

God Commissions Joshua

Key Verse: “*Moses
My servant is dead.*

*Now therefore,
arise, go over this
Jordan, you and
all this people, to
the land which I
am giving to
them—the children
of Israel.”*

*—Joshua 1:2, New
King James Version*

Selected Scripture:
Joshua 1:1-11

The mantle passes. Moses,

the greatest leader from among their kindred that Israel had ever known, was dead. With his passing an enormous power vacuum could have occurred among the people of Israel. Fully aware of his impending death, Moses proactively laid his hands on Joshua, making him Israel's leader. (Deut. 34:9) It may be that Joshua felt overwhelmed in assuming his new role. How could he ever be the leader that Moses was? The

Lord's initial counsel to him seems to recognize Joshua's apprehension.

Three times in the Lord's inaugural message to Joshua the theme is emphatically repeated, “Be strong and courageous.” We read, “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; ... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid,

nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”—Josh. 1:6-9, *NKJV*

In retrospect, we recall that Moses himself demurred from the role of leader: “Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?” (Exod. 3:11) Again, we read: “Then Moses said to the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue,” to which the Lord replied, “Go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” Moses still resisted, saying, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send. So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. ... Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.”—Exod. 4:10-16, *NKJV*

The Lord supplied Moses with all he needed to fulfill his role. The Lord would be with Joshua to supply all his needs. As Christians, we have come to believe that “God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19, *NKJV*) Do we feel inadequate to properly serve the Lord and his cause? Does the weakness of our broken flesh hinder us from doing his will? We recall God’s assurance to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”—II Cor. 12:9, *NKJV*

Let us, when called upon by the Lord our God to a service in his cause, not cower or faint. Let us remember the words of the Lord to Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage; ... for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” ■