

044 Joshua becomes leader

MEMORY VERSE: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" Joshua 1:5

SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Joshua 1:1-11; Jude 9

AIM:

Moses was one hundred twenty years old when it was time for God to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Moses thought back over all the miracles God had performed to show the nations what a powerful, loving and faithful God He is. But now, Moses knew that he had come to the end of His journey, and yet he was not sad. Instead he joyfully celebrated all God had done for Israel. After blessing all the tribes he said, "Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper!"

God brought Moses up to a high mountain top so he could see the promised land. God pointed to the land across from Jericho. "All that is the Promised Land," said God. "I promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that I would give it to their children and all the generations that followed. See that land to the south? And the land to the north? Now look at the sea coast on the west and to the Jordan River on the east." and Moses was happy that Israel would soon be in their new land.

Very soon after, Moses died. Moses was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. He was the only one to whom the Lord spoke face to face. But later God resurrected Moses and took him to heaven.

Meanwhile, the people felt very sad they had lost their great leader. But God had already chosen a new leader whose name was Joshua. Moses knew that Joshua was God's chosen leader who would come after him. That is why, before he died Moses laid his hands on Joshua. The Bible tells us that Joshua was filled with the Spirit of Wisdom. God spoke to Joshua and said, "Now that Moses is gone, you are the new leader of Israel. Lead My people across the Jordan River into the Promised Land."

Though Joshua was probably tempted to be afraid, God told him "Be strong and brave! Don't be frightened! I promise to be with you, just as I was with Moses. And keep My law. Study it day and night and teach My people to obey it too."

Now that God had promised to help him and be with him, Joshua felt able to take on his new job. And his first task was to prepare the Israelites to cross the Jordan River.

HMMM.... Not Finished!