

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 42 (October 9-15, 2016)

Moses was not allowed to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land because of one act of blatant disobedience. Joshua, Moses' aide since youth, was God's chosen instrument to accomplish this task. We will look at his life for the next few weeks.

**Sunday**, October 9 (read Numbers 11:16-17; 24-30)

*Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" (Numbers 11:28)*

In today's reading, God is anointing new leaders to help Moses, because the people are constantly complaining about their living conditions (v. 16; see v. 1). The Lord is going to take some of the Spirit from Moses and share it with the seventy elders (v. 17). This does not reduce the amount of the Spirit present in Moses; it only enables his associates to help him in the tasks. Moses obeys the Lord and brings together the seventy chosen men who receive the Spirit and begin to prophesy (v. 24-25). Two men remain in the camp even though they are listed among the seventy elders. These men also receive the Holy Spirit and begin to prophesy in the camp (v. 26-27). Joshua demands that Moses stop them, because they are not following protocol (v. 28), but the senior leader rebukes his young assistant (v. 29-30). I am starting with this to show you a great quality of Joshua: He is loyal to the existing leadership. Likewise, **anyone** who wants to lead must first prove that he is willing to follow (see Luke 9:23).

**Monday**, October 10 (read Exodus 17:8-15)

*So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. (Exodus 17:8).*

Joshua's second quality I want to emphasize is the fact that he has successfully fought against the Amalekites. I hope you recall from previous studies that these evil enemies represent your old sin nature that still exists even after you are saved from your sins. A true leader must be constantly on guard against the sins of the flesh. I love this passage because it shows the power of intercessory prayer. Joshua is winning as long as Moses is holding up his hands in prayer, but the Amalekites gain the advantage whenever he lowers his hands (v. 11). To assure victory, Aaron and Hur hold up his tired hands until the battle is over (v. 12-13). God wants to completely destroy the Amalekites that are still bothering you (v. 14). My main job is to hold up my hands in prayer while you fight the battles. Have you been Hur and Aaron? Are you praying for me as I pray for you?

**Tuesday**, October 11 (read Numbers 13:1-16)

*These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.) (Numbers 13:16)*

God commands Moses to choose twelve men to explore the land of Canaan. One of the men chosen is his young assistant. Moses has changed Hoshea's name to Joshua (v. 16). This seemingly insignificant detail is huge! Hoshea means "salvation" while Joshua means "**the Lord saves.**" Here you see the third quality of any spiritual leader: He must realize that salvation is **God's gift** and not something he, himself, has instigated. The Greek equivalent of this Hebrew name, Joshua, is **Jesus** (the Lord saves). As always, the red bloodline of the Old Testament points directly to the cross! As your minister preaches the gospel, are you praying for God's Word to reach souls? Are you asking the Lord to encourage him so that his hands will not become tired? Are you fighting your old sin nature? If so, you might be the next "Joshua" God chooses for a task ahead!

**Wednesday**, October 12 (read Numbers 13:26-33)

*Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." (Numbers 13:30)*

Today's text does not mention Joshua, but as we will see in tomorrow's devotion, Joshua joins Caleb in giving the minority report (see 14:6-9). A leader whom God will use needs to be **positive** against all opposition, once he is convinced that his mission has God's blessings. The majority admits that the land is really great, "but the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large" (v. 28a). They even saw some giants living in the land (descendants of Anak), along with more Amalekites (v. 28-29). The negative majority wins over the people but, as we will see tomorrow, loses the presence and the power of God (v. 30-33). By this time, they claim that **all the people** are so huge that they feel like grasshoppers (v. 33). Negative people cannot see beyond the obstacles in order to see the God who will remove them. The Israelites will suffer for 40 years because of their actions on this day (see 14:34)!

**Thursday**, October 13 (read Numbers 14:1-9)

*And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt." (Numbers 14:4)*

What happens in a church when the people begin to grumble on the road to the Promised Land (v. 1-3)? A leader must emerge who has a vision for what's ahead, not what's behind (see Philippians 3:13-14)! Joshua is just the man God will use to calm this growing storm! You don't need to have a leader if your goal is to return to your sinful past (v. 4). If you prefer the days of slavery instead of the promises of the future, simply follow the crowd and you will soon arrive there. Many people choose to follow that broad path, because the narrow path that leads to life seems long and difficult (see Matthew 7:13-14). We will see how Joshua emerges as their future leader in tomorrow's study.

**Friday**, October 14 (reread Numbers 14:1-9)

*"If the Lord is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us." (Numbers 14:8)*

As you walk along your new path that leads to the Promised Land, you must always remember that the battle belongs to the Lord (see 1 Samuel 17:47 & 2 Chronicles 20:15). In this text, Moses and Aaron intercede before the Lord while Joshua deals with the disgruntled people (v. 5-7). Although ten of the spies emphasize the obstacles in the land (13:28-29), Joshua emphasizes the promises and the power of God (v. 7-9). He trusts the Lord to overcome any obstacles by His divine power. After all, haven't they just witnessed the Red Sea being rolled back by the command of God? With this in mind, what obstacles are you facing today? Are you willing to trust the promises of God, even though you have not received all of them yet? I pray that you have a Joshua in your life to lead you to the Promised Land.

**Saturday**, October 15 (read Numbers 14:10-16)

*The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?" (Numbers 14:11)*

Today, I want you to see how Moses intercedes on behalf of his impatient people. The Lord has had enough of their grumbling, so He threatens to destroy them and start all over again using Moses to build His nation (v. 10-12). Moses reminds God that the nations around them will ridicule Him for His inability to complete the task He is undertaking (13-16). God's ultimate plan to offer salvation to the entire world is at stake in His current actions. We will follow this exciting journey in next week's devotion, but I want you to meditate on this passage, particularly if you are thinking of returning to your past sins. God has something to say to you today!