



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Devotional: Joshua, obedience

MAY 16, 2012

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The Hebrew people flourished and their numbers increased greatly under the protection of Joseph, the Prime Minister of Egypt. After Joseph's death, a series of new Pharaohs made slaves of the people of Israel. Moses led them out of Egypt during the reign of Amenhotep II, about 1445 BC. They spent forty years wandering in the desert, learning how to live as a theocratic people of God when brought into the Promised Land. Joshua was charged with conquering the land of Canaan, bringing God's judgment on the various peoples who were living in moral decline and were worshiping many gods of their choosing.¹

INTRODUCTION

Joshua came out of Egyptian slavery, was trained as assistant to Moses, and was chosen to become Israel's leader. Joshua distinguished himself as a servant (Exodus 17:10, 24:13, 33:11, Numbers 11:28), served honorably as a soldier (Exodus 17:9-13), was a courageous scout (Numbers 13 & 14), was a faithful subordinate (Numbers 27: 15-17), recognized the sovereignty of God (Numbers 27:18), was led by the Spirit of God (Numbers 27:18, Deuteronomy 34:9), and was selfless, wholly following the Lord (Numbers 32:12).² Do you see the pattern here, rising to the top leadership position?

RECOGNIZING A SUPERIOR

1 Joshua 5:13-15 And then this, while Joshua was there near Jericho: He looked up and saw right in front of him a man standing, holding his drawn sword. Joshua stepped up to him and said, "Whose side are you on—ours or our enemies?" He said, "Neither. I'm commander of GOD's army. I've just arrived." Joshua fell, face to the ground, and worshiped. He asked, "What orders does my Master have for his servant?" GOD's army commander ordered Joshua, "Take your sandals off your feet. The place you are standing is holy." Joshua did it.³

The LORD gave Joshua a battle plan to follow. This involved a show of faith that collapsed the wall around the fortified city of Jericho. God may be testing you for a show of faith before a great victory! Some may wonder how this faith impacts decisions of leaders in America and events outside of Israel.

PRAYER CONVERTS AN ENEMY

The weather was brutal during the winter of 1777-78. General George Washington and his ragtag army of 12,000 men were camped in the fields at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Their clothing, food supplies, and sanitary conditions were deplorable. A man of prayer, General Washington was frequently seen on his knees, seeking help from his Lord.

Isaac Potts, was a Quaker, and opposed to war. He was also a Tory, a loyalist who supported Great Britain and the King of England. Isaac was passing through the edge of the army camp, near his home when he saw General Washington and his horse. He came closer and overheard the worship, confessions, and prayers of Washington. Isaac went home and told his wife that their cause was lost! God would grant favor to any leader who served Him with such passion. Isaac gave his home to the General to use as headquarters. He devoted his service to the Colonialist cause and later was elected Pennsylvania State Senator.⁴

A PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give me the faith of Joshua and the passion of George Washington. Let me be in Your favor so that even my adversaries will turn and bless the work that You are directing me in doing. Sovereign Lord, strengthen me, help me to facilitate what You desire here in the land of Kansas, among these, Your people. I pray in Christ's Name. Amen.

¹ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson) 2005. p298.

² Ibid

³ Eugene Peterson, The Message. (Eugene H. Peterson). 2002.

⁴ Charles David Barton, Americas Godly Heritage. (WallBuilders Press). 2009.

BIBLE STUDIES DURING BREAK

LEADERSHIP/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264 WEST

LEGISLATORS/LEADERSHIP – IF STILL IN SESSION - WEDNESDAY: 7 TO 7:50 AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH