

# Joshua

Joshua had been Moses' helper since Joshua was a young boy (Numbers 11:28). Joshua was born into slavery in Egypt and was delivered from slavery in the great Exodus. With his own eyes, Joshua saw the miracles God did in Egypt and in the wilderness. Joshua was a warrior (Exodus 17:8-13) and a man who followed God completely (Numbers 32:12). Joshua went with Moses, at least part of the way, to receive the Law on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32:17).

God told Moses that he would die without entering into the Promised Land. Moses asked God to appoint another man to lead the Israelites (Numbers 27:15-17). God instructed Moses to lay his hands on Joshua, in front of all the people so they would obey Joshua (Numbers 27:18-20). When Moses did this, Joshua received the spirit of wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9). God told Joshua that he would be the one to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 31:23). Joshua was nearly eighty years old by this time, but he was still very strong (Joshua 14:10-11). Moses spoke to all of the Israelites:

*He said, "I am now 120 years old, and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has told me, 'You will not cross the Jordan River.' But the Lord your God Himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy the nations living there, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua will lead you across the river, just as the Lord promised. - Deuteronomy 31:2-3*

Moses told the people to be strong and brave, because God would not fail and God would never leave them.

*Then Moses called for Joshua, and as all Israel watched, he said to him, "Be strong and courageous! For you will lead these people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors He would give them... Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; He will neither fail you nor abandon you." - Deuteronomy 31:7-8*

God warned Moses that after the Israelites were in the Promised Land and their lives were going very well, they would turn from God and begin to worship other gods. God said He would burn with anger and many disasters would come upon the people (Deuteronomy 31:16-18). After Moses died, God spoke directly to Joshua and told him three times to be strong and courageous. Joshua would have many battles to fight, but God promised to be with him every step of the way (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9).

*"I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will never leave you. I will never desert you." - Joshua 1:5b*

When you are following God and obeying His word, be brave. Remember that you have nothing to fear. God will always be with you!