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God Leads Through Men
Duet. 31:1-8, 14

Leadership is something that is lacking in both our nation and our churches today due to the fact they both have ceased to depend on God for their guidance and they have become enamored with their own importance.

Often we make a mistake thinking that men are great but in reality there are only men who accomplish great things through God's leading.

In an article on leadership the following was written:

Just as important to a leader as credibility, is something most vital that creates belief in him: simplicity.

Simplicity includes the capacity of a leader to avoid becoming in any way entangled in the confused web of his own power. To keep clarity of purpose in the midst of the most devious machinations. Not to live many lives, as did a simple enough man like Warren G. Harding, or a complicated one like Woodrow Wilson, but instead to embody a few unmistakable goals, as did Lincoln, who was a very complicated simple man.
#3013

Good leadership is of the greatest importance and will determine the outcome of a home, a business, a nation, certainly the church and for that reason it must be the Lord Jesus who leads His church through called and anointed men!

We come to place where the people of God are ready to possess the promise land and Moses must hand over his leadership to Joshua.

The passage provides for us three things about the transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua.

- I. The explanation for the transfer of Moses' leadership. vs. 1-2
- II. The declaration of God's primary leadership through a man. vs. 3-6
- III. The proclamation that God commissioned Joshua's leadership. vs. 7-8, 14

I. The explanation for the transfer of Moses' leadership. vs. 1-2

- A. Moses was renewing the covenant with Israel before they entered the promise land. vs. 1
 1. He was to remind them of God's Power they saw in Egypt. 29:2-3
 2. He was to remind them of God's sorrow over their spiritual dullness. vs. 29:4
 3. He was to remind them of God's guidance in the wilderness. 29:5a
 4. He was to remind them of God's provisions. 29:5b-6
 4. He was to remind them of God's protection. 29:7
 5. He was to remind them of God's goodness. 29:8
 6. He was to remind them of God's covenant. 29:9
 7. He was to remind them of their accountability to God as a nation and individuals. 29:10-13
 8. He was to remind them of their future apostasy and regathering. 29:14-30-10
- B. Moses was giving the people the reasons for not being able to enter himself. vs. 2
 1. He was 120 years old.

- a. Forty years he had spent in Egypt being groomed for the throne of Egypt, as the son of Pharaoh.
 - b. Forty years he had spent in the land of Median, tending sheep.
 - c. Forty years he was used to lead the people of God out of Egypt and the wilderness.
2. He could no longer go out and come in, meaning unable to lead them.
 * This is no contradiction to the closing comment on Moses condition, for it merely points out that Moses was not sick nor dying of physical maladies but by god's choosing. 34:7
3. He could not cross over Jordan and enter into the land by God's prohibition.
- a. Moses had struck the rock at Kadesh rather than speaking to the rock. Num. 20:7-13
 - b. Moses had not believed God and misrepresented God to the people, giving the understanding that god was mad with the people, at the waters of Meribah, contention. Num. 27:14

This is the explanation for the transfer of Moses' leadership!

II The declaration of God's primary leadership through a man. vs. 3-6

- A. God would be the One who would cross over before them. vs. 3a-c
- 1. He would be the One to lead them.
 - 2. He would be the One to destroy those nations from before them.
 - 3. He would allow them to dispossess the nations.

- B. God would use Joshua as Moses' replacement. vs. 3d-3e
- 1. He would also go before them. vs. 3d
 - 2. He would be acting under God's leading, "As the lord has said". vs. 3e
 - 3. The Lord would defeat the enemy through Joshua as He did Sihon and Og through Moses. vs. 4
 - 4. The Lord would turn the enemy over to them in order that they do them as commanded. vs. 5
- C. God would be not abandon them. vs. 6
- 1. They were to be strong and of good courage due to the fact that it was God not man who was leading them.
 - 2. They were not to fear or be afraid of the enemy, due to the fact that it was God who they would fight for them.
 - 3. They were to know that it was the Lord who was going with them not merely before them.
 - 4. They were to understand that God would not leave them nor forsake them.

This is the declaration of God's primary leadership through a man!

III. The proclamation that God commissioned Joshua's leadership. vs. 7-8, 14

- A. Moses confirms the transfer of leader ship to Joshua by calling him out before all the people. vs. 7
- 1. He addressed Joshua in the sight of all of Israel. vs. 7a
 - 2. He encourages Joshua to be strong and of good courage. vs. 7b

3. He instructs Joshua that he must go with the people to the land which the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to them. vs. 7c
4. He points out his responsibility to cause them to inherit the land. vs. 7d

B. Moses reminds Joshua that it is God who will do the work through his leadership. vs. 8

1. God is the One who would go before him. vs. 8a-b
2. God would be with him. vs. 8c
3. God would not leave him nor forsake him. vs. 8d
4. God would not have him to fear nor be dismayed. vs. 8e

C. Moses knew God commissioned Joshua. vs. 14

1. God told Moses that the days of his death were near. vs. 14a-c
2. Moses was told by God to call Joshua and present themselves in the Tabernacle of meeting. vs. 14d-e
3. Moses was told by God that it was for the purpose of inaugurating Joshua as the leader of the people and so they did. vs. 14f-g

This is the proclamation that God commissioned Joshua's leadership!

IV. The application regarding leadership.

A. Men are called by God and anointed for a time and place.

1. They are mere men, like all others in need of salvation and guidance.
2. They are men of like passion as all others.

3. They are effective by God's calling and anointing not by man's ordination or seminary training.
4. They are all expendable and replaceable by another man.

B. Men can only lead if they are led by God.

1. God alone knows where He wants to work.
2. God alone knows how He wants and will work.
3. God alone knows how He will provide the resources.
4. God alone knows the troubles ahead.
5. God alone knows the outcome.
6. God alone can protect his servant.
7. God alone can encourage and strengthen man to stand in the most difficult of times.
8. God alone never fails, the best of men fail.

C. Men of God and places at times stand for biblical typologies.

1. The man Moses represents the law which could never make man perfect nor enable him to enter the land of promise.
 - a. The standard is perfection.
 - b. The human race is imperfect.
 - c. The law accuses man and makes him guilty before God.
2. The Jordan river represents the life of faith.
 - a. They would have to step into the Jordan in flood season before it would part, not like the Red Sea which they saw part before they crossed.
 - b. The promise land is not a type of heaven for there will not be any giants or walled cities in heaven but a life of trusting in God and in complete dependence.

3. The man Joshua represents a type of Christ.
 - a. His name means Jehovah is salvation, the contraction of Jehovah-shua.
 - b. His name in Greek is Jesus.
 - c. His leading alone can guide us into the life of faith and victory, through obedience to His word.
 - d. His leading will always be confirmed by and through His word, never apart nor in addition to it.
 - e. His leadership will make us courageous in Him not ourselves.
 - f. His leadership is not for our evil but it has an expected end for us.

This is the application regarding leadership!

Donald T. Phillips on his book , Lincoln On Leadership, says the following that there have been many leaders in our nation that have been considered to be great leaders and I would add, particularly some of our founding fathers, " Yet there is one who rises above them all. One who is consistently ranked as the greatest President. One who is viewed as the greatest leader this nation has ever known or will ever know. And one who, although dead for more than 125 years, still inspires and moves people from all walks of life, from all around the globe. That person is Abraham Lincoln". (p.p. 1)

Lincoln Proclaims National Fast Day #4965

Abraham Lincoln wrote an address to the nation during the Civil War that was at least as important as the Gettysburg address.

It was his proclamation for a national fast-day, by which he did designate and set apart Thursday the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer.

Lincoln wrote: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth announced by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

The awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us , then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."-----The Bible Friend

Conclusion

The passage has provided us three things about the transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua.

- I. The explanation for the transfer of Moses' leadership, Moses' time was over!
- II. The declaration of God's primary leadership through a man, because they are only a vessel!
- III. The proclamation that God commissioned Joshua's leadership, by equipping and enabling him!