

Joshua*The Torch Is Passed*

Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1

We are living in a time of epoch change, so much so, many are saying,
"Things will never be the same again."

Examples of articles posted on the internet over the past year:

- *In a post-Covid world, things will never be the same again.*
- *After COVID-19, work will never be 'normal' again.*
- *We spent a day inside a hospital: Here's how things will never be the same after COVID.*
- *IBM Report: Four Things That Will Never Be the Same Post-Pandemic.*
- *The 20 Industries That Will Never Be the Same after the Coronavirus*
- *After coronavirus the world will never be the same. But maybe, it can be better.*

"There is nothing new under the sun." (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**)

Deuteronomy 34:5-12. *So Moses the servant of Yahweh died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of Yahweh. 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. Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.*

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. 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 Yahweh had commanded Moses.

And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that Yahweh sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:3, 23 - Joshua, son of Nun, was designated by God to be Moses' successor.

vv. 10-11 *There has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and wonder that Yahweh sent him to do in the land of*

Egypt...all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did for all of Israel to see.

Moses was one of a kind.

Moses' legacy was a God-thing more than it was a Moses-thing.

To add to Israel's shock, it seemed that Moses' departure was premature. **v. 7** - Moses was still sharp—*his vision undimmed and his vigor unabated.*

Deuteronomy 32 – Moses broke trust with God.

Every leader has a shelf-life in an organization. God raises up new leaders for new needs for a new day.

The entire landscape of Israel was about to change, and things would never be the same again.

Deuteronomy ends on a note of uncertainty, but the good news is, in God's kingdom, **Deuteronomy 34s** are always followed by **Joshua 1s**.

Joshua 1:1-2a **AFTER** the death of Moses the servant of Yahweh, Yahweh said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, **MOSES MY SERVANT IS DEAD.**

This is after Moses' death, after the 30 days of mourning. Why does Yahweh state the obvious? Why does Joshua record the obvious for Israel to read? Why rub salt in the wound of a grieving, frightened nation?

Yahweh does here what a memorial service does several days after a loved one has died and the family needs a point of closure.

Some losses/changes are so difficult, it's easy to live in a state of denial and avoid facing the reality that life has changed, and it will never be the same again.

What things are you emotionally attached to that God might be saying in this change moment, *"What has served my purposes in the past is no longer needed or effective; it's, in a sense, dead"*?

If Israel fails to let Moses go, it would paralyze them on the east side of the Jordan.

If we refuse to accept that some things will never be the same in this time of epoch change, we will be paralyzed on the east side of our own Jordan.

"Moses my servant is dead," means that some things have changed and will never be the same, again. See in his loss the opportunity for your gain, to go where you've never been before—deeper into the blessing of God.

God goes on in **Joshua 1** to remind us, in all the change, what never changes.

vv. 2-6 *"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them. to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you. just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses. so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them."*

What did not change in all the epoch change?

- God's person
- God's people
- God's plan and promise
- God's presence

Implicit & Explicit Admonitions:

- Hold on to what is unchanging—God and his Word. (cf. **Acts 6**)
- Let go when it's time to let go.
- Do not get too comfortable. (cf. **Philippians 3:14**).
- Arise, go!

A word to the gen-next: **The torch is being passed to you.**

"Moses, my servant is dead" reminds us that we need to let go, even as we hold on to God in these changing times.

God does not change, but we must.