

# Deuteronomy 31

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## Joshua to Succeed Moses

(Numbers 27:18–23)

<sup>1</sup>And Moses went and spoke these words unto all Israel. <sup>2</sup>And he said unto them: 'I am a hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in; and the LORD hath said unto me: Thou shalt not go over this Jordan. <sup>3</sup>The LORD thy God, He will go over before thee; He will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt dispossess them; and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath spoken. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD will do unto them as He did to Sihon and to Og, the kings

of the Amorites, and unto their land; whom He destroyed. <sup>5</sup>And the LORD will deliver them up before you, and ye shall do unto them according unto all the commandment which I have commanded you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be affrighted at them; for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.'

<sup>7</sup>And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel: 'Be strong and of good courage; for thou shalt go with this people into the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD, He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be dismayed.'

## **The Reading of the Law**

(Nehemiah 8:1-8)

<sup>9</sup>And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, that bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. <sup>10</sup>And Moses commanded them, saying: 'At the end of every seven years, in the set time of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, <sup>11</sup>when all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which He shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. <sup>12</sup>Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law; <sup>13</sup>and that their children, who have not known, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over the Jordan to possess it.'

## **God Commissions Joshua**

<sup>14</sup>And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Behold, thy days approach that thou must die; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may give him a charge.' And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. <sup>15</sup>And the LORD appeared in the Tent in a pillar of cloud; and the pillar of cloud stood over the door of the Tent. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Behold, thou art about to sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go astray after the foreign gods of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them. <sup>17</sup>Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall come upon them; so that they will say in that day: Are not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us? <sup>18</sup>And I will surely hide My face in that day for all the evil which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.

<sup>19</sup>Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach thou it the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel. <sup>20</sup>For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swore unto their fathers, flowing with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten their fill, and waxen fat; and turned unto other gods, and served them, and despised Me, and broken My covenant; <sup>21</sup>then it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are come upon them, that this song shall testify before them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed; for I know their imagination how they do even now, before I have brought them into the land which I swore.' <sup>22</sup>So Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.

<sup>23</sup>And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said: 'Be strong and of good courage; for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swore unto them; and I will be with thee.'

## **The Law Placed in the Ark**

**24**And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, **25**that Moses commanded the Levites, that bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying: **26**Take this book of the law, and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. **27**For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck; behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death? **28**Assemble unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to witness against them. **29**For I know that after my death ye will in any wise deal corruptly, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the end of days; because ye will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him through the work of your hands.'

## **Moses Begins His Song**

**30**And Moses spoke in the ears of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song, until they were finished: