

## Lesson 430

### JOSHUA APPOINTED TO SUCCEED MOSES

**MEMORY VERSE:** “**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**” (Numbers 27: 18).

TEXT: Numbers 27:12-23.

**O**ur last lesson gave an account of the godly conduct of the daughters of Zelophehad towards Moses in request for their father’s inheritance. They did not adopt violence; rather they presented their request with humility and faith in God for a just outcome as they desired a place in the promised land. Our lesson today focuses on the appointment of Joshua as a successor of Moses, the man of God. Moses had disobeyed God at the water of Meribah in Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin (Numbers 20:7-13; 27:12-14). For this reason, he was not permitted by God to enter the physical promised land.

**Question 1: *Why was Moses disallowed by God from entering into the promised land?***

“**And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered. For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin**” (Numbers 27:13, 14). Sin is always a reproach to any person. Just one moment of sin can bring great irreparable damage to an individual. Moses’ disobedience to God’s instruction hindered him from entering into the promised land. Youths should therefore guide against living in disobedience to the word of God. The Scripture says: “**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king**” (1 Samuel 15:23).

Despite the fact that he was not allowed to enter the promised land, Moses prayed that God should set a man over the congregation. In answer to his request, Joshua was appointed by God to succeed him (verse 18).

**CONSEQUENCE OF REBELLION** (Numbers 27:12-14; Jeremiah 28:15-17; 29:32; Ephesians 5:6; Hebrew 2:1-3; Nehemiah 9:17, 18, 26).

“**And the Lord said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel. And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered**” (verses 12,13). In our text, God asked Moses to get

to the mount of Abarim and see the land of Canaan which He promised the children of Israel. However, after seeing the land, he should die as Aaron his brother. Hence, he would not enter the promised land because he rebelled against the word of God at the water of Meribah. A careful look into the dealings of God with man shows that **“there is no respect of persons with God”** (Romans 2:11). Moses the man of God is acknowledged as being a meek and faithful servant of God. However, when he struck the rock instead of speaking to it as was commanded by God, he was punished (Numbers 20:7-11). The Bible testified of him in this way: **“(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house”** (Numbers 12:3,7). A moment of carelessness and carnality due to pressure from the children of Israel led him to rebel against God’s instruction at Kadesh.

### **Question 2: *What is rebellion?***

**“For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin”** (Numbers 27:14). Rebellion is resistance to the word of God and constituted authority. Saul, the first king of Israel was rejected of God and dethroned<sup>1</sup> because of rebellion (1 Samuel 15:23). Hananiah the prophet died suddenly because he was not only rebellious, but taught the children of Israel the same (Jeremiah 28:16, 29). There are youths like him in the church who are not only rebelling against God’s words, but teach others the act of rebellion. Beware of rebellious youths! Do not make friends with them or heed their counsels. Rebellion has great punishment here on earth and in eternity. The word of God states: **“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience”** (Ephesians 5:6). There are youths in the world that delight in disobeying God’s commandments, walking **“according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”** (Ephesians 2:2). This is very dangerous and they will incur<sup>2</sup> the wrath of God if they fail to repent. Youths should always obey God’s word and constituted authorities as long as their requests are not against God’s word. Youth leaders should learn from Moses’ mistake. They should ensure they lead according to divine instructions contained in the Bible.

### **Question 3: *What are the consequences of rebellion?***

**“He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy”** (Proverbs 29:1). Rebellion leads to denial of God’s provisions in all areas of life. It makes some parents disown some children. Some students are expelled from schools for acts of rebellion. It also leads to damnation in hell fire. The only way out of rebellion and its consequences is repentance and restitution.

**CONCERN OF A RELIABLE LEADER** (Numbers 27:15-17; 12:5-8; Hebrews 3:1-6; Mathew 9:36, 37; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9; 2 Timothy 2:1,2; Jeremiah 23:1,2; Acts 20:28).

**“And Moses spoke unto the LORD, saying, Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation”** (Numbers 27:15,16). The leadership qualities of Moses are summarised in this verse of the Scripture: **“Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house”** (Hebrew 3:2). He was a true shepherd who was mindful of the children of Israel possessing the land. He requested that God appoints someone to lead the children of Israel safely to the promised land. He was very considerate and unselfish. He was different from some leaders in Israel who later emerged after him. They were, **“pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep”** (Jeremiah 23:1). Christian youths should beware of such leaders!

**Question 4: *What was the concern of Moses for Israel as revealed in his request?***

Moses in his love for Israel did not want them to end their journey on the way without getting to the land of promise. He knew that, without a leader, they might turn back to Egypt. He wanted someone to guide and lead them. This should be the attitude of the youths and youth workers. Saved youths should desire the salvation of the unsaved ones. They should preach and pray to God on their behalf to rain righteousness upon them. They should also encourage the weak among them till they become strong. Youth workers are to demonstrate true love and care for the youths they are leading. Give all it requires to build up the youths till they are no longer conformed to the world, but chaste virgins prepared and ready all the time to meet the Lord. This should be reflected in their teachings. Youth workers should ensure they do everything possible so that both they and the youths make heaven at last. Prayer should be made to God whenever there is need to appoint members as Youth Choir, school fellowship officers, Instructors and Students’ Representatives. This will help to make the right choice.

**“Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd”** (verse 17). The responsibilities of the kind of leader which Moses requested for was that of leading, guiding, instructing and directing so that the people of God would not be **“as sheep which have no shepherd”**. Today, youth leaders should show sense of responsibility in leading the people of God. It is also important to ensure that every fellowship has a capable leader.

**CHOICE OF A RESPONSIBLE SUCCESSOR** (Numbers 27:18-23; Joshua 1:1,2; Exodus 18:19-26; Exodus 33:11; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 6:3,4; 1 Timothy 3:1-13).

Choosing Moses’ successor was not a problem to God. God is all knowing. He knows all things, even the heart of every man. He immediately pointed to Moses whom He has chosen. **“Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him”** (Numbers 27:18).

**Question 5: *Why did God choose Joshua as Moses’ successor?***

The reason Joshua was chosen was that he had the Spirit of God. To fit into and effectively carry out the work of God, we must be saved, sanctified, and filled with the Spirit of God. **“But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the Lord, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin”** (Micah 3:8).

**Question 6: *What are some other qualities possessed by Joshua?***

Joshua was a dedicated and devoted servant. He waited patiently for Moses at Sinai when he went up to receive the Ten Commandments from the Lord. He was always separated from sinners. He severed<sup>1</sup> himself from the ten spies that brought evil reports when sent to spy the land of Canaan and during the time Israel made a molten calf for worship (Exodus 32:17, 18; Numbers 14:6-10). Joshua was a selfless and mighty man of valour<sup>1</sup> who fought for Israel and God gave victory to them (Exodus 17:13, 14).

**“And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight”** (verse 19). After his appointment, Moses was instructed to set him before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation. The purpose was to give him charge and put some of his honour upon him so that the children of Israel may be obedient. Joshua was directed to receive counsel from the priest. We too should study the word of God regardless of our position in the church and be obedient.

**“And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses”** (verse 23). As Moses' manner was he was faithful in carrying out the command of God. The challenge to obey God comes to us today. As the Lord has committed much into our hands, we need to have courage to be obedient to Him. The challenge and call to repentance, setting right our lives and preaching the gospel will be daunting<sup>2</sup>, unless we are strong and courageous to move on despite all odds. Do not allow the fear of people or personal weakness to impede<sup>3</sup> your obedience to the word of the Lord. Therefore, **“Be strong and of a good courage ...I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee”** (Joshua 1:6,5).

# SOLEMN FEASTS AND THEIR OFFERINGS

**MEMORY VERSE:** “These things ye shall do unto the LORD in your set feasts, beside your vows, and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your meat offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings” (Numbers 29:39).

TEXT: Numbers 28:1-31; 29:1-40.

**A**fter the appointment of Joshua as the successor of Moses, God instructed the children of Israel through Moses on the types of offerings they were expected to give to Him. He also instituted and reemphasized the feasts and gatherings of the children of Israel to worship Him at various times of the year. The Lord made the importance of worship very clear. Moses worked to ensure the children of Israel walked in accordance to the will and plan of God.

## **Question 1: *How can Christian youths today emulate the life of Moses?***

Christian youths can emulate the life of Moses by ensuring that they are fully obedient to the Lord in carrying out all instructions given by God. God gave clear instructions regarding the offerings and how they were to be offered. He commanded the children of Israel to give the offerings, so that there would be enough provision for His worship. The offerings were also meant for atonement and reconciliation of Israelites with God. Today, we do not offer sacrifices for atonement, rather the “...**blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**” (1 John 1:7). The feasts were also commanded by God to enable the children of Israel gather at His presence for worship, supplication, meditation and fellowship. These feasts represent some major milestones in their relationship with God.

**THE PURPOSE AND CONSTITUENTS OF THE OFFERINGS** (Numbers 28: 1 – 15; Exodus 29: 38 – 46; Psalm 105: 43 – 45; Psalm 141:2; Isaiah 58:13,14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-3, 8, 24; 9:6-8; 1 Corinthians 16: 2).

In our text, there are three major types of offerings which the children of Israel were expected to give to the Lord. These were the daily, weekly and monthly offerings.

**(a) The Daily Offering** (Numbers 28: 3 – 8): The daily offering was meant to include a burnt offering, meat offering and drink offering. They were to be offered both in the morning and evening. The Lord also commanded that “**It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD**” (Numbers 28:6). Today, since we do not offer daily sacrifices to God as they did, our daily Quiet Time can be taken as our daily services (Psalm 116:17; Hebrews 13:15; Philippians 4:6). The Scripture commanded us to “**Pray without ceasing**” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is meant to be a sweet savour to the Lord. It is a sweet savour when the person praying is having the right relationship with God and prays in accordance to His will. Besides,

our offering can also be in form of giving our lives to God's service (2 Corinthians 2:14,15; Ephesians 5:2). The Lord also commanded that drink offering was to be offered in the holy place. The Lord did not want the children of Israel to drink the strong wine, rather he wanted them to offer it as part of the sacrifice to Him (Number 28:7).

**(b) The Weekly Offering** (Numbers 28: 9, 10): The weekly sacrifices were expected to be offered to the Lord when they gathered to worship Him on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day had been declared by God as a special day (Exodus 20: 8 – 10). We do not observe the Sabbath day anymore, but we worship on the Lord's Day – first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

**(c) The Monthly Offering** (Numbers 28: 11- 15): A new month is heralded<sup>1</sup> by a new moon and the Lord commanded that the children of Israel bring some sacrifices to offer for their sins and to worship Him. The Israelites were to observe this to reflect upon the mercies of the Lord. Youths need to know that our daily existence is as a result of God's mercy. **"Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds"** (Psalms 36:5).

**Question 2a: Recall the four type's offerings commanded God according to our study.**

**2b: How does this apply to Christian youths today?**

As we look through all the offerings, we see the orderliness of God. He was very clear and definite on what was to be offered and when they were to be offered. We are to ensure that all things are done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

The offerings were necessary and to be given high priority by the Israelites. God expects every child of His to give. Giving is an evidence of our love for God. Giving is a Christian responsibility and believing youths have a responsibility to give. Giving brings some of life's satisfactions to youths who are faithful in giving to God. (Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6, 10)

**THE PATTERN AND COMPONENTS OF THE FEASTS** (Numbers 28: 16 – 31; 29: 1 – 39; Ezra 3:1-6; Zechariah 14:16-19; Hebrews 9:28)

The children of Israel had wandered through the wilderness for about forty years and were about to get to the promised land. God therefore needed to remind them of what they were required to do when they get there. As they approached the promised land, they were to settle in different parts of the land and God commanded them to keep the following feasts: (1) the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) (Numbers 28: 16 – 25; Exodus 12: 8, 15 – 20; Leviticus 23:5-13); (2) the Feast of first-fruits or Pentecost (Numbers 28: 26 – 31); (3) the Feast of the Trumpets (Numbers 29: 1 – 6; Leviticus 23: 23 - 25); (4) the Feast of the Day of Atonement (Numbers 29: 7 – 11; Leviticus 23: 26 - 32); and (5) the Feast of Tabernacles (Numbers 29: 12 – 38; Leviticus 23: 33 - 41).

**Question 4: Are Christian youths expected to engage in any of these blood sacrificed feasts? Give reasons for your answer.**

As New Testaments saints, we are not expected to offer sacrifices of blood of animal at any feast. Jesus Christ has been offered as a sacrifice for our sins. **"For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as**

**those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself"** (Hebrews 7: 26, 27).

**Question 5: What are the significances of the feasts to the New Testament saint?**

Each of the feasts had a special significance to the children of Israel and by extension to the church today. **"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"** (1 Corinthians 10:11). The Passover was to celebrate the liberation of the children of Israel from the captivity of Egypt. During the Passover, there was to be an offering of a Pascal lamb which typifies Jesus Christ. Anyone who is saved today is free from the bondage of sins. Also, they were to take the unleavened bread to remember the sincerity of the Lord in delivering them as well as His expectations from them. We are commanded today to **"...keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth"** (1 Corinthians 5:8). Saved youths are expected to be sincere to the Lord.

The Feast of First-fruits was held seven weeks after the harvest. The children of Israel gathered to thank God for giving and preserving their fruits till the harvest. It was a time of gratitude to God. The early Church received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). God still pours out His Spirit on those who are saved, sanctified and ready to serve Him (Acts 10:44-46). On the first day of the seventh month was to be the Feast of Trumpets. The children of Israel were to make the day a Sabbath day, regardless of what day it fell (Leviticus 23:23-32). Another feast in the seventh month is the day of Atonement. As the name signifies, it was to be a time when the children of Israel were expected to come in deep contrition before the Lord.

The final feast was the Feast of Tabernacles. This feast is also called the Feast of Ingathering (Exodus 23:16; 34:22), the Feast to the Lord (Leviticus 23:39; Judges 21:9), the Feast of Booths, or simply "the feast" (Leviticus 23:36; Deuteronomy 16:13; I Kings 8:2; II Chronicles 5:3, 7:8; Nehemiah 8:14; Isaiah 30:29; Ezekiel 45:23,25). This feast was a time of great rejoicing and celebration. It followed the feast of atonement which was a time of great mourning and repentance. During the eight days of the Feast of Tabernacles, everyone was to make the pilgrimage and live in booths for seven days at the place where God had placed His name. It reminded the children of Israel of God's protection and preservation all through their sojourn. As believers, we should remember the work of grace and His abiding presence with us.

**PERSISTENT CALL OF GOD TO YOUTHS** (Numbers 29: 39, 40; Exodus 32: 26; Ezekiel 33:11-16; Matthew 11: 28; John 7: 37)

**"These things ye shall do unto the LORD in your set feasts, beside your vows, and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your meat offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings. And Moses told the children of Israel according to all that the LORD commanded Moses"** (Numbers 29:39,40). As we look at all these feasts and offerings, we see God's persistent call to Israel to have fellowship with Him and walk in His ways. He gave them clear guidelines on how they were to maintain the right relationship with Him. In the same way, Jesus Christ calls youths today to walk with Him. He said: **"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh**

**unto the Father, but by me”** (John 10:9; 14:6). God is not interested that any youth should perish but that they should repent and come to the knowledge of Christ. It is therefore important that the right relationship should be maintained between every youth and God.

***Question 6: How can a youth maintain the right relationship with God?***

Unsaved youths need to acknowledge their sinful state (Psalm 51: 1 – 5); believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1: 12); confess, repent and forsake all sins (Proverbs 28:13). Believers must do the following to sustain the grace of God. (1) Read and obey the word of God. (2) Pray regularly with faith. (3) Attend a Bible believing Church. (4) Separate from ungodly people. (5) Serve the Lord by evangelizing others. (6) Live a holy life.