JOSHUA

SLAVE NO MORE

The chains that break you, are the chains that make you and the chains that make you, are

the chains you break.

Anthony LIccione

Introduction

For the following several weeks we are going to look at a most interesting individual by the

name of Joshua. There is very little written about Joshua’s upbringing or childhood. What

is known about Joshua is that he is the son of Nun and his name is birthname is Hoshea,

which means salvation, but Moses changed his name to Joshua which means, “The Lord is

my Salvation” (Numbers 13:16). Joshua was born in Egypt during the period of Israelite

enslavement. He belonged to the tribe of Ephraim, one of the two tribes descended from

Joseph.

Joshua was born a slave along with Caleb, and stands out for his courage, loyalty and

consistency along with a whole slew of other outstanding character attributes. The most

interesting thing about Joshua is how he could remain so victorious during so much defeat.

Those principles and precepts that governed his life are worthy of examination and

duplication. He was a man that refused to live with a slave mentality and approached life

from victory and not towards victory. I am reminded of Douglas Frederick, and how he was

born a slave but overcame extreme opposition during his life. He stated, “I was made to

drink the bitterest dregs of slavery, and yet they could not crush the spirit of freedom in my

soul”. Joshua had such a spirit and was different from many others born into slavery as

well. They could not remove the spirit of freedom and hope that was placed inside him.

He was a victor in the midst of victims and was able to overcome a slave mindset. Aristotle

said, “the worst thing about slavery is that the slaves eventually get to like it”. There are so

many individuals that live defeated lives and have a slave mindset. In the study we will see

the development of Joshua and how God was able to use this man to accomplish great

things. Our hope and prayer are that you will participate by reading or listening to the

studies, meditate upon the precepts and principles that will be put forth and apply them to

your lives. Through the Word of God we will see walls crumble, enemies defeated, and

God glorified.

The Christian is designed to be victorious and vocal concerning their faith. There are

however many things that seek to bind and limit one’s growth in Christ. There are many

things that people have gone through and things that they did not ask for nor seek. Many of

these things have been hidden in the recesses of their lives. These events have hampered

their lives, marriages and understanding of God. My desire is that the Word of God will

strengthen, release and encourage you.

Southwest Baptist Church

Generational Differences

Joshua The Slave

Key Truths- without faith it is impossible to please God.

Key Applications-God is faithful to keep His covenant promises to His people then and

now, regardless of the conditions that one has.

Verses to Ponder-Hebrews 6; Romans 4:13;18-22

Pray and Read-Genesis 15

The Faith of our Fathers

In the Abrahamic covenant, God promised him that he was going to bless him exceedingly.

The problem was that he had no children and was greatly advanced in age along with Sara

his wife. The promise was that the heir would come from Sara and would not belong to the

son of the Egyptian handmaid. The bible tells us that Abram believed God and it was

counted unto him for righteousness (Genesis 15:6). The lord to a three-year-old heifer, a

three year-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

He cut them in two and, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other, but

he did not cut the birds in two.

“Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and behold, horror and

great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram. ‘Know certainly that your

descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will

afflict them for four hundred years. And also, the nation whom they serve I will judge,

afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your

fathers in peace, you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they

shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete (Genesis 15:12). Then

God passed in the middle of the carcasses in the form of a smoking oven and a burning

torch. He went through it alone and not with Abram.

This was a blood covenant. Individuals would part the animals and then bind their wrists

together and walk down the center together. They were saying, may the same thing that

happened to these animals happen to me if I break the covenant that was made today. The

only difference was that this was usually done in agreement with each other, but no such

agreement was made. God swore on His own name and the covenant was not dependent

on Abram’s faithfulness but solely upon God (Hebrews 6:13).

This story would be relayed to the Israelites from generation to generation because they

were in a land under a Pharaoh that did not recognize nor remember Joseph (Exodus 1:8).

Because of fear he placed them in bondage. Pharaoh ordered that all male children be put

to death at birth. But when Moses’ mother saw that he was a beautiful child she hid him.

The rest of the story is history. The Hebrew slaves cried out to God continually because of

the bitterness of bondage. Moses at twenty years old would be when Joshua was born

under harsh bondage. Joshua grew up right along with the other children but was a person

with a different spirit. There is no biblical documentation of his upbringing, but it is certain

that he heard the stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Though he was seen as a slave,

Joshua would become one of the greatest soldiers in the Old Testament. How in the world

did he maintain a victor's mindset when surrounded by so many victims?

The first thing that had to be developed in his life is the same that must be developed in the

life of the Christian. He believed differently than the other slaves. Abram believed God and

it was counted to him for righteousness. He must have heard this and applied it to his life.

This principle is in effect today. God’s truths are worthless if the believer is not willing to

apply them and believer them.

James talks about the different types of faith in James 2:14-26. There is a dull faith and that

is the one that talks but does nothing with it. There is also a demon's faith. They believe in

God and tremble in fear of God. Both of these are not enough to save anyone. Then there

is a dynamic faith, and James highlights the lives of Abraham and Rahab. The first thing

that affected Joshua was that he believed the right things about God and placed his trust in

him even while a slave. Once again you cannot find that exactly stated that way, but you

can know that something was different about Joshua, and it is something that is still in

effect to anyone today that is willing to do the same.

The second thing that occurs when someone believes God and that is that their behavior

changes as well. There are individuals that know so much bible but have unchanged lives.

The true litmus test is that what you believe should change how you behave. One does not

behave because they must but because something has caused them to change (Romans

12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

The third thing about Joshua would be what he believed about God and how those beliefs

changed his behavior, but it also changed to whom he belonged. He identified with God’s

people and lived, suffered and rejoiced with them. He never left them and that would be

due to his devotion to God and to the people of God. There are many church going

individuals that will belong to God’s people if it is convenient but abandon at the first sight

of trouble. They go to church seeking the services and benefits of being a member. Joshua

belonged to God in the good and bad times and gave Him his life. One should not go to

church seeking benefit but should go in seeking how they will serve God and serve His

people.

Joshua was born a slave but did not let that hinder his spirit. He strived while others cursed

their situation. Many are born with this mindset and blame everything without seeking to

understand or submit to God. Do you live with a slave mindset? Are you in bondage to the

life that you didn’t ask for? The following lesson will deal with the lies that keep one in

bondage.

Questions to ponder:

1. Describe the Abrahamic Covenant.

2. What are the three things that allow one to persevere and serve God and His

people.