**Joshua Leads the Nation**

We now begin our study of the Book of Joshua which will take the remainder of the year to complete. While it is not certain that Joshua himself wrote this book, most scholars think he did write it around 1400 BC and some think that Phineas may have contributed some writings. Joshua is thought to have been around 80 years old when he assumed the role as leader of the Israelites and he died at 110 (see 24:29. He was from the tribe of Ephraim and was born in Egypt. Unlike Moses, there are no records of Joshua’s family so we don’t know if he was married, had children or siblings, only that he was the son of Nun. He is known primarily as a military leader who commanded the army of Israel. The first record of that is the battle against the Amalekites described in Exodus chapter 17. He was one of the spies sent into Canaan to assess the land and he and Caleb were the only 2 of the 12 spies who believed that God would deliver on His promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land (see Num. chapter 14). He was the personal assistant to Moses, accompanying him at several significant events and was God’s choice as the successor to Moses. He is one of several people in the Bible who was given a new name (mostly by God, signifying a new identity). In Numbers chapter 13 we read that Moses changed his name from Hosea to Joshua. Joshua is thought to be a type of Christ due to:

The name Joshua in the Hebrew language is Yeshua which is also the Hebrew name for Jesus. From Got Questions: “*Thus,* Yeshua *and, correspondingly,* Joshua *and* Jesus *all mean “Yahweh Saves” or “The Lord Is Salvation.”*

Joshua led his people to the promised land of Canaan just as Jesus will lead the church to the New Jerusalem.

God exalted Joshua at the Jordan River (see 3:7) just as He did with Jesus when He was baptized by John the Baptist.

Moses could not lead the people into Canaan, symbolic of the law which could not save while Joshua successfully delivered them symbolic of the new covenant (see Hebrews 4:8).

In the 1st chapter of Joshua, God told Joshua to prepare the people to cross the Jordan and take possession of the land He promised which was bounded by the Euphrates River, the desert, Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea. God promised that He would be with him just as He was with Moses and would never leave nor forsake. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous 3 times (verses 6, 7 and 9, see John 21:15-17, Acts 10:16, 1st Sam. 3:8, Num. 24:10). God also told Joshua to constantly study the law so that he would be careful to do everything in it.

After that, Joshua told the people to get ready, that they would cross the Jordan in 3 days and take possession of the land. He told the Trans Jordanian tribes to remember the command Moses had given to them and go with the other tribes to help them take the land in Canaan. After that they could return to the land God had granted to them east of the Jordan River. They responded that they would do whatever Joshua commanded and would obey him just as they had obeyed Moses. They prayed that God would be with Joshua just as He had been with Moses and told like God, told Joshua to be strong and courageous.