

JOSHUA, SON OF NUN

CHARACTER STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT: JOSHUA, SON OF NUN

One of the rewarding bi-products of reading the Word of God is learning about the people who were used by God. These men and women were individuals of great character who simply trusted in God and followed Him. Today we are going to take a look at a man named Joshua, who we read about in several Old Testament books such as Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, etc.

If there is a key verse that sums up Joshua's life it would probably be found in Joshua, Chapter 24, verse 15, in which he put a line in the sand in a sense with the following statement:

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

In Numbers 27:18-21 we read *"So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the LORD. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in."*

God instructed Moses to lay hands on Joshua and commission him to take over as leader of the Israelites. Moses was not allowed to go into the promise land and God had chosen Joshua to lead His people into it instead. Why did God choose Joshua? Can we learn from Joshua's life? In this character study we should learn:

- A. Who Joshua was.
- B. What Joshua did.
- C. How his life affected others.

Before we start, let's **PRAY** and ask God's Holy Spirit to open our hearts to receive His Word and to show us how to apply it in our life. Do not copy scriptures, but answer the question briefly and in your own words.

We first meet Joshua in the second book of the Bible, the book of Exodus.

1. What do the following verses tell us about Joshua?

Exodus 17:10 _____

Exodus 24:13 _____

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2. Was Joshua someone who could be counted on?

Exodus 33:11 _____

Numbers 13:8 _____

We've learned that Joshua had no problem with humbling himself. He set the example in following in the footsteps of whom God put ahead of him. He was willing to step up to the plate in sense and help those who God called to shepherd His people. It was because of these character traits that we see God made him a leader among the people.

3. How did Joshua demonstrate his trust in the Lord?

Numbers 14:6 _____

4. How does the Bible describe Joshua's following of the Lord?

Numbers 32:12 _____

Joshua was one that followed God wholeheartedly. He trusted in the Lord and knew that with God all things are possible. As a result of Joshua's commitment to the Lord we see several things happening.

5. What does God fill Joshua with?

Deuteronomy 34:9 _____

6. What does God do to Joshua in the sight of all Israel?

Joshua 4:14 _____

Often in reading about Joshua we find him setting example after example for us to follow. Joshua knew that in order to lead you have to set the standard.

7. In the many battles that were fought by the nation of Israel during Joshua's time were was Joshua most often found?

Joshua 6:12 _____

Joshua 8:10 _____

Joshua 10:29 _____

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8. In Joshua's encounter with the Lord what example did he set for us?

Joshua 5:14 _____

Joshua was a man of integrity. It is true that he had failed by accepting a peace treaty with the Gibeonites as a result of not inquiring of the Lord first, but God did turn his failure into a blessing when Joshua kept his word to protect them and therefore not breaking his oath with them.

9. Was Joshua good to his word?

Joshua 10:9 _____

10. How did God honor Joshua do to Joshua keeping his word?

Joshua 10:12, 13 _____

As with all great leaders Joshua had a lasting impression on the people who followed him. So much so that the Word makes it a point to tell us what they did.

11. Did those whom Joshua's life impacted still follow the Lord after he died?

Joshua 24:31 _____

In summarizing Joshua's life we see that he was Moses' assistant and successor. He was a brilliant military strategist who remained humble. He was one of only two adults who experienced Egyptian slavery and lived to enter the promise land. He was faithful to ask God's direction in the challenges he faced. He was a true leader in every sense. If ever there were a role model for us today, it would be Joshua!

Help commit to memory the key verse that sum's up Joshua's life, which is found on page 1 by writing it again here:
