

# BUT AS FOR ME

## Joshua

After the death of Moses, God established Joshua as the leader to take Israel to the Promise Land. He was Moses' assistant, who faithfully followed him all the way. Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim. His determination to serve God was visible in all his ways of service to Moses. Joshua was born a slave in the land of Egypt, in the generation after Moses'. His father Nun was hopeful for the deliverance of Israel when he named his son "salvation." That was of prophetic significance for the future of the nation of Israel's freedom. Even more significant was the fact that his son would fulfill the prophecy to the letter. He stood as God's warrior against the pagan nations before they entered the land and after. He remained faithful to the promises of God when he took charge of Israel: Only you be strong and courageous, that you may do according to the all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success (Joshua 1: 7-8).

The secret of Joshua's success in leading the nation to the Promised Land was found in his obedience to the written and spoken Word of God. He was to face an immense task, one he was very familiar with, for from the beginning Joshua stood firm assisting Moses. He was not one to follow the crowd in rebelling against God and against His purpose for the nation, but he stood by Moses' side to assist him in whatever it was needed. As a spy, he did not side with the majority in their report of the land, which discouraged the people greatly, but together with Caleb, even facing stoning, he remained firm in his belief that that was a good land, a "land of milk and honey." Together with Caleb, he quieted the people and encouraged them to continue with the possession of the land that God had promised them.

It took almost forty years for God to train Joshua to take Moses place. Forty years is a long time sojourning from place to place. But every circumstance God used to teach Joshua to be the future leader of Israel. Often he gathered the people, as Moses did to remind the people what the Lord had done for them and to bring them to focus on obedience. When he was old and close to his last days, he gathered the people and said, Know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you, not one thing of them has failed...Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side on the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 23: 14; 24:14-15). Joshua presented Israel with two choices: to follow the true God or the gods of the nations, but as for him, he made a proclamation that not only he, but his entire family was going to serve the God of Israel. As a spiritual leader, Joshua took the stand, he made a choice for his family that guided them to serve God.

The world today, more than any other time, is busy bringing people of all ages to its evil ways. They are of magnetic strength and many have lived and obsessed intensively over those gadgets. So much so, that they live plugged to it all day long. And some have even lost their lives. Where the crossroad is, there is the obstruction called electronics that blinded the eyes and deafened the ears of

most. Many pleasures the world offers are found by means of computer or phone. Inside these machines reside all evil that the human being is attracted to. It is right at one's touch with a temptation to fall into because there is no guiding voice calling out to the other side. The spiritual leaders of the homes have made the choice of following the world and its evil devices. One by one, or worse two or three by three, are falling into a pit of pornography and other related sins. Under their leadership families' values have vanished. They are to them "old fashion" and archaic. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," there is no such commitment in the heart of many Christian men.

Joshua's words still can be heard: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. They have been written for everyone to follow. There will always be choices in life: good or bad, with the consequences following. The short cut and seemly easy, is not the safe way. YAHSHUA said that wide is the way that leads to destruction, but narrow the way to heaven. Because many people follow pleasures, the worldly pleasures, and reject the way that requires self-denying and the carrying of the cross, YAHSHUA said few will be those who will enter by it. What is it more important to you the world's pleasure or your soul? The determined purpose of every believer should be that of serving the Lord, not the world and the things it offers. God warned the Prophet Isaiah not to walk in the way of the people: do not call conspiracy all that these people will call conspiracy; neither be in fear of what they fear, nor in dread; the Lord of hosts-regard Him as holy and honor His holy name, and let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread; and He shall be a sanctuary [to those who fear and trust in Him]; but He shall be a Stone of stumbling and a Rock of offense to both the house of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem (Isaiah 8:11-14). The end results of following the crowd are disastrous. It is better to follow that which is right, even though rejected by the majority, as you choose to follow "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." A family determined to follow the Lord and His teachings will be a family that will be blessed. In the midst of evil and corruption, the Prophet Micah separated himself from it all when he said, As for me, I will look to the Lord and confident in Him I will keep watch; I will wait with hope and expectancy for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me (Micah 7:7).

The Lord continues seeking faithful followers of His examples. He suffered in the hands of sinners and died for crimes He did not commit. That were our crimes.

Following the world will never get us where we should be spiritually. Be ready to suffer insults and rejection by the mob for your love of God. Their end will come, soon or later. There will be a time when they will be judged and suffer punishment. In the end, they will wish they had followed the Lord when it will be too late. We must not be in the midst of them. No matter the cost, follow the Lord without looking back. As for me and my house, we will follow the Lord. Make your decision today to follow the Lord wholeheartedly. Every decision we make carries consequences – good or bad. You can laugh now if you are following the crowd, but your end will be where you don't want to be. The suffering we face in the narrow way is the suffering our Lord went through; it is not worth to be compared with the future glory that will be revealed to us at the end of our journey. Follow the Lord only no matter what the world offers you. Remember how Satan tempted our Lord with world's riches. He will do the same to you to pull you away from the narrow road. YAHSHUA is your guide, a sure strength in the time of trouble. He will lead you through the narrow way, through your hardships and reward you with heaven. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" How about you?

(Micah 7: 7; Joshua 24:14-15)