

## ARISE AND GO

**TEXT:** *Joshua 1:2: Moses My Servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the Children of Israel.*

Upon the death of Moses, immediately the Divine call came to Joshua. Although God may bury His workmen, He still carries on His work through those willing to answer His call.

**We can't get  
anywhere  
without the  
Lord!**

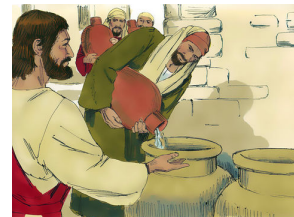
Since Moses is gone, you will be all the more needed. Since he no longer works, your work is all the more necessary. Let the vacancy he left be an invitation to you to fill it. Although Moses is dead, don't be faint-hearted or a coward saying, *'I will quit; no use trying any more. We will never get anywhere without Moses.'* Some felt that way — but it isn't true. The truth is: We can't get anywhere without the Lord!

Now I must take on new burdens, assume new responsibilities, and fight much harder, because Moses is dead.

That is God's plan now, as it was then. God's plan is to use fallen man redeemed by the Blood of Jesus to show forth His Power and Glory to a lost, perishing world.

There are many ways God can work without you and me butting in and interfering with Him. He can run the weather without us, though many try to dabble in the weather today. We try to run it if we can, and when failing to succeed, we complain about it. God can manage the seasons, sun, moon and stars without our help. But there are some things He chooses not to do without us. One of them is reaching the world with His saving Gospel — the Good News that Christ Jesus took the penalty for our sin — should we choose to believe in His Death, Burial, and Resurrection to Life.

When Jesus changed water into wine, He needed the cooperation of the servants to bring the water pots full of water. When the Lord wanted to change a moral graveyard into a Holy Spirit campground, He used Ezekiel to prophecy life to the dead bones to get the job done.



**Ezekiel 37:4-5:**

**4 Again He said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.**

**5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:**

God works thru men, but we need to remember that no one man is essential to the success of His work. God can take His workmen home to Heaven and still carry on His work. We are prone to think that the work of God succeeds or fails depending upon this or that individual.

Thank God for the good old saints of the good old days, but we are too inclined to live in the past.

A member of a church — maybe an officer, teacher, or elder — may get his feelings hurt, or maybe he gets tired and sits on the sidelines. Or, he might become angry or jealous over another and decides he will partially wreck the work of God by quitting. He withdraws from God's House. Does the Church die? NO. It lives and goes on, but that man himself dies. And in dying, he helps his family to come to despise the House of God.



Oh my friend, if you find yourself wounded, don't let it lead you into the supreme madness of quitting. Don't let it lead you to get so possessed with a sense of your importance that you fancy the Church of God will be a fizzle because you go off and pout. You or I, or a thousand others, may quit — but God's church will go on, and the redeemed will shout on, and we will discover God's work can't fail, because God can't.

God needs men and women — but no one is indispensable. I knew of a minister who succeeded a very fine pastor. The congregation felt such a loyalty to him that they acted disloyal to the new one. They came to him one day and said, "*So and so are going to quit this church*". When asked why, they said, "*Because Pastor is gone, and you can't carry on the work.*"



Moses is dead, you see. And they kept that up until almost every day a new rumor started.

Then, one Sunday morning, the new minister said: "*I am ready this morning to write the letter of every man and woman who wants to leave. I have learned something this week. I saw a man buy a bottle of soda pop. He didn't have an opener, so he put the bottle on the side of the counter and knocked off the cap. It began to sputter off bubbles till I thought he could lose it all. But he waited, and when the froth and spewing stopped, I saw that hardly nothing escaped but the bubbles and wind. Now, you bubbles and wind that have been talking about leaving all the while — go ahead. We can get along nicely without you.*" And nobody left!

No, you and I are not indispensable — only God is. Mark this now! I am not saying you are not needed. God has no one to throw away. Do you remember Jesus' Own Words in feeding the 5,000?

***John 5:12: When they were filled, He [Jesus] said unto His disciples, "Gather up the fragments [from the 5 barley loaves] that remain, that nothing be lost."***

You and I have nothing to throw away — not a single day to squander, not an hour to waste. We haven't a single ounce of energy to use foolishly. More so, we haven't any moral courage or virtue to waste on trifles.



**If God Almighty has no single crust of bread to throw away, certainly no single human soul should be thrown away or cast aside as worthless.**

***Josahua 1:1: Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister . . .***

Did you notice that? God still speaks after the death of a choice vessel after he had gone to his reward. We need to realize that God still speaks today. He didn't lose interest in humanity with the home-going of our Lord Jesus. In **Revelation** we read, many times, ". . . what the Spirit saith unto the churches".

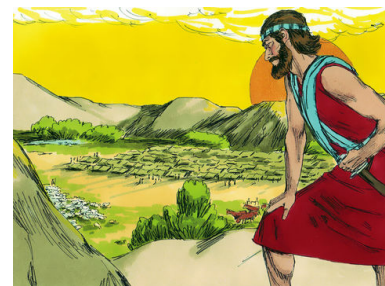
God spoke to a man who had occupied no higher position than that of having been a servant to Moses. He spoke to a man who had known nothing more than taking orders. His name was Joshua. What God said to Joshua was:

***Joshua 1:5b: as I was with Moses, so will I be with thee, I will not leave thee nor forsake thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.***

God hasn't changed this message!

Joshua was not a "mountain-like" man in greatness like Moses, but The Lord did something for Joshua to be noted by all believers.

***Joshua 3:7: And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.***



***Joshua 4:14: On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.***

God had previously told Moses to encourage Joshua. Now the encouragement came directly from the Lord, Himself.

**Joshua 1:5-8**

***5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.***

***6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.***

***7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the Law, which Moses My Servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.***



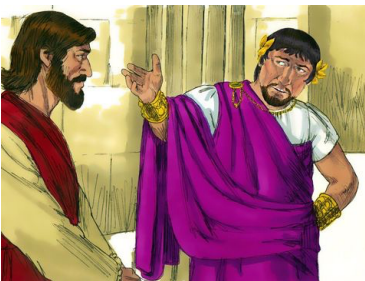
***8 This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.***

God gave Joshua the ability needed, and Joshua acted according to that measure, and that was enough. In doing this, he won. In doing this, he entered into the Promised Land. In doing this, he made it possible for God to change loss into gain, and calamity into victory.

So, you see, God does not quit when one servant of His does. God doesn't even become discouraged in the face of failure of one of His saint's defeat or fall.

***Isaiah 42:4: He [the Lord God] shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His Law.***

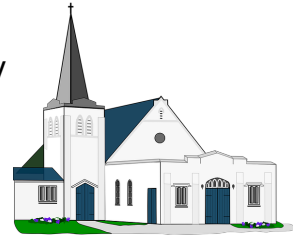
Centuries ago there came One into this world Who gave Himself unreservedly to the cause of building up the Kingdom of God. His Name is Jesus. He drew about Him a few choice men and women into whom He infused a spirit like His Own. While the Church was in its infancy, satan tried to kill Him in a stormy sea, at a hill's brow, and by stoning at the temple. Satan finally dragged Him before Pilate where He was sentenced to die on the Cross. That hour was dark. All nature shuddered in agony at the death of its Creator.



Everything seemed lost to His disciples — to Matthew who left his good-paying tax collecting job, to Peter who left his fishing business, etc. But from that skull-shaped hill of loss and death, His followers later — when He arose — went out to the conquest of the world.

Today, we face many discouraging trials. Enemies seek to subdue and undermine forces, but they shall be met and conquered through the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name!

We face the fact that only 1/3 of all professing Christians in America belong to a church; 1/6 only go to Church on Sunday morning, and only 2% go in the evening. And of those who do, a great part are only Christian in name. We are not the mighty force we ought to be, nor are we conquering as we ought. We are not as fair as the moon, nor as bright as the sun and terrible as an army with banners.

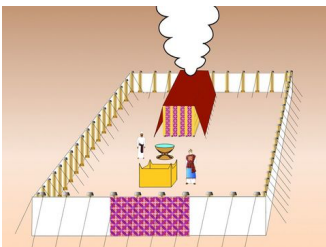


***Song of Solomon 6:10: Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?***

Maybe the church you attend is half dead with a membership that has a form of Godliness but no power. What will you do? Give up? Quit? Or shall you hear God's summons to service — to the high task of reviving it. Stir yourself to make a new effort. Get fired up and set it on fire! God isn't dead, puny, or feeling bad. Climb the new heights in God and go forward.

Note Joshua's early life, preparatory to his call.

***Exodus 33:11: And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the Tabernacle.***



In verse 7, everyone who sought the Lord went into the Tabernacle which was outside the camp. This proved his love for fellowship with the Lord, and a desire to know more fully His Mind and Will. Only those fully surrendered to God will wait upon the Lord to learn His ways. Those truly seeking the Lord find His House and His Word the center of attraction.

Note the change of name, from Oshea to Jehoshua.

***Numbers 13:16: These are the names of the men which Moses sent to***

***spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.***

Note the significance of the change in the name. It represented a change of nature. Oshea means “*salvation was in himself*”, whereas Jehoshua means “*the Lord is salvation.*” It is the true story of conversion when self-confidence is turned into faith in God. We’ll never get to Heaven trying to save ourselves.

**We’ll never get to Heaven trying to save ourselves.**

Joshua became a faithful, true witness for the Lord.

***Numbers 14:6-9:***

***And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:***



***<sup>7</sup> And they spake unto all the company of the Children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.***

***<sup>8</sup> If the LORD delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.***

***<sup>9</sup> Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.***

He exalted the Lord and boldly testified with fearlessness against his higher critics’ rationalizing cry of defeat. As a result of his faith message and trust in the Lord, God told Moses to “*take thee Joshua, and lay thine hand upon him . . . and thou shalt put of thine honor upon him.*”

***Numbers 27:18-20:***

***<sup>18</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;***

***<sup>19</sup> And set him before Eleazar the Priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.***

***<sup>20</sup> And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the Children of Israel may be obedient.***



He is now filled with the Spirit of wisdom and power.

***Deuteronomy 34:9: And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the Spirit of Wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the Children***

***of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.***

He has sought to honor God, and now God honors *him*. This is the anointing that believers receive.

***John 7:39: (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)***

Then, upon Moses' death, God personally speaks to Joshua. He teaches him and gives him marching orders. Joshua's great commission came directly from the Lord. This fact is worthy of the attention of all the Lord's servants as it reveals the spirit and manner in which God would have the work done. Every step must be taken in faith.

***Joshua 1:3-9:***

***<sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.***

***<sup>4</sup> From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.***

***<sup>5</sup> There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.***

***<sup>6</sup> Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.***

***<sup>7</sup> Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My Servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.***

***<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.***

***<sup>9</sup> Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.***



**Note:**

**In verse 4 — The great purpose of God must be kept in view.**

**In verse 5 — There must be a confidence of victory.**

**In verses 6 - 8 — There must be courage and faithfulness in adhering closely to the Word of God.**

**In verse 9 — His abiding Presence must be continually recognized.**

Truly Joshua, the servant of God, has a valued place others know little of

In Joshua's marching orders to the people, God's Ark goes first, and a sanctified people follow. Here is the position wherein can expect the Lord to do signs and wonders. Before the Lord can be glorified in us, we must be sanctified in Him.

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***Leviticus 3:10: And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.***

As we read in verse 7, when Joshua faithfully commanded the people after God's order, then the Lord magnified him in the sight of all Israel. They who put God first will always have a first place of honor in His service.

***Philippians 2:9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him [Jesus], and given Him a Name which is above every name:***

God honors His Son, The Lord Jesus.

***Hebrews 2:9: But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the Grace of God should taste death for every man.***

***John 8:49: Jesus answered [the Jews], I have not a devil; but I honour My Father, and ye do dishonour Me.***

***John 12:26: If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My Servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.***

When Jesus magnified Joshua to the people, then He met him in person as Captain of the Lord's hosts.



**Joshua 5:13-15:**

**13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?**

**14 And He said, Nay; but as Captain of the Host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto Him, What saith my Lord unto His servant?**

**15 And the Captain of the LORD's Host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is Holy. And Joshua did so.**

If we, like Joshua, will stand on holy ground, then we must have direct contact to feel the power of the Lord without anything in between. His Presence is the assurance of complete victory ahead, and that we are at a spiritual level for Him to come to us.

What a triumph they had at Jericho. However, it is eclipsed a little at Ai, where they suffered a shameful defeat. After the greatest victories are our most dangerous times. Sin can creep in so unexpectedly, and from the least suspecting source. The Lord cannot allow His conquering power to rest upon those who are not — in their own heart — right with Him. Any defeat should lead us into deep heart-searching and greater humility. The victories we win must be to bring honor and glory to Christ. His glory He will not give to another.

**After the greatest victories are our most dangerous times.**

**God makes no compromise with known sin.**

God makes no compromise with known sin; neither did Joshua, who arose early in the morning and called for an investigation. When found, *confession was required and the guilty party was then stoned to death.*

**Joshua 7:16-26:**

**16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their Tribes; and the Tribe of Judah was taken:**

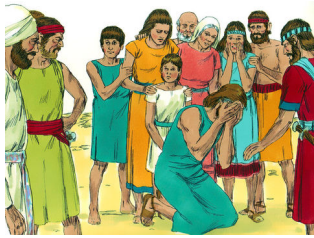
**17 And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarahites: and he brought the family of the Zarahites man by man; and Zabdi was taken:**

**18 And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the Tribe of Judah, was taken.**

**19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the**

**LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto Him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.**

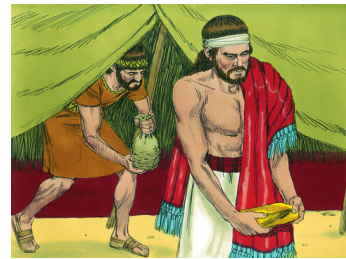
**20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:**



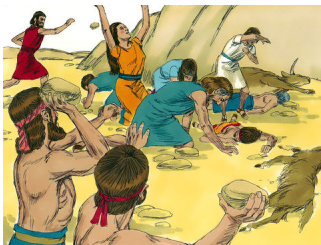
**21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.**

**22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.**

**23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the Children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.**



**24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.**



**25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.**

**26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.**

The lesson here is to beware of covetousness which is idolatry, for which cause the wrath of God cometh upon the Children of disobedience.

**Colossians 3:5-6:**

**5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:**

**6 For which things' sake the Wrath of God cometh on the children of**

***of disobedience:***

Joshua now gives great prominence to the Word of God by writing on a stone a copy of the blessings and curses that were pronounced on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, revealing the whole counsel of God, keeping back nothing.

***Joshua 8:30-32:***

***<sup>30</sup> Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal,***

***<sup>31</sup> As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.***

***<sup>32</sup> And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.***

It is still God's plan to bless obedience and to curse disobedience or rebellion.

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