

A TIME TO LAUGH... OR CRY

When Israel Conquered Canaan

Deuteronomy 34:4-6 Joshua 1:1-5,12-15; 3:5-17; 4:8-20; 5:13-15; 16:1-21

When a nine year old boy came home from Sunday School his mother asked him what he had learned. “Well,” said the boy, “our teacher told us about how God sent Moses behind the enemy lines to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. He brought them to the Red Sea, and then Moses ordered the engineers to build a pontoon bridge. After all the people crossed over, they looked back and saw the Egyptian tanks coming. Quick as a flash Moses grabbed his cellular phone and asked the Air Force to send cruise missiles to blow up the bridge and save the Israelites. “Bobby!” exclaimed the mother. “Is that really the way the teacher told the story?” “Well, not exactly,” Bobby admitted. “But if I told it her way you’d never believe it.” We understand. The amazing account of Israel being led by Moses now continues under the brilliant leadership of Joshua. The Promised Land is about to be taken by storm!

Opening Hymn

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but You are mighty; Hold me with Your pow’rful hand.

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me now and ever more;
Feed me now and ever more.

Opening Prayer

We thank You, Father, for recording the story of Moses and of Joshua who finally led Your people into the Promised Land. You make many promises, and when You do, You always keep them. It was Your will that Your Son, Jesus, be born in the land of Canaan.

For this to happen You miraculously moved Your people from Egypt through the wilderness to this land of plenty. Even as Israel was fortunate to have the guidance of Your servants Moses and Joshua, so we are fortunate to have the leadership of pastors, parents, and many others who lead us on a closer walk with You. Some day we, too, will cross the “Jordan” and join You in the real Promised Land of Heaven. To that end we study Your Holy Word and ask that You empower and direct us on our journey Home. Amen.

Who Is In Charge?

Two career firefighters and six volunteers were suspended in Seat Pleasant, MD, one September day, after they brawled over who should get to carry the big hose into a burning house. No such problem is reported when it came to who should lead Israel in crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land. God was in charge, and He decided.

Deuteronomy 34:4-6 (Read) Moses Death

Moses ascended Mount Pisgah where God enabled him to take a sweeping view of the entire land of Canaan. The Lord commended Moses for his work in leading Israel to the Promised Land. Later, in the New Testament, on the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses appeared to the Lord and spoke to Him of the great work He was doing in leading God’s people to the Promised Land in Heaven. When Moses died, the Lord took his soul to heaven and buried his body. Some people believe that because the Lord personally buried his body, it would be immune to decay so that it might later appear at the Transfiguration.

Joshua 1:1-5 (Read) Joshua Commissioned

“Moses the *servant of the Lord*.” God gave Moses the highest title available: servant of the Lord! After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel stood at the border of Canaan. The Book of Joshua records the history of Israel after Moses’ death. “Joshua” means “the Lord is salvation.” Joshua was so faithful in carrying out