

Someone reading this may feel God's calling on his life. You may be able to look back and see different things that have happened which denote God's dealings in your life. There is that extra something that has made you aware that there is a greater service than you've been doing thus far. Just remember that whom God calls He also, without exception, qualifies!

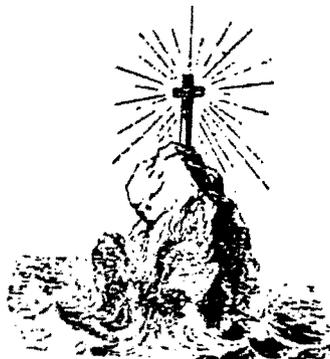
We see our glorious God dealing patiently with His people. God already knew that Joshua was going to be the new leader to succeed Moses. But God waited until Moses felt the need for this and prayed for God to do it. Then God proved His power by meeting the need, and making known His Divine appointment of Joshua. All during the years God had been preparing Joshua for this very event. When Joshua stood before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, when Moses laid hands on him and gave him his public charge to his appointed ministry, Joshua knew then how God had been dealing with him all his life, preparing him for this very moment. Now He who is faithful was also He who had promised! When Moses laid his hands on Joshua it signified the transfer to him of the gifts, office and authority of Moses. It was the appointment of Joshua to his God-ordained ministry. With that divine appointment, He also received his equipment for that ministry. Now at the word of Joshua the people were to go out and to come in. Think of it! After Moses conferred the leadership of Israel to Joshua, at Joshua's word the whole congregation of Israel was to move out from their wilderness experience into their inheritance in the Promised Land.

There had been many years of preparation in the life of Joshua. Many great things had happened to him and many events had brought honor to him. If he had not remained faithful he could have been robbed of that place of ruling authority for which God was grooming him.

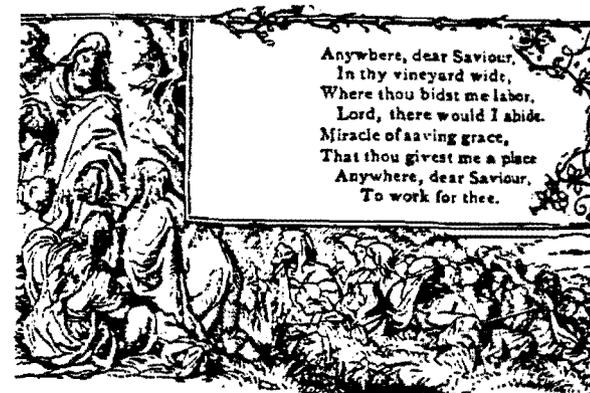
We can see Joshua receiving some of

Moses' honor conferred upon him. We can compare Joshua as a type of Christ. Peter tells us, "...we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory. THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED." (II Peter 1:16,17) Our glorious Savior, Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, has led all of the redeemed from the bondage of eternal death into the realms of eternal life. He established a "NEW COVENANT" which is founded on better promises. That "NEW COVENANT" is under seal, the seal of His own blood. In that Divine Covenant, we have access to our "eternal inheritance." The Israelites were to hear the words of Joshua, and at those words were to realize their redemption from their years of wandering. They were to enter their Promised Land. Through Jesus Christ, at His Word, we are to move on into 'our' Promised Land, to claim our portion of the Divine Estate of Christ.

Remember this, God never chooses a man or a woman for His work, but what He also equips that person with everything that they will need. When they are genuinely called, God will set them aside and qualify them. - Rev. Neil Glasse



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Anywhere, dear Saviour,
In thy vineyard wide,
Where thou bidst me labor,
Lord, there would I abide.
Miracle of saving grace,
That thou givest me a place
Anywhere, dear Saviour,
To work for thee.

WHOM HE CALLS -
HE ALSO QUALIFIES!

In the Scriptures we find the record of a man named Joshua. As we read about this man, we are taught a tremendous truth concerning some of God's methods of operation. How true it is that 'many are called but few are chosen!' It is also true that God never chooses an individual to accomplish His purposes but one whom He Himself has qualified for the work! God said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jer. 1:4,5) Let us consider the impact of these words. God told Jeremiah that he had done two things unto him - formed him, and ordained him to a ministry. Jeremiah was made to know that God had worked both in his personal nature ("I formed thee,") and in his circumstances ("I ordained thee,"). This is the very thing God always does, for it is one of His methods of operation.

In these days of God's great restoration outpouring there are many who are feeling deep longings and strivings in their spirits. They have come to know that this is the mighty work of God within, preparing and

qualifying them for His divine work in these last days! This is one of the most precious things one could ever experience: the mighty workings of God in one's life.

In Num. 27:15-23 we find the account of Joshua, the son of Nun, receiving the call of God on his life. I am sure that very early in life, Joshua was aware that God was preparing him for a great service. It appears that Joshua belonged to the principal family of the tribe of Ephraim. His grandfather, Elishama, was captain and head of that tribe. In the order of march through the wilderness, he marched at its head, while his son, Nun, and his grandson, Joshua, marched beside him! At a very early age Joshua came to believe strongly in his nation and his nation's God, and to feel that their destiny was such that they were worthy of the service of his life. In Ex. 17:8-16 there is an account of an attack upon the Israelites early in their wilderness life by the nation of Amalek. Joshua was chosen by Moses to raise an army and repel this attack. A great victory was won and Joshua must have been the hero of the whole nation, just as David was later on when he had killed the giant Goliath! This great victory did not cause Joshua to become puffed up; rather it gave him a deeper determination to put his trust only in God. How sad it is to see a person called of God and used of God fall into the trap of self-adulation or pride that immediately negates the effectiveness of that person's ministry.

After this great victory Joshua was selected by Moses to be his personal companion and attendant in connection with the receiving of the Law on Mt. Sinai. Here we see again something of the way God works. It seems from the Scriptural record that Joshua remained on the Mount for all of the forty days and nights while Moses was with God. Aaron and the 70 elders returned to the camp of Israel and were involved in the idolatry of the golden calf. But when we see Moses descending with

the Law, we discover Joshua beside him. Joshua was faithful to attend Moses and the Tabernacle from that time forward.

Num. 13-14 shows Joshua again being appointed to an important service -- that of being one of the twelve spies who went into Canaan to spy out the land. Ten came back with an evil report. TWO came back firmly standing on the side of God and declaring that the people of God were well able to take the land. Because of his stand, Joshua's life was preserved and he was allowed to enter and obtain a home in the Promised Land.

One of our greatest needs is for God's people to fully recognize and understand what has been made available to them by Jesus Christ: their place of victory, their place of authority, their place of power. Contrary to the belief of many, the children of God do not have to wait until they get to heaven to enjoy victory in Christ Jesus. We can enter into 'our' promised land right now, by faith. There may be giants close by, but one child of God and Jesus Christ makes up the majority army. There is absolutely no defeat in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Just before the death of Moses we find him talking to God about appointing a man to lead the congregation, who could go out and go in before them and who would lead them out, and bring them in so that the congregation of the Lord would not be as sheep which have no shepherd. The Lord answers Moses and directs him to take Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and to lay hands on him, and set Joshua before Eleazar, the priest, and before all the congregation. Moses gives him a charge in their sight. God told Moses to put some of his honor on him so that all the congregation of the children of Israel would be obedient unto their new leader. We see Moses taking Joshua and doing as the Lord had commanded. (Num. 27:15-23)

Joshua is given this charge: "Be strong

and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." (Deut. 31:7,8)

"And Joshua, the Son of Nun, was FULL OF THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM, for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses." (Deut. 34:9)

What a promise! If the Lord gave this mighty promise to Joshua to lead the Children of Israel into the promised land of Canaan, how much more will he provide victory for His sons and daughters today?

The prayer that Moses prayed concerning the man to take his place as leader of Israel was one of seven prayers of Moses which have found a place in the Scriptural Record. Moses prayed a great prayer that the God who knew the spirits of men would appoint a true shepherd over the affairs of the nation. We find Moses interceding in behalf of Israel when God's anger was kindled against them over the idolatry of the golden calf; he had asked for the Divine presence and glory of God to go with him as he led the nation; he had prayed for Divine help for the performance of all his duties; he had sought God in behalf of his sister Miriam, that she might be cured of her leprosy; and when the nation of Israel proved disobedient and faithless at Kadesh-Barnea, refusing to enter into their inheritance, he prayed and persuaded God not to disinherit the nation and raise up another nation in its place! In this sixth prayer of Moses we see the longing desire of his heart is to see a true shepherd to lead them on into the fulfillment of the plan of God, a true shepherd who would watch over them and keep their feet in the pathway of God's purposes.