

Joshua 1:1-18 SKYE INDUCTION - WAYNE

PRELIMS. Well we all know why we are here this afternoon. I found the content of this chapter appropriate for our purposes today.

What is the **one word** which covers the **theme** of this passage? Surely it is **CHANGE!** Among God's covenanted people Israel, a **big change** was taking place! From being a **nomadic** tribe wandering in a wilderness to being a **settled** nation which will change the world!

Not only were Israel to experience new surroundings, new cultures, etc, but *Moses My servant is **dead*** [2]!! Moses is no longer! The leader they had was no longer there for them!

But that did **not** change **God's purposes!** They were **not to weep** as if God's purposes have been frustrated. It was **God** who raised up Moses. It was God who **prepared** Moses for taking them **OUT** of Egypt! All the great things Moses did was as a result of **God's grace**. to them and to Moses! But God's long term purpose was to take **INTO** Canaan! God had appointed **another** man for that - Joshua!

There **are different ministries!** Moses gifts were for delivering Israel from Pharaoh's clutches - Joshua's gifts were for conquering Canaan! **APP** We need to remember God's servants have **different gifts** for different **aspects** of leading God's people into the future! Today God is **appointing** a new leader for **YOU** in Skye/Harris!

What did this **change** mean for Israel? Was it **judgment?** No, far from it! It was actually **PROGRESS!** Sadly, too often we think change means **retrogression!** Not at all. **APP** Here it was **God** that was at work! It was God who took away Moses. It is God who, in **Providence** has changed the situation in Skye and Harris! **God** was **leading** Israel **ON**. It **WAS** **progress!**

Now the Lord directed His attention to Joshua *now therefore **arise and go over this Jordan, thou and all **this people!*****[2] Historically, Israel has been a **problem** to Moses! So often pastors wish they had a different congregation to minister to! Joshua may have wished for a new generation of Israelites rather than the ones Moses had, but he

was to take *all this people!* You see, God does not abandon His people, even although they are rebellious! Wonderful! Joshua **inherited** his flock, who had been under the direction of a man of God. **APP** And so today **Wayne** is inheriting a congregation already established in the Truth - but they were now to put their faith into **PRACTICE**. The new circumstances **will require new challenges!!** Just as for Israel so, for you - things **WILL BE DIFFERENT!**

We read *where there is NO VISION the people perish* [Pro 29:18] That is true! Leaders of every kind need vision! They, of all people need to be **positive** about their work! Joshua **had** that gift of **seeing into the future** in a positive light! He was one of the **twelve spies!** Ten of these spies gave a **negative** account of the future in Canaan! Caleb and Joshua (and it would be difficult **after hearing** what the first ten spies said) to give a **positive** account, but he did!

A pastor must know who called him and what his work is - and stick at it! He must know *As I was with Moses, so I will be with you: I will not fail you, nor forsake thee* [5] A pastor must believe he is **called** to that **place** and that the Lord God is with him *whithersoever thou goest* [9] The **whole land** is yours Joshua - the whole lot - take it all! *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, THAT have I given you* [3] It is **not** just the people in the **church** that need the gospel but the **whole island!** The most sinful places wherever that is! Here in embryonic form is the **evangelistic call** to go into the **world!**

It is so important **not** to be **discouraged** by the negative view of others! Leadership is **NOT** for the **FAINTHEARTED!** It is not for the **EASILY DEPRESSED!** Think of **William Carey!** **11 years** work in creating a **language\dictionary** - all destroyed in fire! What did he do - give up? No! Begin again!

A leader, in leading, **must** take **RISKS!** Not stupid ones - but Godly ones! **Why** did God say to Joshua *Be STRONG and of a GOOD COURAGE...be NOT AFRAID, neither be thou dismayed* [6,9] ? Because going to **fight** evil people is **risky!** It **was** dangerous! In our cities today it can be risky to preach the gospel in our streets! Evangelism can be risky today - but necessary!

Finally, change? Yes - but there is **one thing** that must **NEVER EVER** change. And it is the **very BASIS** of Wayne's whole ministry - ***This BOOK of the Law*** [8] That is **UNCHANGABLE**. That is the Word of the Lord. Everything written here is God's Word to Wayne and to you all! We might have to change our understanding and interpretation of this Word, but we cannot change its Words! We might get **new light** as the Holy Spirit **enlightens our minds** on the Word - but the Word is the unchangeable Word of God!

Such a **happy ending** in this chapter! *All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go* [16] That, at least was their **intention!** Happy ending here today also!

