

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: CRS
TOPIC: JOSHUA AS LEADER
WEEK: 4
TERM: SECOND



JOSHUA AS A LEADER

When Moses realized that he was at the end of his life, he requested that God appointed a successor for His people, the Israelites. The Lord then instructed Moses to take Joshua, the son of Nun, a man in whom the Holy Spirit dwelt. Moses was to lay his hand upon him, and commission him before the people. Joshua was to stand before **Eleazar**, the priest, and to be invested with authority so that the people might respect and obey him. Joshua was chosen to replace Moses because God had earlier promised Moses that he (Moses) would not enter the Promised Land. This might be connected to the event at Meriba (Ex. 17:1-7).

JOSHUA AND THE SPY MISSION (NUMBERS 13:16-, 14:10)

Joshua was one of the tribal (Ephraim) leaders sent by Moses to spy the land of Canaan. The tribal leaders were to survey the land to find out its potentialities, whether it was strong or weak; thickly populated or not; whether the people lived in fortified cities or not; or whether the land was good for farming or not. The spies spent forty days in spying the land.

On their return, the majority of the spies gave negative reports about the land. They said the land devoured its inhabitants. They also made special reference to the descendants of **Anak**, a fearful giant-looking people. The report discouraged the Israelites and they murmured against Moses. They decided to find another leader to take them back to Egypt. Only Joshua and Caleb gave encouraging reports about the land. They quieted the people and assured them of victory in spite of all the odds they said.

“Let us go up at once, and occupy it, for we are able to overcome it”.

They also maintained that the land of Canaan was good and that the lord would help them to possess it. Joshua and Caleb were nearly stoned to death for the encouraging report because the people had been demoralized by the majority negative report.

THE FALL OF JERICO (JOSHUA 6)



The Israelites under Joshua completely surround Jericho so that none of the inhabitants could leave or enter the city. God assured Joshua of victory and outlined his plans for the

takeover: The priests were to carry the Ark of the Covenant and seven priests were to carry seven trumpets of ram's horns. Armed men were to lead the procession, followed by the priests with the trumpet and then by the priests with the Ark. The rest of the Israelites were to form the rear guard. The people were not to utter a word or shout until they were ordered to do so.

God instructed that the whole procession were to march around the city of Jericho once every day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to go round the city seven times, when they should shout to claim the city.

Early the next morning, the procession march round the city, once each day, for six days. On the seventh day they went round the city seven times and shouted joyfully to the lord because God had given the city to them. Immediately, the walls of Jericho collapsed and the city was destroyed, except **Rahab** and her family.

All the precious things like gold, silver vessels of bronze and iron were to be set aside for the Lord's treasury.



JOSHUA'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

After Joshua had assembled all the tribe of Israelites at Shechem, he summoned all the elders, the head judges and the officers before the Lord. He gave a farewell address: Joshua outlined Israel's history from Abraham to Moses He told the Israelites how God was with their fathers, and how He destroyed the Egyptians, and had given them victory's from the unbelieving Nation like: Jericho, the Amorites, Perezites, the Canaanites, the Hittites etc. God had also given them a productive land which they had not labored for.

Joshua told the Israelites to remember the lord's goodness and faithfulness. He urged them to put away the gods which their ancestors worshipped in Mesopotamia, to serving Yahweh.

All the Israelites expressed their readiness to serve only Yahweh in view of His goodness to them throughout their history. Joshua reminded them of the seriousness of their pledge saying that Yahweh was a jealous God who would not entertain any rival god and who would not hesitate to punish them if they proved unfaithful in their devotion to Him.

Significance or Moral Lesson to Learn

1. Joshua showed that he was a man of unflinching faith in God by recalling the people to their covenant obedient in God.

2. Joshua was a master in the art of persuasion, as successfully convinced his people to accept his views on the pure worship of Yahweh.
3. Joshua proved to be a man of courage when he led the defeat of Jericho and cross the Jordan River.
4. Joshua declared publicly for Yahweh to show his faith.
5. Joshua used dialogue and reconciliation, not violence, to resolve issue.

ASSIGNMENT

Narrate the crossing of the Jordan River.