

## Joshua – The development of a conqueror

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A successful leader is not made over night and without disciplines. Joshua was one of the slaves that came out of Egypt, untried and untrained for war, and excepted the hardship of moving from place to place in an hostile and uninviting wilderness.

He is never identified with the discontented, the faithless anti-Moses crowd, nor a participate in any of the grumbling and pity parties that continuously occurred throughout the large encampment. He had questions but never lost his cool in a crisis, and demonstrated an unusual loyalty to Moses.

He always keep his head above the stuff and did not waver in his faith, but kept on believing the promise of God.

When Moses and Aaron were negotiating the terms of leaving Egypt with the Pharaoh, and Pharaoh resisted by increasing the nation's work load, the foremen met Moses and accused him of being the troubler and not the deliverer, Joshua was not in that number.

He was not in the place of Accusation, Regret (Red Sea), Bitterness (waters of Marah), hunger (mana) or thirst (Mt. Horeb). He did not accuse Moses or God, or regret leaving Egypt, or complain because of the bitter waters, or grumbled because of the lack of food, nor shake his fist at Moses because there was not any water to drink.

He stayed clear of that discontented segment of Israel who would not believe in God nor endure the hardships of travel in the harshness of the desert without complaint.

When the miraculous waters flowed from the Rock of Horeb satisfying the thirst of Israel and giving them relief, the Amalekites saw an opportunity to take some of the spoil of Egypt by attacking the rear of the marching column. They preyed on the weak who could not defend themselves. Ex. 17.

"Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget" (Deut 25:17\_19).

According to Matthew Henry's Commentary, the Amalekites were the posterity of Esau. The hate of Esau against Jacob was passed on from generation to generation, and continues to this day.

**Joshua is selected to lead the battle against Amalek. Ex. 17**

This is the first mention of Joshua in scripture. He was chosen to command the troops. Little did he know, he was being trained to be commander-in-chief of the army of Israel that would invade Canaan.

“And Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill” (Exod 17:10).

Remember these troops were only a few days removed from being slave brick makers. They were not warriors by training. Nor did they know how to use their Egyptian weapons.

Just because you have weapons of war does not mean you are a trained soldier.

Joshua knew his ill prepared warriors needed a miracle. Regardless of the circumstances, he obeyed Moses, selected men and went out to do battle.

Sometime workers must do things they have not be qualified for through special training.

During the early years of 1900's, since there were not many bible schools, scores of called preachers simply entered the ministry without any training.

Joshua had one eye on the battle and the other eye on the hill were Moses, Aaron and Hur had stationed themselves.

The success of the battle depended on the outstretched rod of Moses on the hill.

“So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed” (Exod 17:11).

Aaron and Hur sat Moses down on a rock and they supported his hands unto the setting of the sun.

Even a Moses will become tired and need assistance.

So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword” (Exod 17:13).

**The first lesson that Joshua learned that battles were won, not on the basis of superior warriors and equipment, rather on the anointing and favor of God.**

It is not by physical condition, education, astute training, and skillfully devised plans that battles are won. It is because of the intervention of God.

In this case, the battle was won because of the unity of those involved and their obedience.

The willingness of Joshua to accept the challenge of doing battle with Amalek.

The willingness of the chosen men to go into battle against a superior force.  
The willingness of Moses to stretch out the rod of the Lord.  
The willingness of Aaron and Hur to support Moses.

Joshua fights, Moses prays, Aaron and Hur supports.

This method of fighting was not logical, and later when he led the army of Israel against the nations of Canaan, he willingly laid aside his logic in favor of obeying God's instructions.

No doubt it was a great encouragement to the people to see Joshua before them in the field of battle and Moses above them upon the top of the hill: Christ is both to us\_our Joshua, the captain of our salvation who fights our battles, and our Moses, who, in the upper world, ever lives making intercession, that our faith fail not.

“And Moses built an altar, and named it The LORD is My Banner” (Exod 17:15).  
Jehovah-nissi– The Lord is My Banner!

### **The second lesson was the waiting game.**

Joshua went up to the mountain of Horeb with Moses.

“So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. But to the elders he said, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them. Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. And the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. And Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights” (Exod 24:13\_18).

After spending 7 days at the foot of the mountain with Moses, Joshua heard the voice of God calling Moses up to the top of the mountain that was engulfed with the glory cloud. Moses left his responsibilities behind with Aaron and Hur when he entered the cloud. There could not be any distractions. His attention must be on what God was saying to him.

The wait began. What accommodations did Joshua have? What food was available to him? Manna? What assurance did Joshua have that Moses would return? What thoughts did Joshua have during the long wait?

Many times faith-building is in the WAIT!

We must cast down our vain imaginations. 2 Cor. 10:5

{We are} destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and {we are} taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor 10:5).

Reasoning, calculations, surmising, fears, doubts, questioning.

A 34 day wait at the edge of the glowing cloud. As an obedient servant he waited.

King Saul could not wait seven days. 1 Sa. 13:8.

The apostles could not wait but one hour.

380 could not wait 7 days in Jerusalem.

Can we wait for the promise of Jesus’ second coming?

2 Peter 3– the mockers of the last days.

### **Lesson three was learning how to discern the sounds of the people.**

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him” (Exod 32:1).

The people were not willing to wait, but took action according to their feelings and fears and on the 39<sup>th</sup> day pressured Aaron to make a god for them.

Weariness in waiting betrays us to a great many temptations.

“Give me your ear-rings!” Imagine giving up your ear-rings to make gods of gold. People will give gold off their ears to make an idol, but little to the cause of the Lord.

He fashioned a golden calf and built an altar before it in the name of Jehovah and declared a feast day. How often do we associate the Lord with our sin!

The people had recently experienced the glory cloud coming down on the mountain, the earthquake, the thunder, the smoke and fire and heard the sounding of the heavenly trumpet. They had just entered into covenant with God and had declare their obedience to Him, but 39 days later they demanded a god to be built to lead them back to Egypt.

When Moses emerged from the cloud, Joshua was there having patiently waited those 34 days. As began their descent from the mountain, sounds were heard from below.

Joshua discerned the noise to be sounds of war.

Moses discerned the noise to be sounds of celebration.

Discernment of what is going on in the camp is critical to the success of the mission.

One of the “obscure gifts of the Holy Spirit”, the gift of discernings of spirits, is absolutely necessary in leadership and basically in the Christian walk.

Our most dangerous enemy as a nation is fighting a war with non-uniformed soldiers. People who conceal bombs under their clothing, who ignite bombs on airplanes. They are people who disguise themselves as harmless civilians.

Our enemy, Satan, is a master at deception and disguise.

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds” (2 Cor 11:13\_15).

There is discernment of : gifts, spirits, actions, intents, the spirit of the times we live in.

Discernment is more than just a skill. Discernment is a gift from God before it is anything else. Yet there are clearly skills that are put to use in doing it, and you can become better at it through training and experience. There is a Spirit at work nudging us, leading us, even pulling us by the nose ring.

“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil” (Heb 5:14).

We have to discriminate between what is true and what is false, ... between what is primary and what is secondary, between what is central and what is peripheral;...what is good and what is evil.

We must be people who discern the times that we live in and not just discern the weather.

We must become the sons of Issachar:

“And of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command” (1 Chr 12:32).

#### **Lesson four is living at the door of the tent of Moses**

Joshua was determined to live near the anointing of God. Not only was he serving Moses, but he was learning about the anointing of God.

Joshua was not allowed to go into the glory cloud, nor was he allowed to enter into the dwelling of Moses, yet he faithfully served him as near to the presence of God as possible.

It is important to associate with people of integrity, honor, strength, wise and successful.

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (2 Cor 6:14\_16).

People seemed to become like those they esteem and hold up as an example.

**Lesson five is learning how to except people who are anointed other than the leader you serve.**

So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp. "Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, answered and said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them. But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them" (Num 11:27\_29)!

Jealous (Qana) Why are you getting red in the face? Why are you envious?

Possibly Joshua suspected insurrection and felt like he should warn Moses. Moses reproved Joshua.

Joshua had to learn that the manifestation of the gifts in others did not threaten the leadership and calling of Moses.

Are you sure in your calling? Did God call you? You should not be threatened by others.

Excellent leaders select people to serve in their organization who can do certain things or say certain things better than you can.

**Lesson six is learning how to stand your ground when you are in the minority.**

“These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land; but Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua” (Num 13:16).

There comes a special time when God suddenly gives a clearer definition of your purpose.

Hoshea (Oshea) signifies a prayer for salvation. One that helps.  
Joshua signifies a promise of salvation. Jehovah shall save.

The bottom line is the contraction of Jehovah, Jah, was pre-fixed in front of the name Hoshea. “Jah”oshea” or Joshua.

Joshua walked throughout the land of Canaan, believing in the name that Moses had given him, that is, he was the living testimony of the promise of salvation. In the revelation of his name, faith to overcome the obstacles rose up in his heart.

Now he had a personal word from God and faith rose up in his heart.

“So faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Rom 10:17).

Joshua chose to resist the evil report of unbelief and contend for the promise of God.

“Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun” (Num 14:30).

For the next 38 years Caleb and Joshua survived the plagues and the wilderness because they chose to believe the promise of God.

### **Lesson seven is accepting the awesome responsibility of your calling.**

“So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation; and commission him in their sight. And you shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey {him.} Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, {both} he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation. And Moses did just as the LORD commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses” (Num 27:18\_23).

Moses announced, “Joshua, I stop here—you are going to cross over.” Deut. 31:3

“Joshua, the Lord will not fail you.” Deut. 31:7

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