

Numbers 27:12-23 **Moses to Die and Joshua Appointed Israel's Shepherd**

12 Now the LORD said to Moses: "Go up into this Mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the children of Israel. **13** And when you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was gathered. **14** For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah, at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.)

15 Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: **16** "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, **17** who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

18 And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; **19** set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. **20** And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. **21** He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him--all the congregation." **22** So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. **23** And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moses at God's command is to view the Promised Land from Mount Abarim, and when he has viewed the land he is to be gathered to his people as Aaron was gathered.
- ✧ Gathered to his people suggests that in death the people are still alive and the one dieing will be joining them in their new location.
- ✧ The reason Moses shall see the Promised Land and not enter it, is the same reason Aaron was prevented from entering it, namely their disobedience at the waters of Meribah at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin where they spent the last 40 years. [Numbers 20:2-13, 22-29]

God had said:

"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." [Numbers 20:8]

Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. [Numbers 20:10-11]

Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them. [Numbers 20:12-13]

- ✧ The Word of God that had been spoken 40 years earlier in this regard has not changed even after Moses has been faithful for that entire time.

- ✧ There is a consequence to our rash actions and we can know for certain that the Word of God will stand just as He has spoken, and length of our service will not change it at all.
- ✧ The actions of God's people in public will have a bearing on their standing at the Judgment of God when they are called to give account for the things done while in the mortal body. [\[Matthew 12:36-37, Romans 14:10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:10, James 3:1\]](#)
- ✧ Moses asked God to appoint a leader for the people before he dies so the people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.
- ✧ God instructed Moses to commission Joshua to be the leader of the People after Moses.
- ✧ Joshua is a man in whom is the Spirit, [\[Numbers 27:18\]](#) indicating that the Holy Spirit was dwelling in Joshua the same as we today are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 - ✧ The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is what enables a man to do the service of God acceptably, and that fact has not changed. [\[Numbers 11:1-29, 27:18, Acts 1:8\]](#)
 - ✧ Even though Joshua is filled with the Holy Spirit, still God requires that he seek the Word of God through the Priest with the Urim. [\[Numbers 27:21\]](#)
- ✧ The commissioning was done by the public laying on of hands with a formal charge of service. [\[Numbers 27:18-23\]](#)
- ✧ Joshua was given some of the authority of Moses. [\[Numbers 27:20\]](#)
 - ✧ Moses was a man who spoke with God face to face from the day he met God at the burning bush. [\[Exodus 33:11, Numbers 12:5-8, Deuteronomy 34:10\]](#)
 - ✧ Joshua approached God through the Priest with the Urim. [\[Numbers 27:21\]](#)
 - ✧ The purpose of the public transfer of authority is that the congregation of the Children of Israel may be obedient. [\[Numbers 27:20\]](#)
 - ✧ At the Word of Yehowah through the Priest they will go out and come in, both Joshua and all the congregation of the Children of Israel. [\[Numbers 27:21\]](#)
- ✧ It was done just as Yehowah commanded by the hand of Moses. [\[Numbers 27:22-23\]](#)