

A SPY CALLED JOSHUA

An Article by
Pastor Kemi Illori
Living Hope Church
LEEDS

pastorkemi@livinghopechurch.co.uk

The name Joshua is the Old Testament version of Jesus. It means “Yahweh saves”. “Yahweh” or “Jehovah” is the Old Testament name for the LORD God Almighty, the Father and God of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joshua, like some other Old Testament leaders such as Joseph, Moses, and David to mention but a few, plays a role that is very crucial to the founding and growth of the Israelite nation. In many aspects, this role looks forward to the times of Christ when Jesus as the Son of God will bring salvation to the whole of mankind through His death on the cross.

Joshua has no remarkable beginning. He, no doubt, came from a very humble background. However, he became distinguished in the following particular ways:

1. He was chosen by Moses to lead an army against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:9-14) The Amalekites were a very fierce people and had a great deal of experience in winning battles. But Joshua knew that his own commission was from God, and that those who side with God will always win.
2. He was on the mountain with Moses to receive the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 24:12-18). God had spoken about His Law in Exodus Chapter 20. The Israelites came to hear Him at the foot of Mount Sinai. In Exodus Chapter 24, God revealed that He wanted to write down His Law in tablets of stone so that the covenant with Israel would be both in word and in writing. Moses took Joshua with him to receive the written Law. Whilst others were wining and dining, Joshua was on the mountain to hear and to receive revelations from God.
3. He lived in the tabernacle, day and night. (Exodus 33:7-11) When the Psalmist said, “I will dwell in Your house forever” - Psalm 23 - a good example is portrayed by Joshua.
4. He was one of twelve spies, and one of the two who came back with a good report. (Numbers 13:16-33; 14:1-10) He saw the giants, but he remembered the promises of God, and he knew that God was able to keep His promises. Therefore, he chose to walk by faith and not by sight.
5. He entered the Promised Land as the leader of God’s people. (Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 14-15) He did not become leader simply because he was better than others but because God was pleased with him.