

## **Joshua: Captain in Training**

By Chad Blaha

***“May the LORD ... appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them” (Numbers 27:16–17 NIV).***

(Read Exodus 17:8–16)

This is a study of how God raised up a leader for His people. Joshua was a man who God thoroughly prepared for his mission. God knew all the skills that Joshua would need to return to the Promised Land and drive out the inhabitants. He knew that Joshua would need to be a spiritual leader as well as a military and governmental leader. Above all, he would have to depend on God to be his strength and guide.

**What responsibility was Joshua given in this experience?**

**What did he learn about prayer and dependence on God (symbolized by raised hands)?**

**What was God’s promise related to the Amalekites?**

Joshua was selected to lead the Israelites into battle, and he was allowed to be victorious. It was important that he learn very early that the battle is the Lord’s and that following directions and depending on God is the way to lead. The prayer warriors on the mountain won the battle. We need to remember, like Joshua, that the battle is won or lost by our effectual, fervent prayers and the perseverance of our prayer warrior-partners.

(Read Exodus 24:12–18 and 32:1–35)

**What was Joshua’s role in the delivery of the Law?**

**Why do you think God sent him with Moses?**

**How long did it take God to give Moses his instructions (Exodus 25–31) and the inscribed Law?**

**What did Joshua learn about God when he and Moses went back to the camp?**

**What did he learn about the Israelites?**

**What did he learn about Moses and his leadership of God's people?**

*We need to remember, like Joshua, that the battle is won or lost by our effectual, fervent prayers and the perseverance of our prayer warrior-partners.*

Joshua would never forget what he experienced climbing Mt. Sinai in the shadow of his great mentor, waiting for weeks as Moses received the Law, and then returning to the camp to find that the people had strayed into sin and disaster. He learned that God meant for His people to be pure and that sometimes the leader of God's people must become their intercessor.

(Read Exodus 33:1–11)

**How would you describe Joshua's relationship with Moses?**

**Why did they have this kind of relationship?**

**Who benefited from their relationship?**

**How do you think Moses felt about Joshua always being around?**

Moses knew how to lead Israel. He depended on God's instruction and followed the commands God had given him. The Lord knew that Moses would not be able to lead Israel into the Promised Land, so He arranged for an aide and successor.

If we look at the situation from Moses' view, we may be reminded of an important responsibility all *missional* Christians have. Missional Christians disciple new believers.

Moses taught Joshua how to lead and how to follow. He showed him what it meant to be intimate with God and also how to lead the people according to God's command and will.

**Who does God expect you to mentor at this time in your life?**

If we look at the situation from Joshua's view, we may be reminded that we must be aligned with godly men and women who can lead us and walk with us in God's work. God uses mentors to sharpen and prepare young Christians for their mission. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

**Who are the mentors God is using at this time to sharpen you for His mission?**

(Read Numbers 27:12–23 and Deuteronomy 34:1–12)

**Who nominated Joshua to be the next leader of the Israelites?**

**Who commissioned him as the new leader?**

**What happened when Moses laid his hands on Joshua?**

When Joshua took the responsibility as leader of God's people, he was ready. Not only was he ready, but the people accepted him, and he was called a man full of the spirit of wisdom. Pray about your mission and ministry. Pray that God will continue to equip you with the tools you need to complete the mission to which He has called you.