

Study Guide for Sept. 24th, '06. Preparing for the Future: Deuteronomy 31.

Introduction: When have you witnessed a smooth transition between leaders?
When have you seen a rough transition? What makes good transitions likely?

I. A New Leader: (Deut. 31:1-8)

- 1) What concerns might be expected with the announcement of Moses departure?
- 2) What does Moses assure the people that God will do in their behalf?
- 3) What does Moses promise Joshua? Where and how does Moses challenge Joshua?
- 4) Describe a time you have witnessed God's consistency during a time of change.

II. An Old Lesson: (Deut. 31:9-29) [The chiasmic structure gives clues to interpretation.]

A. Communication from God – the Law -- HEAR IT! (Deut. 31:9-13)

- 1) Would hearing the Law every 7 years be sufficient? (Dt. 6:1-9, 17:11, & 24:8)
- 2) What were the children to learn? What attitude were they to adopt?
- 3) What are you doing to regularly hear and teach God's Word?

B. Commission of Joshua – Call Him! (Deut. 31:14-15)

- 1) Where does this ceremony take place? (see Ex. 33:7-11) Who is present?
- 2) Have you "heard the call of God"? What might such a call look like for us?

C. Consequences of Compromise - Consecrate Yourselves! (Deut. 31:16-22)

- 1) Summarize what God says the people will do? How will God respond?
- 2) Why does God tell Moses to write down and teach the song (chap. 32)?
- 3) What is the benefit of this pessimistic forecast of Israel's later apostasy?

B'. Commission of Joshua -- Charge Him! (Deut. 31:23)

- 1) What does God command Joshua to do? 2) What can we learn from this?

A'. Communication from God –the Law -- HEED IT! (Deut. 31:23-29)

- 1) Where was the book of the Law placed? Why?
- 2) What does Moses predict or warn will occur in the days to come?

Conclusion: Reflect on the promise of God's faithfulness, even to an unfaithful people.