

## **The Study of Joshua**

"A Faith Journey Into the Promises of God"

Joshua: 1: 1 – 8 "Good Success"

### **Time To Come Out of the Wilderness**

**READ: Deut. 1: 6 – 8 and Heb. 6:1**

Once Moses is dead, we hear the word of God saying to Joshua "Now therefore arise...!" For we understand that the Christian life is not merely about keeping a set of Christian principles and rules; but it is most certainly a faith relationship with God lived out through the power of the Holy Spirit as we walk out our Christian convictions through our lifetime. Praying and fasting are essential components to the Christian's lifestyle, but there comes a time when we must get off of our knees, eat something to strengthen us, and go into the reality of life and possess all that God has promised us!

**QUESTION:** What similar message do we get from Deut. 1: 6 – 8, and Hebrews 6:1? Well, we come to understand that our Christian experience is like a journey; and we are not to remain forever circling around in the wilderness of life. God did not create us to live in the wilderness apart from all the blessings that God has placed before us.

### **The Wilderness Has Purpose**

**READ Deut. 8: 2 – 3, Hebrews 12:11**

**QUESTION:** After considering what Moses said in Deut. 8: 2 – 3, was Israel actually "lost" in the wilderness those 40 years? No, they were not lost! Moses told them that in reality, God was leading them through their wilderness experience with a direct purpose in mind- in essence, to mature them in their faith. **QUESTION:** How does Hebrews 12:11 address this particular concept of God keeping us in the wilderness of tests and trials?

**READ I Cor 10:11 NIV** Here the Apostle Paul warns us that these occurrences mentioned in the Old Testament were given to us as warning to us, who are now walking into the dispensational fulfillment of what the saints of old only saw through their eyes of faith. Paul reminds us that if we choose to remain rebellious to the will and word of God, we too will find ourselves living a subsistent life; walled off from the greatly blessing, stuck in the wilderness we have constructed with our own sinful rebellious nature. It has been said that "you may not get out of life what you want, but you can get out of life what you prepare for." It must be understood, that not all wilderness experiences are necessarily a result of some personal disobedience; but rather it is a preparation place. We recall that Moses was 40 years in the wilderness of Midian and Jesus was 40 days in the wilderness of Palestine.

**QUESTION:** In what way can a wilderness experience be used and preparation rather than chastisement?

### **A Time Of Transitions**

The first clause in Joshua chapter one verse two has five very important words; it simply says: "Moses my servant is dead." In our day and time these five words may not carry much weighty meaning, but to Joshua and the people of Israel these five words would signify the end of a miraculous time in their history. For Joshua it signified a new chapter in his life. A chapter where he could no longer hide behind the framework of Moses' leadership but would be called to stand fully forward of the nation and lead them into the promises of God. In addition, it is noticeable here that God places no particular accolades on Moses'

career; God simply refers to Moses as “my servant.” I would suppose this title of servant is the highest honor God could bestow on anyone of us.

**QUESTIONS:** Why are titles so important to most people? Why does God refer to Moses simply as servant?

It must be understood the Moses had to pass away before Joshua could begin his ministry. Moses represented the law of God. Though the law was perfect, men were too imperfect to keep God’s law. The law simply served as a means for man to see his sinful condition with greatly clarity but it offered no permanent remedy for man’s sinful condition. Joshua name means “Yahwah is my salvation” it is the Hebrew equivalent of the New Testament name of “Jesus.” So Moses and the law took the people as far as they could. **READ Gal 3: 24 – 25**

**QUESTION:** In what way does the transition from Moses to Joshua parallel the transition from the law to salvation through Jesus Christ?

**Good Success READ Joshua 1:8**

There was this man who grew up very poor, never held a real job, never married, never had any children, didn’t ever own anything, the few friends he thought he had didn’t prove loyal, a lot of people thought he was just plain old weird, got in trouble and went to jail and ended up getting executed for a crime he never committed.

**QUESTIONS:** Would you consider this to be an example of a successful life? Whose life are we referring to here?

**QUESTION:** Exactly, what does it mean to be “successful?” Success is somewhat difficult to define in a way that fits everyone’s personal concept of the word. And yet God has no problem defining success. In God’s definition, success is the obedient fulfillment of God’s purpose. God here describes “good success” as the results that follow the person that walk in obedience to God’s directives. This term then implies that all “success” as we experience it, may not necessarily be “good” success. After all, a terrorist could successfully carry out an attack; but that would qualify as good success. **READ Prov 10:22** It would appear that all blessings are not necessarily divinely ordered – Solomon declares that only the blessing of God; can bring wealth without sorrow.

**Success Begins In the Mind of God: READ Jer. 1:5**

**QUESTION:** Is success the result of your personal hardwork, skill and determination. I think that this may be a component of it. However, I believe success for the Christian happens when our preparation meets God’s opportunity. Our work alone is never enough to accomplish God’s plan for our life, it take divine orchestration. In this verse the word “formed” is “yattsar” unlike “yatsa” which means to mold into shape, “yattsar” means to squeeze into shape. It speaks of great effort on the part of the designer to bring about conformity. Before we were ever born, God studied us and within that define counsel, God considered every aspect of our being, our personality, our strengths and weaknesses. In so doing, God planned our success in him making provision for our mistakes, failures, weaknesses and omissions. Ps 103:14 Tells us that God knows our frame meaning our purpose. It’s all been factored in we need only to Arise, and go into the promises of God!”