

## TRANSITION

Josh 1:1-5

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them — the children of Israel.

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

I. Israel was going thru a **SEASON OF TRANSITION**:

A. First: A **Leadership Transition**:

1. From Moses to Joshua

B. Second: their **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

1. was going thru a transition

C. I want to speak to you about seasons in our life when:

1. our relationship with God goes thru transition, as Israel's did

II. **God gave Joshua a promise**:

A. vs 5 "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will never leave nor forsake you"

1. Many times when we receive a promise from God:

a. we presume a lot of things

b. and God says one thing....but we hear another thing

B. Under Moses leadership, God was dealing with a baby:

1. At this stage of Israel's existence God had to provide for & do everything For them:
  - a. Ex 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.
2. Jehovah God carried Israel like a baby ..... Just as a mother eagle does with her baby eaglets
  - a. God not only delivered Israel from Egypt by His power
  - b. But He also:
    - (1) Fed Israel every day with manna from heaven
    - (2) Clothed them with clothes & shoes that never wore out
    - (3) Provided a cloud to guide them by day & protect them from the sun
    - (4) Provided a Pillar of Fire to guide them by night & give them heat
3. The Lord was doing everything for Israel...like a mother would her baby
  - a. Life is quite supernatural for a baby:
    - (1) bottles of milk & food appear out of nowhere
    - (2) baby makes a mess & with no effort on their part....they get cleaned up
    - (3) they constantly find themselves in new locations as they fall asleep & awake somewhere else....with no effort on their part
    - (4) all a baby has to do is cry.....and they get attention & have needs met
4. This pretty much describes our relationship with God when first saved....  
When we are babes in Christ
  - a. Sad to say some believers mistakenly think that no matter how long they have been saved....that their relationship with God will stay on this level
  - b. and all they have to do to get God to move on their behalf is cry
5. Heb 5:12 For though by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.  
13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is **unskilled in the word** of righteousness, for he is a babe.  
14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
  - a. The Apostle is telling these believers that they should have grown up by now and instead of always needing ministry to....they should now be teaching others
    - (1) Babes in Christ only partake of a spiritual depth of God's word called **MILK**

b. But Jesus describes a spiritual depth of God's word that every believer is  
(1) John 4:34 My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his  
work.

- (1) Babies do not eat meat
- (2) babies are only concerned about their own will
- (3) babies do not work...nor handle responsibilities

C. Suddenly Israel finds themselves in TRANSITION:

1. Manna did not come down from heaven
2. water was no longer flowing out from a rock
3. the cloud was gone & the sun was getting hot
4. the fore disappeared and the nights were cold
5. let alone wondering....who will show us where to go
6. the clothes that lasted & grew with them for 40 years....were getting tight and started showing signs of ware

D. I imagine that Israel may have began to wonder:

1. where's God...did we miss Him?  
Has God left us / abandoned us in this land
2. Babies walk by sight / circumstances & emotions
3. Mature believers walk by faith in the word
  - a. 2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
4. The Promise said: I will never leave you nor forsake you
  - a. no doubt some of the Israelites were thinking:
    - (1) But the cloud is gone
    - (2) The fire went out
    - (3) I was hungry & no manna came
    - (4) The river quit flowing
    - (5) I didn't get my prophecy
    - (6) I did not feel the goose bumps in Praise & worship
    - (7) I got prayed for & did not get slain in the spirit

- E. I imagine that Joshua might have accessed the situation & said to The Lord:
1. I thought that you were going to be with me like you were Moses
    - a. In this transition Joshua & Israel had to learn that
      - (1) God did not say: **“I WILL DO WITH YOU LIKE I DID MOSES”**
      - (2) God did not say: **I WILL MOVE WITH YOU LIKE I DID MOSES**
  2. No God said: **I WILL BE WITH YOU** as I was with Moses
    - a. He promised that His presence would still be with them
    - b. But: how God would move for Joshua & Israel as they entered their promise land would be different
    - b. How God provided would be different
  3. Now Israel was going to learn about RESPONSIBILITY
    - a. They were going to grow their own food
    - b. and make their own clothes
    - c. and did their own wells
      - (1) God was now requiring them to:
        - (a) hear His voice
        - (b) and obey His word
      - (1) They had to become RESPONSIBLE
        - (a) Babies cannot govern cities
        - (b) Babies cannot drive out the enemies from the land God gave them
- F. Israel was about to discover that their **CRYING NO LONGER MOVED GOD**
1. Because you cannot give a baby:
    - a. responsibilities
    - b. dominion
    - c. and authority
  2. You can lead a baby around in a wilderness for 40 years
    - a. But, **you cannot lead a baby into their inheritance:**
    - b. Gal 4:1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,
      2. but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.
        - (1) a child or a baby Christian may be a joint heir in Christ / Rom 8:17
        - (2) but they will not partake of the fullness of their spiritual inheritance until they have come of age / matured spiritually
        - (3) Just as in the natural realm a child with an inheritance does not receive that inheritance until the appointed time of the father / or when the father sees they have grown up

- (5) Our Heavenly Father has also appointed a time for each of us to receive  
And partake of our inheritance / promises He has given us:
  - (a) and that appointed time has nothing to do with physical age
  - (b) or how long we have been saved
  - (c) Rather: the appointed time is: when we have reached spiritual maturity  
And are capable of handling responsibilities

III. There comes a time when the mother eagle will no longer carry her babies /  
And she begins to take them out of their comfort zone:

A. One day momma eagle shows up at the nest and the babe eagle notices

- 1. she did not bring me any food
- 2. then the mother eagle begins to take the nest apart:
  - a. removing the down & now sticks a pricking the baby eagle
- 3. Then mother eagle starts pushing her babies over the side of the nest
  - a. telling them that this transition will bring you into your **POTENTIAL**
    - (a) and by the way: YOU CAN FLY
- 4. Mother eagle then tells her babies: I am going to thrust you toward  
Your **DESTINY** and as you are falling remember this:
  - a. I will never leave you nor forsake you
  - b. My presence will be with you, but I will manifest myself to you in  
Away you have never experienced before
    - (1) and by the way....YOU CAN FLY
    - (2) suddenly that young eagle finds itself in a free fall

B. Maybe you are currently finding your life, walk with God, ministry, career  
In a free fall

- 1. and God is moving with you / or providing for you the same way He did in  
the past
  - a. Maybe you are finding yourself in an uncomfortable place
  - b. It's probable a season of transition
  - c. & The Lord is saying: time to grow up & take on some responsibilities
- 2. But if we are willing to mature:
  - a. we will experience a greater realm of:
    - (1) the miraculous
    - (2) God's provision
    - (3) & greater victories
    - (4)

3. We can walk by faith like Joshua did
  - a. and see the spiritual strongholds of our Jericho fall
4. We can face our giants & see them defeated in Jesus Name
  - a. and pass the victory over those giants on to our children as David did with his sons
5. We can enter into our Promise Land / Destiny / Dream / the fullness of Our POETENTIAL
  - a. and not only receive our inheritance
  - b. but also be a vessel that brings others into their inheritance
6. If we are willing to mature & take on RESPONSIBILITIES of Life, The Church & the Kingdom of God:
  - a. we will walk in another dimension of the AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER
  - b. and exercise a greater realm of spiritual dominion

IV. 1 John 2:12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

A. **THREE LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY:**

1. FATHERS
2. YOUNG MEN
3. CHILDREN

B. **CHILDREN:**

1. are only interested in what God can do for them
2. what the Church can do for them
3. children are only interested in things & getting blessed

C. **YOUNG MEN**

1. ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT God can do thru them
2. Their Purpose & Destiny
3. come to Church to Give & Serve...not just receive

#### D. FATHERS:

1. Do not care who God uses....just as long as God moves is most important to them
2. Mentors / raise up spiritual sons & daughters
3. Bring people into their destinies & divide out their inheritance to them

D. In vs 13 & 14 we see a mixing of order of these three spiritual levels & it is not a mistake nor done by accident: this order is as follows:

1. vs 13 "I write unto you little children. Because you have known the Father
2. vs 14 "I write unto you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning
3. vs 14 "I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one
  - a. The reasons for this mix in the order of these three spiritual levels to: Children, father, men:
  - b. is: there can be no Young Men raised up in the church & Kingdom of God
    - (1) Until fathers come on the scene & step up & begin to mentor the Children

E. God is calling you to the next level of maturity:

1. when Israel became responsible:
  - a. They went into the next level of:
    - (1) God's presence
    - (2) Greater realm of authority, dominion & anointing
    - (3) Conquered cities
    - (4) Divided & partook of their inheritance
    - (5) & entered their destiny
2. 1 Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
  - a. Paul said in order to become a man / a man of God / a woman of God:
    - (1) he had to put some things away
      - (a) what are you holding on to that is hindering you
      - (b) what areas of you walk with God, life, marriage, ministry, career have you failed to assume responsibilities for

3. it is time to do what Paul said in:

Phil 3:14 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- a. maybe need to grow up & quit playing with sin & get saved
- b. maybe need to grow up and answer the call to ministry
- c. maybe time to grow up & put your gifts & talents to work for the glory of God
- d. maybe it's time to grow up & quit making excuses & accept responsibilities