



Joshua, The Man I Want My Son To Be

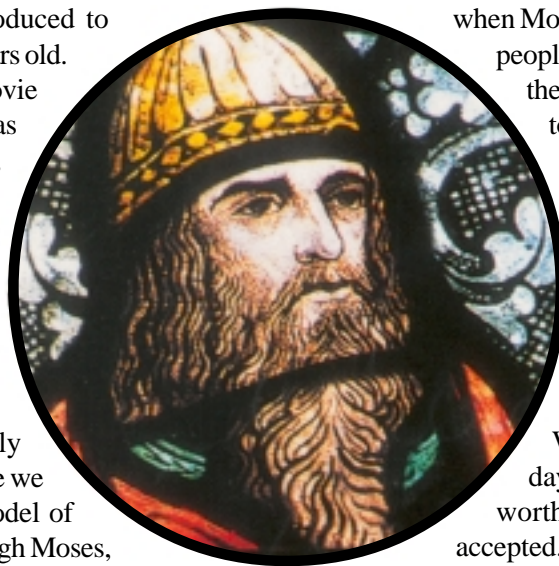
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The first time I was introduced to **Joshua**, I was only 14 years old. Watching the classic movie the “Ten Commandments”, I was moved by **Joshua’s** worthiness, leadership, and faithfulness. Since then, I have been an avid fan. I even named my son after him, praying that his name (which means “Yahweh saves”) would be a blessing.

It all begins in the second Holy book of the Bible, Exodus, where we read about **Joshua** as a true model of faithful obedience and how through Moses, God frees His people from the bondage of Pharaoh. Thousands of people left Egypt that night with so much hope and faith, I was truly amazed at the fact that only two were qualified to enter the promised land. **Joshua** and Caleb were the only ones from the original exodus of Egypt to enter Canaan. How can so many people who had seen *the* miracles first hand, waiver so much to the point where they were unworthy to enter. I read somewhere that it was easy to take Israel out of Egypt but difficult to take Egypt out of Israel. It makes me think about how many people today cry out Lord, Lord and still are not worthy of entering into His Kingdom. Am I one of these?

All of us want to be worthy in the eyes of our Lord. That out of millions of people, we are found to be worth His love.

Joshua was also the only one permitted to go with Moses on Mount Sinai when receiving the Ten Commandments. No one from the Israelites was allowed to even come close to the mountain when they saw God’s glory upon it. Anyone who dared to touch it would be put to death. He also guarded the tabernacle



when Moses relayed God’s message to the people. There is more here than meets the eye. For someone to be allowed to come close to God’s glory, to touch what is holy, to enter the forbidden, says a lot of **Joshua’s** spiritual level and God’s acceptance of him. (Ex 24:13) We too, enter into God’s house, stand at the altar and take within our bodies the flesh and blood of our Savior. We must meditate on this truth day and night that we may be found worthy and through His mercy, are accepted.

Not long after their freedom, Moses sent a representative from the twelve tribes to scan the new land of Canaan, **Joshua** and Caleb came back with positive reports, quite contrary to what the others had to say. They kept trying to convince the people that they should trust in God and move ahead but the others got angry and wanted to stone them. (Num. 13: 17) For this reason God decided that the Israelites would wander in the desert for forty years till they learned how to rely on God’s judgment and laws rather than their own. (Num. 14:13). As modern well-educated people, we depend a lot on our own judgements and knowledge without consulting the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of us feel that there are only certain events in our lives where we might consider God’s interference. We strongly believe that day to day matters should be handled by our own capabilities otherwise we begin to feel incompetent. This is a great misconception the devil plants in our minds so that with our own free will we place God away on a shelf to use only when we have exhausted all our options. How can this be true when every aspect of our lives is His, from conception to our final breath and beyond? God was concerned



with the littlest of details when it came to Adam and Eve. Where they were to live, and what they will eat and drink was very important to Him. He even performed the first sacrifice of one of His creations so that He can make clothing for His disobedient children. With compassion that is unfathomed, He clothed them, just as we are supposed to clothe ourselves with the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Despite **Joshua's** apparent abilities, Moses did not alone choose him as his successor, but rather God chose him to be appointed as the new leader because the Spirit was in him. (Num.27; 18) It was a difficult act to follow, the people learned to fear, respect and listen to Moses and now they were told to do the same with **Joshua**. (Num. 27:18) He became a true leader, a military commander in the conquest of Canaan and as administrator over dividing the land. When we give God the glory and the praise we are exalted to higher heights. With acknowledging Him we succeed not only for bettering ourselves but for benefiting everyone around us as well. God chose Joshua not for his strength or his wisdom. He chose him because the Spirit was in him. He chose him because **Joshua** put God first in everything he did. We should do the same.

After Moses' death, God added to **Joshua** another role. He told him that he should meditate on the Law day and night and that he should be careful to do everything that is written in it. (Jos. 1:8) That is a heavy burden to carry not only are you responsible for your own spiritual level but are also burdened by the fact that everyone in your care is your responsibility. As a leader nowadays, we are more concerned with the way we sound and look, than pleasing our Lord. Being in a position of authority we must constantly pray and look towards God for His guidance. If at work, church or home, we can not take advantage of our positions and neglect our duties. Meditating on God's Law should be a must throughout the day, focusing on Him in everything we

do and think, and noticing Him in the people we meet. By night, it is necessary to review our behavior, making conscience modifications and repenting for unacceptable ones. **Joshua** did that and more. He interpreted and read publicly the Law to Israel He made sure that he did everything in his power to do what is right. This brings to mind "as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Jos. 24:15)

Just as Moses did, **Joshua** too led his people, across the Jordan River on dry land. (Jos.3: 16) It too was split for them to cross to safety. He followed in Moses' footsteps by interceding for his people and wrote law on stone tablets. Nearing Jericho, **Joshua** met a man with a drawn sword (Jos.5: 1315) and the wall of Jericho came tumbling down with only the blasts of trumpets.

Joshua's complete faithfulness in God is outstanding. His worthiness to stand and be accepted when weighed by God's scales is commendable. His greatness as a leader is respected. Even though he lived over 3000 years ago, we can still appreciate his accomplishments and his stance. For even now we still admire these qualities. I look forward for my son to possess them all.

Bible Quiz "Elijah or Elisha?" Answers

1. Elisha - 2 Kings 4:38-41
2. Both - 2 Kings 2:8-14
3. Elisha - 2 Kings 4:42:44
4. Both - 1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:20, 32-35
5. Elijah - 1 Kings 18:36-18
6. Elisha - 2 Kings 5:1-14
7. Both -1 Kings 17:10-16; 2 Kings 4:2-6
8. Elisha - 2 Kings 2:19-22
9. Elisha - 2 Kings 6:5-6
10. Elijah - 2 Kings 1:9-12