and very courageous. God said: "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."

Joshua was full of the "spirit of wisdom." He had been with Moses a long time. Joshua *knew* what God could do. He had also *seen* what the Lord could do. Joshua was encouraged by the fact that God had told him that He would be with him. Joshua believed God.

The people listened to Joshua and accepted him. No doubt, he was encouraged by how the people were willing to work with him.

They were ready to do what Joshua asked them to do. They also told him to "be strong and of a good courage."

Soon after Joshua took command of the Israelites, he told the officers to go through the midst of the people and tell them to get busy preparing food and water for a journey. There were many people, and they had much to get ready. They hurried about to obey Joshua.

The people were excited! At last, they were getting ready to enter the Promised Land! With the Lord's help, they were going to cross the Jordan River in three days and go in and possess the land that had been promised to them—the land of Canaan!



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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest."*  
—Joshua 1:9  
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