

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 44 (October 23-29, 2016)

Now that Moses has been disqualified as leader of the exodus, Joshua is ready to step up. Moses has been preparing him for this day for many years, so now his time has come. In this week's devotions, we will see how God uses this great man of faith.

Sunday, October 23 (read Deuteronomy 31:1-8)

*"The Lord Himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said."
(Deuteronomy 31:3)*

Moses is no longer able to lead the exodus because God told him, "You shall not cross the Jordan" (v. 1-2). One untimely fit of rage cost Moses the right to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Think about that the next time you think you have a right to explode! The Jews do not need to worry, however, for the following two reasons: 1) The Lord will cross over the Jordan with them to assure the victory over the enemies, and 2) Joshua has been anointed by God to lead the people to victory (v. 3). Still today, the Lord promises victory to those who walk with Him and talk with Him! The secret is that we must not stop short of the finish line. God has something to say to you today!

Monday, October 24 (reread Deuteronomy 31:1-8)

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."
(Deuteronomy 31:6)*

I hope by now that those of you who have been following these devotions for the past few years have learned to look for and claim the promises of God. This text is just as applicable to us as it was to the Israelites. The Lord will deliver us from the enemies of this world if we will put our trust in Him and His Word. We have nothing to fear, because He has promised to go before us to give us victory if we only follow His commandments (v. 5). It is much easier when we obey out of love and not out of obligation (see John 14:15). Up until this time, God has spoken to Joshua only through Moses. From now on, however, He will communicate with him One on one (v. 7-8). God makes the same promises to Joshua that he has already heard through the mouth of Moses. Now he is ready to lead his people!

Tuesday, October 25 (read Deuteronomy 34:1-12)

*Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.
(Deuteronomy 34: 9)*

Because of his disobedience, Moses is not allowed to go into the Promised Land, but he sees it from afar (v. 1-4)! God does not reveal the site of his grave because the Israelites would worship it (v. 5-8; see also 2 Kings 18:4). Moses is not removed because he is too old or too weak, but rather because of his disobedience to the known will of God. Joshua is ready to assume the leadership position, however, because God has appointed him and Moses has taught him (v. 9). It is undeniable that Moses has been a great leader for Israel for the past forty years. His life, in fact, is divided into three forty-year sections. For the first forty years, Moses feels really special as he is being groomed to be the next pharaoh of Egypt. The second forty years, he feels unworthy as he tends the sheep in the desert. Finally, God shows Moses how He can accomplish His will through an unworthy follower of His Word. No one has surpassed Moses in his/her personal relationship to God (v. 10-12).

Wednesday, October 26 (read Joshua 1:1-5)

“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.” (Joshua 1:2)

I chose the printed verse above because some churches need to bury their own personal Moses. Many people remember a former pastor or a powerful member from the past and they cannot move forward while they are looking back. Israel had a wonderful leader in Moses, but he forfeited his right to lead when he blatantly disobeyed God’s instructions. Now, Joshua will lead them across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land (v. 1-2). Don’t miss the promises God gives to His chosen leader in v. 3-5. Read them over several times and then claim them as your own. The only catch is that you need to have a desire to move forward instead of a desire to stay right where you are. You have nothing to fear because God goes before you. He “will never leave you nor forsake you” (v. 5).

Thursday, October 27 (read Joshua 1:6-9)

“Do not let the Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8)

God continues His commands to Joshua in today’s text, but you will also notice the tremendous promises that accompany them. The same commands and promises apply to us today! If we are willing to trust Him and follow His Word, He “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20). God promises to go with us (v. 9), but we must not turn away from His Word (v. 7), either to the left (liberal) or to the right (legalism). The Lord wants His chosen people to live a life worthy of the high calling and to receive the benefits promised to those who follow Him (v. 8). Don’t hesitate to testify to the goodness of God! You are not bragging if He gets all the glory!

Friday, October 28 (read Joshua 1:10-18)

Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.” (Joshua 1:16)

Having received his commands and promises from God, Joshua gives his officers the command to prepare the people for the march into the Promised Land. As usual, the trip will be delayed three days to remind **us** that our journey to the Promised Land must include the three-day trip from Calvary to the empty tomb (v. 10-11). Two and a half tribes will take their possession on the east side of the Jordan, but only after their fighting men have helped their brothers conquer the land on the other side of the river (v. 12-15). The people agree to follow Joshua on the penalty of death (v. 16-18). The Lord has assured them of victory over their enemies! What could possibly go wrong?

Saturday, October 29 (read Joshua 2:1-7)

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. (Joshua 2:1)

In this text you will begin to see a wonderful example of God’s grace offered even to a sinful Gentile (Rahab) who takes care of His chosen people, the Jews. God even blesses the lie she tells to protect the men who have come into her house (v. 4-5). I am not going to get into any theological thoughts on this passage, but I do want you to see that God can use anyone who is willing to serve Him, regardless of his/her past or status in life. There are many who think their usefulness to God is over because of their sins. God has something to say to you through Rahab. When you examine the genealogy of Jesus, you will notice that a Gentile named Rahab appears in the bloodline to our Lord (see Matthew 1:5). God’s mercy and grace never fail!