

# Great is Thy Faithfulness

## Introduction to Joshua

Introduction:

1. Where does Joshua fall in Redemptive History? (hint: What books does it follow in the Bible?)
2. Where do we first see Joshua in the Bible?

**Exodus 17:8** Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup> So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." <sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <sup>13</sup> And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." <sup>15</sup> And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD is my banner.

3. What does Moses ask Joshua to do? What do you think Joshua profession or giftedness might be, given Moses' request?
4. What does the Lord ask Moses to do in 14? Why is it important that Joshua hear Moses' account of the battle?

**Exodus 24:12** The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup> So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." <sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

5. What is significant about knowing that Joshua went with Moses to receive the Ten Commandments?
6. What did the Israelite people do while Moses and Joshua were on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments? Where was Joshua during all of this? Why is this interesting and important to note?

**Numbers 11:28** And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them."

7. How long had Joshua been Moses' assistant?

Summarize Numbers 13-14:

**Numbers 13:1** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them." <sup>3</sup> So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel....And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.....

8. What was Joshua's given name? Why is it significant that Moses changed it?
9. What do we learn about Joshua from this account?
10. What judgment is pronounced on Israel? Who escapes this judgment?

**Numbers 27:12** The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup> When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, <sup>14</sup> because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) <sup>15</sup> Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, <sup>16</sup> "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation <sup>17</sup> who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd." <sup>18</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. <sup>19</sup> Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. <sup>20</sup> You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. <sup>21</sup> And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation." <sup>22</sup> And Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation.

11. Why was Moses not able to lead the people into the Promised Land? Who appointed Joshua to lead the people?
12. What description does the Lord give of Joshua?

**Deuteronomy 34:1** Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup> all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, <sup>3</sup> the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." <sup>5</sup> So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, <sup>6</sup> and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. <sup>7</sup> Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. <sup>8</sup> And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. <sup>9</sup> And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

13. When Moses commissioned Joshua for the work the Lord had appointed him to, what was given to Joshua?
14. What characteristics shaped Joshua for his role? Did God choose Joshua because of his giftedness in leadership, or did God gift and prepare Joshua to be able to lead?
15. The experiences in Joshua's life prepared him for the task God had set out for him. Look at your own life and think through all of the many experiences that God has brought you through. How have they prepared you for specific tasks to minister to those around you?