

Character Sketch

JOSHUA

David C. Mills
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Joshua
www.born2serve.org

“Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;” - Joshua 23:6

These are some of Joshua’s final words, which sum up his life experience and the character that God built in him over the years.

In the very beginning of Joshua’s command over God’s people, the LORD spake unto Joshua three times in an encouragement for him to be strong and courageous (1:6, 1:7, 1:9). It is also interesting that in chapter 1 and verse 18 that the Israelites themselves attempted to encourage Joshua to be “strong and of a good courage”. It appears that although Joshua had been prepared by God through Moses for the work he had for him to do, he too as we do, had a weakness. However, we see that God’s “strength is made perfect in” Joshua’s “weakness.” (2 Cor 12:9)

One thing to take note of is that although Joshua questioned God after his defeat at Ai, (v.7:7-9) we never read of him disregarding the commands of God. Each and every time that God commanded, Joshua obeyed. This should not be surprising, considering Joshua’s high regard for the “word of the LORD”. This was also revealed in chapter 8 and verse 35, where “There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel.”.

Joshua was a man who took charge under pressure, and had the respect of the people to go with it. He was not a lazy man; in fact many times we are told that Joshua “rose early

in the morning”. We see in chapter 5 and verse 14 that Joshua knew of the holiness of the LORD. We see that he was a man of his word, as he saved Rahab and her family (6:25). Although at least once he became “dismayed” (8:1) in his obedience to the Lord’s command, he knew that the Lord “is good” (Psalm 107:1) and “his way” was the best way. Joshua knew that the work of the Lord was serious business as he encouraged the people of Israel to sanctify themselves early on in their campaign (3:5). Many commentators have stated that it is “difficult to form an estimate of Joshua’s character”, however, I beg to differ. Joshua’s loyalty to the LORD was forefront and uncompromising. We see through his actions that he was a man after God’s own heart and will.

“a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.” Acts 13:22

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