

# Sermon Outline

## **“AND THE LORD GAVE THEM REST”: A CHRISTIAN READING OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA**

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### **JOSHUA, SERVANT OF THE LORD (JOSHUA 1:1)**

#### **I. Sacred History, Chosen Persons**

#### **II. A (Biblical) Biographical Sketch of Joshua Ben-Nun**

- A. Joshua was originally named “Hoshea” before Moses changed his name to “Joshua” (Num 13:16).
- B. Hoshea was from the tribe of Ephraim (Num 13:8).
- C. While the name “Hoshea” means “Saved,” the name “Joshua” means “Saved by YHWH” or “YHWH Is Salvation.”
- D. Exodus 17: This is Joshua’s first appearance—Israel’s battle with the Amalekites.
- E. Exodus 20: Joshua was among those who heard the voice of YHWH at Mount Sinai.
- F. Exodus 24:13: Joshua is said to be Moses’ assistant.
- G. Exodus 33:11: Joshua guards the Tent of Meeting.
- H. Numbers 14:8-9: Joshua shines as a Believer of God.  
—Unlike the other spies, Joshua and Caleb demonstrate trust in YHWH.
- I. Deuteronomy 34:9: Before he dies, Moses passes his authority to Joshua.

#### **III. “The LORD Said to Joshua” (Joshua 1:1)**

- A. The mourning of Moses is over by the time the book of Joshua opens.
- B. Joshua is now supreme leader of Israel.
- C. Joshua hears the voice of YHWH: “...The LORD said to Joshua...”

- D. This establishes a two-fold principle for supreme leadership of Israel.
  - 1. The supreme leader of Israel must be chosen by YHWH himself.  
—Since the supreme leader functions like YHWH’s Prime Minister, only YHWH can appoint him.
  - 2. The supreme leader of Israel must hear the voice of YHWH for himself (Dt 18:15).
  - 3. In Israel, the vision of the ideal ruler is that of *the prophet-leader*.

#### IV. Joshua and Us

- A. Joshua has died and we no longer look to Joshua as our supreme leader.
- B. Joshua has also been succeeded many times over.
  - 1. He has been succeeded by the Judges.
  - 2. He has been succeeded by the Kings.
- C. The authority that was once on Joshua and his successors now rests on the *Lord Jesus Christ*—the last Supreme Leader of Israel.
- D. Why do we consider Jesus the present prophet-leader of Israel?
  - 1. YHWH has chosen Jesus to be the new Supreme Leader of Israel (Mt 3:17).
  - 2. YHWH speaks to Jesus as he spoke to Moses, Joshua and the great leaders of Israel (Jn 7:16, 12:49).
  - 3. Jesus is now enthroned at YHWH’s right hand (Acts 2:33).
- E. Jesus is vastly superior to Joshua because of who he is.
  - 1. Jesus is the ultimate Chosen One (Eph 1:3-4).  
—In him, all the leaders of Israel were chosen.
  - 2. Jesus is the God of Israel.
  - 3. The reign of Jesus will never end.

#### V. Following Our New Joshua

*Because YHWH has chosen Jesus to be the final supreme leader of Israel, we must now give our allegiance to Jesus Christ. We must listen to Jesus and receive God’s Word from him, as our ancestors did from Joshua. And we must trust Jesus to bring us salvation from all our foes.*