

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

1

A Case study of Moses as Leader

TITILAYO ODUTOLA

BEULAH HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

JUNE 14, 2020

Chapter 1 commences with after the death of Moses" (Joshua 1:1KJV) and presents the first of three crucial moments in Joshua's significant speeches and reflections by the main characters; God first, and then Joshua, make speeches about the goal of conquest of the Promised Land.

Just as God instructed Moses to anoint Joshua as his successor, Joshua was instructed to take possession of the land and asked to keep faith with the ten commandments.

In the first chapter, God's speech took over the major themes of the book: the crossing of the Jordan River and the taking over of the land, its distribution, and the imperative need to obey the laws.

Joshua's obedience is evident in his speeches to the Israelite commanders and the Israelites. God promised (Joshua: 1-5), "Every place that the sole of thou feet shall tread upon it shall be given them as a possession" as I said unto Moses." There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life as I was with Moses so I will be with thee, I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. God further told him only be strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee(Joshua1:7) The Israelites answered Joshua that they would obey all the commandments he gives to them anyone that will not obey will be put to death(Joshua 1: 16-17)

To guarantee Joshua's success God told him this book of the law should not depart out of his mouth, but thou shall meditate therein day and night that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shall make thy way prosperous, and then thou shall have success(Joshua 1:8).

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

3

Rahab, a Canaanite woman, sets in motion the entrance into Canaan by the Israelites. To avoid the repeated failed mistakes by Moses to have notable men of Israel spy Canaan mentioned in the book of Numbers. Joshua instructed two men to enter Jericho as spies. They arrive at Rahab's house and spend the night there. The king of Jericho heard of possible Israelite spies, demands that Rahab reveal their identity. She tells him that she is unaware of their whereabouts when she hid them on her roof under flax. The next morning, Rahab professes her faith in God to the men. It acknowledges her belief that Canaan was meant for the Israelites to inhabit.

Rahab's actions made it possible for the Israelites to enter Canaan through a miraculous intervention of God and the Ark of the Covenant and are Circumcised at Gilbea Haraloth (translated as *the hill of foreskins*), renamed Gilgal. *Gilgal* is more likely to translate as a "*circle of standing stones*." The conquest begins with the battle in Jericho followed by Ai (central Canaan), after which Joshua builds an altar to God at Mount Ebal in northern Canaan and renews the Covenant in a ceremony with elements of a land-grant spiritual ceremony. Similar to ceremonies known from Mesopotamia, the instructions given to Joshua by God for conquering the two cities were completely different. In Joshua 5:13-6:27 shortly after crossing River Jordan, The Israelites launch their attack on the Canaanite city of Jericho in April in c140Bc. The Israelites soldiers march around the city for six days together with the Levites carrying the Ark of the Covenant and the priest blowing their trumpet(Numbers 10:1-10 on the seventh day Jericho falls and is burnt to the ground.

Joshua 7:1-2 Joshua sends men from the camp at Jericho to Spy on the Canaanite city of Ai, east of Bethel, near Bethaven (Meaning house of iniquity),(Joshua 7:3-12)The first Israelite attack on Ai fails because of Achan who took the accursed things God told them not to from

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

4

Jericho (Joshua 7:11) of which God had already said in Joshua 6:18) But keep away from the devoted things so that you will bring about your destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise, you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. In Joshua 7:13-26 The Israelites repent of their sin and Achan is stoned to death in the valley of Anchor (Meaning Valley of trouble) In Joshua 8 1-27 we see the defenders are then lured away from Ai and the city is attacked and captured on a force of Israelites who have hidden close by. We further see in Joshua 8:28-29 how Joshua burns the city of Ai (Meaning a heap or ruin) and makes it a permanent heap of ruin.

The Gibeonite trick the Israelites into entering an alliance with them by saying that they are not Canaanite. This prevents the Israelites from exterminating them, but they are enslaved instead. An alliance of Amorite kingdoms headed by the Canaanite king of Jerusalem is defeated with God's miraculous help of stopping the Sun and the Moon and hurling down large hailstone (Joshua 10:10-14). The enemy kings were eventually hanged on the tree). This land distribution is a "covenantal land grant" God as the king, is issuing each tribe its territory. The "City of Refuge" and Levitical City are attached to the end since the tribes must receive their grants before they allocate parts to others. The Transjordanian tribes are dismissed, affirming their loyalty to Yahweh.

The Israelites acted unfaithfully. The children of God precisely Achan, broke God's rules. The Bible says we cannot walk in sin and expect grace to abound. It is impossible. They were able to identify their sin. sought forgiveness of God, he forgave and gave them victory. (Roman 6:1)

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

5

Do not believe people when they say or insinuate that God, in His perfect way, is always loving and never angry or upset. We might think this kind of loving God is ideal, but it is perverted. God takes an extraordinary strong stance against what is evil. This anger comes from God's holy nature because he is holy; anyone that comes close to him must be holy. Otherwise, God's justice will come forth and strike the person. God expects holiness from his people.

The Israelites fled in defeat from the men of Ai, thirty-six Israelites died in battle that day. Moreover, because of defeat, which is common, fear came upon the people. The words here used are interesting "the hearts of the two people melted and became as water. This is a meltdown of our faith. They no longer knew how they would handle the future. They were confident that they could win the battle as they marched to Ai, only a few hours. They had lost all their faith. The consequences were devastating. The lives lost are precious, but the loss of faith meant that they would lose much more if they were not extremely careful. The survival of the whole nation was suddenly threatened. All the enemies would gang up on them and wipe them out.

The lesson is rather straightforward. Do not be deceived by self-confidence. Self-confidence is no substitute for faith. It is phony and does not accomplish God's will. Their faith was immature. The faith that comes and goes like the sun is only as good as if one has it. When it is absent, everything falls apart. When you need it the most? It is absent. The Israelites whole future was unknown because their faith dwindled.

Let us now look at another point. Some people have a hard time seeing why they failed in battle. They failed, but why. Was it that God was not with them in battle? "I will probably not be with

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

6

you anymore unless..." was it because of inadequate battle plans. "You cannot stand in battle" we see the seeds of self-confidence rather than confidence in God? 's faith. Joshua and the spies made strategic plans for this battle according to man's viewpoint.

They looked at the number of people. They look at the appearance. They figured only about two to three thousand soldiers could quickly bring victory. Joshua, as a leader, merely went along with their plans. We do not see him praying. We do not see him asking the Lord about his solutions. He thought that they could handle it. We are many times defeated because we think simple battles can be done on our own. The scriptures, however, are relentless in telling us that the flesh will always fail us. This is what is being taught here, and it is the truth that every leader must master. The moment we evaluate things with our eyes and resources, we fail.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of his darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm (Ephesians 6:12,13)

That is like the Israelites with Jericho. Then they unwittingly lowered their guard. They unconsciously thought that they would always be victorious. They believed that they have finally learned how to overcome problems. The problem is that they forget how the battle was won. They won by trusting the Lord. It was not because they were in the right place or suddenly lost fortitude. If we do not consistently cry out to God for deliverance each

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

7

time, then we will fail. It is the trust in God that brings us to victory. Success leads to failure because we again do not similarly lean upon the Lord as we did in the first place. There is a subtle transfer of shifting of trust from upon the Lord and his promises to our capabilities.

If Joshua had sought the Lord in prayer, God would have given him the insight needed to win the victory. However, we do not see him or the others praying. Instead, we just see another meeting of men. God was left out. If Joshua and the people are seeking God, he no doubts would have told them to fix their problems before attacking. Mindless often accompanies self- confidence. The mindless leads to mistakes and, in the end, failure. Remember, thirty-six men, are now dead. Their families bereaved.

God does not want us to fail, but the question is?. "What is our confidence? Do we transfer our trust to our resources, such as wealth, intellect? If so, one might be successful in the world's sight but not the Lord's. We need men and women whose trust is in God because he desires to bless us more, but to get it, we must follow his leading carefully. In this case, the consequences of failing to trust the Lord were immediate. In some cases, it takes many years to see the consequences.

CASE STUDY JOSHUA AS LEADER

8

References

Book of Joshua (Samaritan) - Wikipedia. (n.d.). Retrieved June 15, 2020, from

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Joshua_\(Samaritan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Joshua_(Samaritan))

Joshua 7:1-5 Fatal Mistakes: Falling into Failure – The

<https://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net/References/OT/Historical/Joshua/Joshua06-12/>

[Joshua07-b_1-5_Falling_Failure.html](https://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net/References/OT/Historical/Joshua/Joshua06-12/Joshua07-b_1-5_Falling_Failure.html)

