

The Broadmoor Bulletin

A Monthly Publication for the Christians at Broadmoor

November 2006

Joshua

Joshua and Jesus

Hebrews 10:1 says the law was not the image, but only a shadow of the good things to come. As we study the Old and New Testaments, we find that concept played out over and over again. The same is true with Joshua. Joshua, in many ways, foreshadowed Jesus Christ.

1) The names “Joshua” and “Jesus” actually originate from the same source name. Joshua’s original name was “Hoshea”, meaning “salvation”. Moses changed it to “Joshua” (Heb. *Yehoshua*), which means “Yahweh is salvation” (Num. 13:16). In Aramaic, that name was shortened to Yeshua, which in the Greek became Yesous, which is spelled “Jesus” in English. The angel told Joseph that the child would be named “Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Both men’s names are connected to salvation. (The word “Jesus” in Heb. 4:8 and Acts 7:45 of the KJV is better translated “Joshua”).

2) With God’s direction, Joshua showed the Israelites the way to the salvation of the promised land. Jesus, in a much more significant way, showed people the way to eternal salvation; the promised land of heaven (Jn. 14:6). The Israelites entered their rest (Josh. 11:23; 21:44). Heaven is our final rest (Heb. 4:8-10). Joshua provided Israel with their inheritance (Josh. 11:23). Our inheritance is in heaven (Eph. 1:11; 1 Pet 1:4).

3) Joshua followed Moses. Christ did too, in a different but interesting way (Jn. 1:17; Gal 3:24).

4) Joshua interceded for Israel when they sinned (Josh. 7:6-9). Jesus is our mediator (1 Jn. 2:1; Heb. 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5).

5) Both men had to choose 12 men for an important task. Joshua chose one man from each tribe to carry one stone each as they crossed the Jordan to enter the promised land of Canaan for the first time (Josh. 4:1-10). Jesus, of course, chose twelve men to accompany Him in His ministry and to later be leaders in His church – the apostles (Matt. 10:1-4).

6) Just before his death, Joshua warned the people that they could not serve both God and idols (Josh. 24:14-24). Similarly, Jesus warned that God and mammon (riches - or anything in which we put our trust) could not be served simultaneously (Matt. 6:24).

7) There was still land to be taken from the Canaanites upon the death of Joshua (Josh. 13:1-7; Judg. 1:1ff). He left that work to those that came after him. Even though Christ accomplished the work He came to do (Jn. 17:4), He left work for those who followed Him (Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15).

(Continued on page 2)

Divine Communication in the Book of Joshua

The book of Joshua is divided into two sections. The first 12 chapters tell of the possession of the land and the second 12 chapters tell of the division of the land. In the first section, a particular pattern is repeated. Six times the text states that the Lord told Joshua, Joshua instructed the people, and the people did as they were instructed.

- *Prepare to cross the Jordan River (1:1-9, 10-15, 16-18)*
- *Stand still in the Jordan (3:7-8, 9-13, 14-17)*
- *Take twelve stones from the Jordan (4:1-3, 4-7, 8)*
- *Come up from the Jordan (4:15-16, 17, 18-19)*
- *Destroy Jericho (6:2-5, 6-7, 8-21)*
- *Set an ambush for Ai (8:1-2, 3-8, 9-17)*

Five additional times God instructed Joshua, and Joshua obeyed the Lord’s voice.

- *Circumcise Israel (5:2, 3)*
- *Remove evil from the camp (7:10-15, 16-26)*
- *Stretch out your javelin (8:18, 18)*
- *Do not fear the five-king coalition (10:8, 9)*
- *Hamstringing the horses of the five-king coalition (11:6, 7-9)*

In one particular example, this pattern is noticeably absent. The Gibeonites were under a death sentence as inhabitants of Canaan. However, they deceived Joshua into thinking that they were from a distant country, making a covenant for safety. This time, God did not give instructions on the matter, and Joshua and the Israelites “did not ask for the counsel of the Lord” (9:14).

Notice the following lessons we learn from the pattern of communication in Joshua.

1) *God gave instructions for the people.* If God has expectations for His people, He will instruct them. God promised Israel the Land of Canaan, and He guided them in the process of taking the land. Today, God has also revealed His expectations to us in an understandable way (Eph. 3:3-5; Heb. 1:1-2).

2) *Joshua spoke the word of the Lord.* When God spoke to Joshua, He expected him to relay His word to the people of Israel. Joshua did not have the prerogative to change God’s message. Today, we have a responsibility to spread God’s word, and we must speak with a book, chapter and verse, instead of our own opinion (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Pet. 4:11).

3) *Joshua and the Israelites obeyed the word of the Lord.* As God’s leader, Joshua was not only responsible for relaying God’s word; he also had to obey it. The people of Israel looked to Joshua to speak and live the word of God.

(Continued on page 2)

Joshua and Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

8) Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites fought many battles to obtain the promised land. With Jesus as our example (Heb. 12:1), we "fight the good fight of faith" in our quest for the heavenly promised land (1 Tim. 6:12).

9) God worked wonders to bring about His purposes during the conquest (e.g., Jericho; Josh. 2:9-11). Jesus did the works of the Father during His ministry to illustrate His power and confirm the words He spoke (Jn. 5:36; 10:37-38; 14:10-12).

10) Joshua is never spoken of negatively in the entire Bible. This speaks well of his character. Although treated badly by others at times, Jesus never retaliated. He knew no sin (1 Pet. 2:22-24).

11) With only Caleb by his side, Joshua brought a good report back from spying out the land of Canaan (Num. 14). The other spies would not stand with him. Jesus experienced abandonment as well when His own disciples fled from Him when the mob came to take Him in the garden (Matt. 26).

12) Joshua had to be thoroughly prepared to lead the people as successor to Moses. In Exodus 33:11, we read of Joshua working in the tabernacle as an assistant to Moses; he fought the men of Amalek under the direction of Moses (Exod. 17); he went with Moses to the mountain to receive instruction from God (Exod. 24:13f); Moses was to encourage and strengthen Joshua (Deut. 3:28). Jesus, too, had to undergo preparation for His mission. At a young age, He found it necessary to be studying in the temple (Lk. 2:46-49), similar to the example of Joshua. Jesus prayed to His Father for strength on a regular basis (Lk. 6:12). His experiences living as a man taught Him what temptation was all about (Heb. 5:8; 4:15).

13) Jesus had no biological, earthly father (Lk. 3:23; 2:49), so it could be said he was the son of none. Joshua, of course, was also the son of Nun! (Num. 14:6)

Although their names both mean salvation, it was God the Father that worked salvation through both "Joshuas". A greater salvation, an eternal one, based upon the sacrifice of Jesus, awaits his faithful. "...*Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*" (Heb. 9:28)

Norman Harber

"Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:14 – 15

Divine Communication in the Book of Joshua

(Continued from page 1)

When others see us, they will take notice if we practice what we preach (1 Tim. 4:11-12, 16). The people of Israel should also be commended. When God told them what to do, they simply obeyed. They did not question the Lord and they did not delay. We must imitate their example of obedience (Rom. 6:16-18; 15:4).

4) *Without the word of the Lord we can be deceived.* Joshua and the people could have avoided deception if they had inquired of the Lord. There is stability in the truth of God's word, but when we fail to go it, we can be deceived by error (Eph. 4:14-15).

Jeremy Sweets

To Talk or to Think?

**Curt's
C
o
r
n
e
r**

There are practical reasons why we need at least 10 minutes between our Bible study and our worship services each Sunday morning. Attending to our needs and getting things ready for worship does take a little time. And, of course, we should say a kind word of welcome to visitors who sit near us. But is it a time to talk about the trivial things of life?

On any given Sunday morning, it is not uncommon to hear some talking about the Saturday ball games, or others talking about some thing their kid(s) did recently. And we all are guilty about wanting to get one more look at some baby (they sure are cute, aren't they?).

However...each Sunday morning we assemble to worship the God of the Universe, our Creator and Savior. Quiet reflection would seem to be more appropriate than getting caught up on the latest news from our friends. Read a passage, count your blessings, or in some other way think about what it means to have a God who loves us.

Curtis Byers

?? Did You Know??

???

1. Joshua won a great battle against the nation of Amalek at Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 17)
2. Joshua's original name was Hoshea, the son of Nun. (Numbers 13)
3. He was from the tribe of Ephraim. (Numbers 13)
4. He was one of the twelve spies Moses sent out to see the land of Canaan. (Numbers 13)
5. After Moses' death he was given charge as the new leader of the nation of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31)
6. He gave a stirring speech where he persuaded the people to renew their covenant with God. (Joshua 24)

Jesse Roy

Big Shoes to Fill

Can you imagine how it must have felt to follow Moses as the leader of God's people? Moses opposed the Pharaoh of Egypt, the greatest political leader of his day. He was the instrument through whom God brought judgment upon Pharaoh in the form of the plagues. The LORD God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. The LORD gave Moses the Law on Mount Sinai. Moses saw enough of God's glory that his face shone (Exodus 33:18 – 23; 34:29 – 35). How could Joshua follow someone like Moses?

1. *Moses helped prepare Joshua for the tasks ahead of him.* Joshua became a helper for Moses when he was a young man (Numbers 11:28). While Moses was still living, he transferred some of the responsibilities of leadership to Joshua (Numbers 27:15 – 23).
2. *God Himself encouraged Joshua.* God spoke to Joshua as recorded in Joshua 1:1 – 9 and promised that He would not fail or forsake Joshua. He encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous and trust in God's help.
3. *God reminded Joshua to meditate on God's word and be careful to follow it.* Following God's law would ensure Joshua's success as a leader of God's people.

Many of us have probably felt at times like Joshua felt. The tasks set before us seem overwhelming. Whether it is our role as a parent, grandparent, elder, deacon, evangelist, Bible class teacher, or some other position, we feel that the shoes are too big for us to fill. We feel inadequate for the challenges we face. Perhaps looking at Joshua can help us in our struggles.

God will provide people to help equip us for the works He wants us to accomplish. God has provided leaders in the church to equip Christians for the work of service (Eph. 4:11 - 12). God provided a faithful grandmother and mother for Timothy who helped equip him for the work he would accomplish as an evangelist (2 Tim. 1:5). God provides older Christian women who can train younger women to properly care for their families (Titus 2:3 – 5).

God has promised to be with us (Hebrews 13:5 – 6). When we remember that He is our helper, we do not need to feel inadequate or afraid. God has promised to give us wisdom if we ask and are confident in His power to provide (James 1:5 – 8). God has provided His word to make us "adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16 – 17). Let us therefore be strong and courageous and remember that the Lord will help us succeed in the tasks He has prepared for us when we seek His help in prayer and when we are careful to follow His word.

Gilbert Booher

Have you misplaced any of your previous issues of the Broadmoor Bulletin? They are now available on our website. Check them out at the following link: http://www.broadmoorchurch.com/study_material.htm.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

The Internet and the Christian

The internet is a fountain of information, presenting various opportunities. Its use has grown steadily over the past 20 years. It is now estimated that over a billion people worldwide are using the internet, including 70% of the North American population. The Christian must realize that the internet can be used for both good and evil. We would be wise to follow Paul's instruction to the Romans, "I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil" (Rom. 16:19). With that in mind, consider a few points about the internet and the Christian.

- *The internet is a place of information.* There is a great deal of information exchange and communication that takes place on the internet. Some information on the web is false, however. The Christian must examine all things to see if they are true (1 Thess. 5:21-22). E-mails have become a common way to communicate with nearly 12 billion e-mails sent every day. Our communication must be conducted with proper speech, always avoiding foul language (Col. 4:6; Eph. 5:4). Never forward an e-mail of dirty jokes.
- *The internet is a place to fulfill lusts.* The bible warns us not to make provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts (Rom. 13:13-14). The internet provides that opportunity with illegal downloads, online gambling, and pornography. The Christians must avoid these sinful practices at all costs. 2.6 billion copyrighted files, mostly music files, are downloaded each month. The Christian must put away stealing and labor with his hands, legitimately purchasing files (Eph. 4:28). Online gambling has become a \$5 billion industry, but the Bible gives principles which are incompatible with gambling. The bible warns against coveting and requires that we love our neighbor (Rom. 13:9). Pornography has spread like wildfire due to its instant access and addictive nature. Pornography destroys the purity of the sexual relationship (Heb. 13:4). Christians must refrain from lusting after members of the opposite sex (Matt. 5:27-30).
- *The internet is a place to preach the gospel.* The gospel is God's power for salvation to all men, and we must use every possible way to spread that powerful message (Rom. 1:14-16). The internet provides a great opportunity to preach God's word, reaching a world-wide audience (Mk. 16:15). Various kinds of material can be posted including articles, sermons and interactive correspondence courses. Broadmoor has developed a website in order to preach God's word and edify saints (www.broadmoorchurch.com). Have you thought about how you can use the internet to spread the gospel? Send an e-mail with an invitation to a gospel meeting or an article on a Bible subject. Print out business cards with our website on it, and hand it to others. Tell others that we have a new website. While it is possible that someone may stumble upon our website, the best chance of getting others to utilize this tool is to give them a personal invitation. Spread the word. You never know the good that may come from it.

Jeremy Sweets