

# The Joshua Project - How the Lord Led Moses

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## January 1st Church Life Cycle & the tension in leadership

- The general rule of thumb for the length of a church life cycle is between thirty and forty years
- So a new 30 year life cycle will by default require new generation of leaders

### Looking to the future

- I have no plans to retire
- But we have to plan for eventualities (one of those is - one day someone else will lead ACC)
- I don't know who that is -- so **how do we move forward in a way to plan for this?**

### **We make plans and trust the Lord will direct and establish the way**

- Jer 10:23 ESV I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.
- Pro 16:9 ESV The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

### **As early as 2018 the LORD began to move in the elders about planning, and Ron Betz had a word**

- I believe the Lord led me to the story of the transition from Moses to Joshua
- As we move into a new cycle (led through the wilderness → new leaders would take them to the promised land

## The development of Joshua as the leader in Israel

Exo 17:8-10 ESV Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

- **This is the first mention of Joshua in the Bible**
- **Before he was the leader** over Israel, Joshua was given **authority** and **responsibility** for two critical tasks: (1) to hand pick an army & (2) lead this army into battle - **these were a big deal**

### **"Moses said to Joshua" - do such and such**

- Moses was still the leader and gave the overall direction
- But the execution of that direction was carried out by Joshua

### **"Choose for us men"**

- He was learning to work as a team
- He was learning to make important decisions
- He was learning to make decisions for the welfare of the congregation

### **"And go out and fight**

- He was to go be engaged in the work - not an office job

### **"I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands"**

- Moses role was equally important (tho' less visible)
- It was to intercede on behalf of the army
- Joshua's success was directly related to Moses' intercession

## The setting in of Joshua as successor to Moses was at the death of Moses

### **Moses is told he will be dying**

Num 27:12-13 ESV The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. 13 When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was...

### **Moses asked the LORD to appoint a man over the congregation - The Lord picked Joshua**

15 Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, 16 "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, **appoint a man over the congregation** ..... 18 So the LORD said to Moses, "**Take Joshua** the son of Nun, **a man in whom is the Spirit**, and lay your hand on him.

- "Take Joshua" The Lord hand-picked Joshua
- "A man in whom is the Spirit" - God's one identifying qualification
- Moses would commission him in front of the congregation, and Eleazar - smooth transfer

The Lord promised to be with Joshua as he was with Moses

### **Who the leader is, is not the issue...it is the LORD that makes the difference**

- Jos 1:1-5 ESV After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. **Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them**, to the people of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, **just as I promised to Moses**. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. **Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.**

## Summary

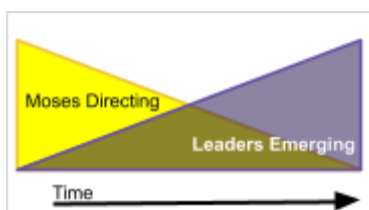
- Even as we make a plan, we want the LORD to direct our steps
- Even as we raise up leaders, we want the LORD to choose the next leader in His time
- The Joshua Project is to give new leaders the opportunity to "pick and army and fight the battle"
- To work as a team

While we cannot predict the future,

- my hope is that a whole team of leaders will emerge to take us into the next life cycle...
- and when the time comes, the Lord will point out who should emerge as the next pastor at ACC
- I think the next group of leaders will be much more team oriented than we have been historically
- I think we need to be looking for and developing even the NEXT group of leaders

## **Areas of Focus**

- Inward - maintain a healthy church with an emphasis on discipleship
- Outward - building bridges into our community with an emphasis on sharing the gospel
- Caring for the elderly and widows
- Children, Youth, Young Adults



Over time we will see something like this happen

## **What will Kirk do?**

### **Sit on a hill with the staff (Reijo and Ted - holding up my arms)**

- Continue to provide guidance of oversight to ACC but working more through others
- Work with all volunteers in regular team meetings to keep moving into the focus of the vision
- Focus on no place left - evangelism and discipleship
- Continue preaching and teaching
- Working through the Joshua Project
- Maybe spend some time writing
- Mentoring new leaders
- In some ways the changes will be occurring but to most of you it will appear imperceptible