

My Beautifully Flawed Journey

“The Next Generation’s Journey” – Numbers 27

October 16, 2022

MY BEAUTIFULLY FLAWED JOURNEY			
A Study of the Book of Numbers			
Date	Message Title	Main Bible Story	Numbers
Aug 21	My Beautifully Flawed Journey	The Pillar of Cloud and Fire	9:15-10:10
Aug 28	My Promises in the Journey	The Nazarite Vow	6:1-27
Sept 4	My Complaints in the Journey	The Murmurings of God’s People	11:1-12:16
Sept 11	My Failures in the Journey	The Twelve Spies	13:1-14:45
Sept 18	My Rebellion in the Journey	Korah’s Rebellion	16:1-17:3
Sept 25	My Anger in the Journey	Moses Hits the Rock	20:1-13
Oct 2	My Salvation in the Journey	The Bronze Serpent	21:4-9
Oct 9	My Temptations in the Journey	Balaam’s Donkey	22:1-25:18
Oct 16	The Next Generation’s Journey	Moses Commissions Joshua	27:12-23

Main Idea: Joshua needs **Moses** (to do what he cannot do), and Moses needs **Joshua** (to go where he cannot go).

Background

- After Balaam, the people of Israel fall into Baal worship. God punishes the people with a plague. Phinehas acts & God relents.
- Another census is taken (where the book gets its name).
- Moses hears from God about the daughters of Zelophehad.
- God tells Moses to go up to the mountain of "Passing Away."

MOSES: A **Vision** Beyond Himself (Verses 12-17)

Verses 12-13: He Gets to See the Promised Land

- Similar to God taking Abraham to see the land
- **Genesis 13:14** – *The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward.”*

Verse 14: He Receives **Clarity** on Why He Cannot Go

- “Rebelled against my word”
- “Failed to uphold me as holy”

Verses 15-17: He Has **Vision** Beyond Himself

- He asks God to appoint a successor. But in a strange way.
- **Verse 16** – “Let *Jehovah*, the *Elohim* of the *Ruah*, appoint an *Eesh* (man/Adam) over the congregation.”
- Genesis 2 language:
 - A new Adam to take care of a new Eden.
 - Lead as a shepherd... Feed, Lead, Protect.
- PURPOSE: “People may not be as a sheep without a shepherd”

Verse 17: He Truly Cares for the People

- Moses did not argue or complain. He cared about them.
- Contrast: *King Hezekiah*
- **2 Kings 20:19** – *Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?”*

Application #1 – Are you more of a Hezekiah or a Moses?

- ☐ Are you only concerned about your generation?
 - ☐ Are you investing in a younger generation?
 - ☐ Are you learning from an older generation?
 - ☐ Are you praying for a different generation than your own?
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JOSHUA: A Worthy **Investment** (Verses 18-23)

God’s Answer: “Joshua... A man in whom is the Spirit”

He led Army of Israel against the Amalekites	Ex. 17:8-16
He was an assistant to Moses	Ex. 17:8-16
He helped Moses at the tabernacle after the Golden Calf	Ex. 33:7-11
He was zealous to preserve the authority and leadership of Moses	Num. 11:28
He was one of the two faithful spies	Num. 13-14
He was a man filled with the Spirit	Num. 27:18

Verse 20: “Invest him with some of your authority”

- Invest: “nāṭan” – *to give, devote, bestow*
- Authority: “hōd” – *splendor, majesty, honor*
 - **Psalms 8:1** – *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*
- This is the idea of empowering a younger leader with authority at the appropriate time (private advice and public affirmation).

Verse 21: Different Than the 'Good ol' Days'

- There will be a God-ordained difference from how Moses led to how Joshua will lead.
- **Moses:** He spoke directly to God (see Numbers 27:1-11)
- **Joshua:** He will stand before Eleazar the priest (Num. 27:21)
 - Urim – A way of discerning the will of God by casting lots (see Ex. 28:30, Lev. 8:8, 1 Sam. 14:41-42)

Verses 22-23: Moses Obeyed. Joshua is Commissioned.

- Moses last act on earth was obeying God by commissioning the next generation.
- **Acts 6:6** – *These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*

Application #2a – *Joshua*: Are you faithfully playing your Spirit-empowered role, even if it's behind the scenes right now?

Application #2b – *Moses*: Are you investing your authority into the next generation, even if they are going to end up doing things differently than you did?

CONCLUSION – Joshua Points to **Jesus**!

Joshua's Name Points to Jesus

- *Joshua* = Jehovah is Salvation ('Yehoshua')
 - Shortened to 'Yeshua'
- *Greek*: 'Iesous'
- *English*: Jesus

Joshua is a New Adam

- **Numbers 27:16** – *Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation.*
 - Joshua is a New Adam taking over a New Eden.
- **Romans 5:19** – *For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

Joshua is a Shepherd to the People

- **Numbers 27:17b** – *[Appoint a man] so that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.*
- **John 10:14-15** – *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Joshua is Filled with the Spirit of Wisdom

- "Spirit of wisdom" is only used 3 times in the Old Testament
- **Exodus 31:3** (NASB) – *I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship.*
- **Deuteronomy 34:9** – *And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him.*
- **Isaiah 11:1-2** – *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding...*

Book of Numbers Conclusion

- *Moses* = Portrait of a deliverer, but he failed.
- *Joshua* = He is the next deliverer, but he will die.
- *Judges* = Inverted portraits of the Israel's leaders.
- *David* = Positive figure but huge failure & eventual death.
- *Isaiah* = Picture: New Adam, new Moses, new Joshua, new David.

Main Idea – Joshua needs Moses (to do what he cannot do), and Moses needs Joshua (to go where he cannot go).