

INTRODUCTION

We have entered 2020, a new year and a new decade. The signs of the end times are right before us. There are the rumors of wars, earthquakes (volcano eruptions, floods bush fires) and pestilences (viruses and diseases) etc. In times of shaking like these, the only unshakeable foundation for our lives is THE WORD OF THE GOD, the Word that will endure forever. We want to be like a tree planted by the rivers of water (as in Psalm 1). The man who is blessed in Psalm 1 delights in the law of the Lord and meditates in it day and night.

JOSHUA WAS A BLESSED MAN

Joshua was a man who was commanded to meditate on God's Law day and night and to obey all that is written in it. Although born in Egypt as a slave, Joshua saw how God provided Moses to be a deliverer for the Israelites, God's covenant people. Being Moses' humble and teachable assistant, he witnessed first-hand the many miracles which God did when Moses obeyed God's command and word - the 10 plagues, the opening of the red sea and the closing of the red sea that destroyed the Egyptian armies; the provision of manna and quails in the wilderness etc. He witnessed how God gave the 10 commandments to Moses up on Mt Sinai. Do you think he will take God's commandments and word lightly? He witnessed the victory over the Amalekites because Moses went up the mountain to pray. In Ex 17:14 the Lord told Moses to record down and recount it in the hearing of Joshua that He would blot out the Amalekites. God wanted Joshua to hear His Word and be assured of what God would do. He witnessed God stopping the sun from going down to enable him to fight on and defeat the Amorites. Later Moses commissioned him to lead God's people into the Promised Land. Deut 34:9. By then, Joshua had great faith in God and in what God commands and instructs.

As Joshua meditated on God's Word and obeyed them, he became a successful and respected leader who led Israel into the promised land and to occupy the land. Through two occasions where Israel was defeated and deceived, Joshua realized whether in big things or seemingly small things, he must not neglect to consult the LORD.

Life Lessons from Joshua: Take root in God's Word and we will have God's victory. Faith, obedience and dependence on God & His Word is what will make us strong and effective children & servants of God. Despite setbacks or failures in life, chose to keep following the LORD.

Joshua 1:6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall [a]divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.
7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may [b]prosper wherever you go.

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Ex 24: 2 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."
13 So Moses arose with **his assistant Joshua**, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

Deut 34:9

9 Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Joshua 24:14 "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of [d]the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of [e]the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**

Q. Why was Joshua a blessed man?

Q. What do you think went through Joshua's mind after witnessing how Moses received the law from God on Mt Sinai? Ex 24:2

Q. What can you learn from Joshua's obedience or failure to obey God's Word?

Q. Why was the instruction to Joshua in Joshua 1:8 so vital to Joshua's success in bringing God's people into the Promised land?

Q. How do you meditate on God's Word? Share with one another to encourage one another to do so in 2020.