

Deuteronomy 31 - Appointment of Joshua

Another Description of the Appointment of Joshua, relating to **Numbers 27**.

Deuteronomy is basically a review of what God has done for Israel since the Exodus. At chapter 31, we get to where we are in Numbers now. Joshua is being appointed successor to Moses.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Repeated for Joshua, but with this added:

Deuteronomy 31:8 - "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."

Paul quotes this:

1 Corinthians 16:13 - "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

"quit you like men" is the Septuagint version of the Hebrew phrase in Deuteronomy 31:6.

"he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" - quoted in Hebrew 13:5

- **Hebrews 13:5** - "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Covetousness is identified with idolatry in **Colossians 3:5**, which is what the passage in Deuteronomy is warning them about.

The word "forsake" is always used in the Old Testament to refer to sustenance. God will always provide for our physical and spiritual sustenance. We turn to idolatry - a god made by our own hands - if we forget that. We start to rely on anything that we think will provide us with "corn and wine and oil" (Hosea 2)

- **Hosea 2:5, 8** - "For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink. ... For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal."

"fear not, neither be dismayed" - Even if there are giants. Compare this to Romans 8:31

- **Romans 8:31** - "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Joshua will not only lead Israel in to the Promised Land, he will "cause them" or "enable them" to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 31:7 - "...thou shalt cause them to inherit it."

Only Jesus can do this. We can't inherit the Land unless He causes us to.

- **Joshua 11:23** - "So Joshua took the entire land, in keeping with all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to the allotments to their tribes. Then the land had rest from war."

- **Joshua 22:4** - "And now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as He promised them, you may return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you across the Jordan."

Although Joshua is described as having "given rest" to the people, it was not complete. Joshua did not accomplish this:

- **Hebrews 4:8** - "For if Jesus (Joshua) had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day."

The Canaanite resistance to our inner inheritance come from guilt, from fear, from worry, from covetousness. But in faith we don't have to be "dismayed" by this.

He will "cause us" or "enable us" to inherit the land.

- **Philippians 1:6** - "He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus .."