

## SUCCESSOR TO MOSES

Immediately after the 30 days of national mourning for the death of Moses in the plain of Moab, the Lord as head of the Theocracy appointed Joshua as Moses' successor (Deut.34:8).

The mystery of the burial of the body of Moses is still important in theology today. "And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord has said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is." (Deut.34:5-6, NIV)

This is mentioned in the Book of Jude – "But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "the Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 9/ NIV)

Why is this important to historical plan of God? Because Moses and Elijah will be the two witnesses of the Tribulation of Revelation 11.

Our lesson text gives details of the meeting between the Lord as head of the Theocracy of priest nation of Israel and Joshua as the successor to Moses (Joshua 1:1-9).

**We will study SIX aspects of this meeting and appointment of Joshua as Successor to Moses,  
And as leader of the priest nation of Israel.**

**1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.**

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|----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| • Lead   | (Joshua 1:1-2a) | God's people                    |
| • Land   | (Joshua 1:2b-4) | God's property                  |
| • Lord   | (Joshua 1:5, 9) | God's presence                  |
| • Learn  | (Joshua 1:6-7)  | God's promise                   |
| • Lesson | (Joshua 1:8)    | God's prosperity (Deut.30:1-20) |

**How do you replace a great spiritual leader like Moses?** "Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." (Deut.34:10)

**2. Moses selected Joshua but the Lord appointed him as successor to Moses to lead the priest nation of Israel.**

It required the Lord's appointment because Israel is under a theocracy government (theokratia) [God is supreme ruler] (Deut.4:13-14, 39-40; 31:3, 14). Theocracy is not a biblical word but it is a biblical concept. It was coined by the Jewish historian Josephus to describe the form of government instituted at Mt. Sinai (Ex.19).

The theocracy government was prominent under the leadership Moses, Joshua, and Judges. It will be prominent again in the Millennium. This is why Israel was a priest nation to the world (Ex.6:3-8; 19:5-6).

How does the church replace great spiritual leaders? (Acts 1:15-26) [Matthias]  
(Eph.4:8, 11; 5:23; 1Pet.5:1-4).

**3. An interesting comparison is made between the spiritual leadership status of Moses and Joshua in the opening verse of the Book of Joshua.**

“Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ servant.” (Josh.1:1)

**Note: Moses is called the servant of the Lord and Joshua is called the servant of Moses.**

The difference in these two status titles of spiritual leadership is the difference in spiritual mentors.

- Moses as the servant of the Lord is mentored by the Lord (super grace status).
- Joshua as a servant of Moses is mentored by Moses (advancing in spiritual maturity).

How important is mentoring of spiritual leaders for the service of the Lord? The difference is the difference between the contents of the Book of Joshua and that of the Book of Judges.

**Book of Joshua:** “And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the Lord which He had done for Israel.” (Joshua 24:31)

**Book of Judges:** “And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.” (Judges 2:10)

**4. “Servant of the Lord” is a special title reserved for the ultra spiritual mature believer. Bob Thieme referred to this believer as ultra super gracer.**

It is a spiritual mature believer (Heb.5:14) [consistent doctrinal meat eater]. It is a spiritual mature believer who has been through the fire testing and has not wavered in spiritual momentum: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you.” (1 Pet.4:12)

We learn from Abraham and Moses that once you reach and maintain ultra spiritual maturity whatever is accredited to righteousness by you can never be lost in time nor eternity (James 2:21-24; Rom.4:19-22; Deut.34:1-4; Num.20:8-13; 27:12-14).

**5. Our lesson text reminds us again that Joshua is the first book in the Nabiim (prophets) of the Masoretic text (Hebrew Bible).**

**Here are four reminders.**

- Joshua is the first book of prophets because of fulfillment of the land section of the Abraham Covenant (Gen.12:1-3). The land section is known doctrinally as the Palestine Covenant (Deut.30:1-8).
- It is called the Promised Land because God will give it as grace gift (Num.34:1-12; Gal.3:18).
- Occupation of the Promised Land will be on the basis of faith (Deut.1:7-8; 30:1-8).
- The entire territory of the Promised Land is described (Gen.13:14-17; 15:18-20; Ex.23:31-37; Deut.34:1-3; Josh.1:3-4; and Acts 7:45).

**6. Abraham Covenant was given to Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah (Gen.17:21; 26:3-6; 35:12; Gal.4:27-31).**

**This means the Promised Land was:**

- Not given to Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar (Gen.16:13-16; 17:22-27; 21:14-21; 25:12-18).
- Not given to Ishmael’s descendant Mohammed.
- Not given to any of the sons of Abraham and Keturah (Gen.25:1-4; 26:1-6).