

Profitable Change

Shalom,

The Torah portion for this week, which is found in **Deuteronomy 31:1-30**, is called **Vayeilech** or **“And He Went,”** Moses surprised the people of Israel with the news that he was going to die, very soon. He was speaking to the ones who were under 20 years of age when the evil report was given by 10 of the 12 tribal representatives who were sent to see the land YHWH had given them. The word of men was believed more than the promises God had given them, and the whole nation yielded to fear and rebellion resulting in those 20 and over being told that they must wander in the desert until all of them had died (Numbers 13 and 14).

Then Adonai said to Moses, “Behold, your time to die is near. Call Joshua, and present yourselves at the Tent of Meeting, and I will commission him.” Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the Tent of Meeting. (Deuteronomy 31:14 TLV)

This younger generation of the Children of Israel had only known the leadership of Moses and had only looked to him to give them God’s Words. You can imagine that Moses’ death represented a major transition for all of them. Joshua was a faithful man who served God and Moses with much zeal, but he was now about to replace the one God had called to bring His deliverance to His people and receive Torah for them. We all can understand that such a **change** might have seemed troubling, for their whole way of doing things and their national identity was wrapped up in the leadership of Moses. You can imagine that such a transition would have caused a time of uncertainty for the people and left them wondering if Joshua was up to this task instead of recognizing that **YHWH, the real leader of Israel and all mankind, never changes.**

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you came to trust—and to each as the Lord gave. (1 Corinthians 3:5 TLV)

It is the way of the natural man to think in fleshly terms and to view people called by God to lead us as the only leaders we can accept, because they are the ones we know and respect. But, even though God didn’t check with us first, He has called many to lead His congregations, and He sets His people in His Body as it pleases Him. When Moses departed from this life, YHWH had prepared Joshua, not only to oversee and reinforce what Moses had taught, but also to lead His people in a time of change that would usher in a new and victorious era.

But now God has placed the parts—each one of them—in the Body just as He desired. (1 Corinthians 12:18 TLV)

At the time of entering the promised land, Joshua was God’s anointed servant; but for the victory God had given to be manifest, **the people had to enter into a relationship of trust** that God had given them victory, and He had given it under the leadership of

Joshua. **The time of change was difficult.** Joshua was different than Moses. It must have seemed strange to get direction from a new leader, but **obedience to God, through following the one He called, brought about some of the most amazing and supernatural victories of all time.**

Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand— your enemies will fall before your sword. (Leviticus 26:8 CJB)

Now you are the Body of Messiah, and members individually. (1 Corinthians 12:27 TLV)

We have been given the victory through the blood of Yeshua, the Messiah; and God has set ministers in His congregations to equip His people to do the miraculous work of His ministry. Just as God's plan for securing the promised land was, by His will, accomplished by His congregation, He works today through His congregation, all of those He has anointed and set to carry on His works.

He Himself gave some to be emissaries, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers— to equip the kedoshim for the work of service, for building up the Body of Messiah. (Ephesians 4:11-12 TLV)

It is very important that we realize that **change** is necessary for us to **grow and mature** in our relationship with God, but we also know that, with all the chaos and tumult that surrounds, we can be assured that God never changes, and He will complete what He has begun in us.

We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in Messiah. (Colossians 1:28 TLV)

Being Conformed to His image,
Terry

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