

THE SUCCESSION OF LEADERSHIP

I. Introduction

Again we invite you to join us in our study of Deuteronomy. I am only sorry we cannot see one another and talk face to face but I hope you can have your Bible near you and watch it for yourself as we go. If you have questions or suggestions for me in this study, you may write me in care of the station to which you are listening. I try to answer all mail, well, I don't get much!, but it sometimes takes awhile due to my travelling and, at times, the communication of stations. I do value both opinion and questions. Now the text before us is the concluding verses of chapter 3...verses 21-29. It is a short portion but one of considerable interest both in God's response to Moses and the instruction given Joshua. Changes in command are often very threatening and one who must follow an outstanding leader is in a tough spot. But we will see how it develops in the text.

II. Discussion

3:21.... "I commanded Joshua at that time, saying..." Think first of Joshua's qualifications..his spy work, his military assistance, his being with Moses in the mount of revelation, and his assistance in the camp affairs. He had proved himself worthy to be a leader several times over by his competent work as a servant..and I am close to a tangent on that.

"Your eyes have seen"...an appeal to reality

"so shall the Lord"...and this is the promise of continuance.

3:22.... "Don't fear..." As I have mentioned before, observe the many times this admonition is given in this book. Fear is an easy emotion...the answer to it is assurance in faith. The basis is not raw human courage but , rather, the presence of God.

3:23.... "and I besought the Lord" (the other side of the coin)  
"at that time"

3:24.... "you have begun" Moses is telling God that He has moved into a revelatory mode and he knows, as the people must, that there is no God who can do what the God of Israel has done and will continue to do.

3:25.... In the light of that truth, Moses renews his personal request that he be allowed to go over into the land. (In regard to this, see Matthew 17 and the transfiguration gathering).