

# Joshua, a Natural Leader

**TEXT: Josh. 24:15, 31**

## 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 Anelek'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.