

Comparing Elisha to Elijah and Joshua to Moses

By Yehudah ben Shomeyr

We have all heard the saying, “Like Father, Like Son.” And many of us already know how Elisha’s ministry and miracles mimic and parallel and actually double what Elijah did, for Elisha asked for a double portion (2 Kings 2:9).

Miracles in the Career of Elijah:

- 1) Causing the rain to cease for 3 1/2 years (1Ki 17:1)
- 2) Being fed by the ravens (1Ki 17:4)
- 3) Miracle of the barrel of meal and cruse of oil (1Ki 17:14)
- 4) Resurrection of the widow's son (1Ki 17:22)
- 5) Calling of fire from heaven on the altar (1Ki 18:38)
- 6) Causing it to rain (1Ki 18:45)
- 7) Prophecy that Ahab's sons would all be destroyed (1Ki 21:22)
- 8) Prophecy that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1Ki 21:23)
- 9) Prophecy that Ahaziah would die of his illness (2Ki 1:4)
- 10) Calling fire from heaven upon the first 50 soldiers (2Ki 2:10)
- 11) Calling fire from heaven upon the second 50 soldiers (2Ki 2:12)
- 12) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:8)
- 13) Prophecy that Elisha should have a double portion of his spirit (2Ki 2:10)
- 14) Being caught up to heaven in a whirlwind (2Ki 2:11)

Miracles in the Career of Elisha:

- 1) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:14)
- 2) Healing of the waters (2Ki 2:21)
- 3) Curse of the she bears (2Ki 2:24)
- 4) Filling of the valley with water (2Ki 3:17)
- 5) Deception of the Moabites with the valley of blood (2Ki 3:22)
- 6) Miracle of the vessels of oil (2Ki 4:4)
- 7) Prophecy that the Shunammite woman would have a son (2Ki 4:16)
- 8) Resurrection of the Shunammite's son (2Ki 4:34)
- 9) Healing of the gourds (2Ki 4:41)
- 10) Miracle of the bread (2Ki 4:43)
- 11) Healing of Naaman (2Ki 5:14)
- 12) Perception of Gehazi's transgression (2Ki 5:26)
- 13) Cursing Gehazi with leprosy (2Ki 5:27)

- 14) Floating of the axe head (2Ki 6:6)
- 15) Prophecy of the Syrian battle plans (2Ki 6:9)
- 16) Vision of the chariots (2Ki 6:17)
- 17) Smiting the Syrian army with blindness (2Ki 6:18)
- 18) Restoring the sight of the Syrian army (2Ki 6:20)
- 19) Prophecy of the end of the great famine (2Ki 7:1)
- 20) Prophecy that the scoffing nobleman would see, but not partake of, the abundance (2Ki 7:2)
- 21) Deception of the Syrians with the sound of chariots (2Ki 7:6)
- 22) Prophecy of the seven-year famine (2Ki 8:1)
- 23) Prophecy of Benhadad's untimely death (2Ki 8:10)
- 24) Prophecy of Hazael's cruelty to Israel (2Ki 8:12)
- 25) Prophecy that Jehu would smite the house of Ahab (2Ki 9:7)
- 26) Prophecy that Joash would smite the Syrians at Aphek (2Ki 13:17)
- 27) Prophecy that Joash would smite Syria thrice but not consume it (2Ki 13:19)
- 28) Resurrection of the man touched by his bones (2Ki 13:21)

But few have compared Joshua with his mentor Moses. Let us start finding out who Joshua or Yehoshuah was and what qualified him to be the next leader after Moshe:

Yehoshuah, Moshe's successor in leading B'ney Israel (Children of Israel) after Moshe's death, had to also be a Prophet like Moshe, and in being so, is a type of foreshadowing of Yeshua Moshieynu. The one like Moshe that was to come.

Yehoshuah ben Nun (Joshua son of Nun) Nun = Continuance, quicken to life. So his name all together means: Yah's Salvation will continue forevermore, or Yah's Salvation quickens to life.

Who was Yehoshuah ben (Joshua son of) Nun? What was he like? What made him worthy to be Moshe's (Moses') successor in leading B'ney Israel (Children of Israel)?

1. Son of Nun, he was an Ephrayimite (Num. 13:8, 16) His name was Hoshea = Salvation. And it was changed to Yehoshuah = Yah's Salvation.
2. He was the leader of the Army of Israel (Exodus 17:8-16). Yehoshuah led the fight as Aharon and Hur held Moshe's arms.
3. He was Moshe's right hand man, his Shamash (Servant), His Talmid (Student, Disciple) (Exodus 24:9-18; 32:15-18).

Wherever Moshe (Moses) went Yehoshuah (Joshua) went. Whatever Moshe did Yehoshuah did. Yehoshuah learned by observing and imitating, like a child does, just as great Rabbis have been teaching their Talmidim for centuries, just as Yeshua taught His Talmidim.

Exodus 24:13 “And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

14And he said unto the elders, Tarry ye here for us, until we come again unto you: and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you: if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them.

V. 14 would appear to indicate that Yehoshuah (Joshua) experienced what Moshe (Moses) did to qualify him as a leader later. Notice “us” and “we”.

15And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

16And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

17And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

18And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.” (KJV)

Yehoshuah was camped just outside the K’vod Shekinah cloud of ADONAI, most likely fasted 40 days and nights along with Moshe Rabbinu (Moses Our teacher).

Exodus 32:15 “And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

16And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

17And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.” (KJV)

Yehoshuah (Joshua) was with Moshe (Moses) and experienced some of what he experienced, he could talk with him.

Have you ever met anyone more intellectual than you and you simply just couldn't hold a conversation with them because their talk was simply over your head? Or maybe hear to war vets talking and simply couldn't relate because you have never gone through, or experienced things like that? Or, have you ever met someone so holy that their conversation left you either shamed or speechless because you were so carnal and not on their level at that particular time?

Exodus 33:7 “And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.

8And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

9And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.

10And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.

11And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.” (KJV)

Yehoshuah (Joshua) never left the Tent of Meeting. He communed with God all the time. Yehoshuah (Joshua) was in His Presence almost 24-7. He was behind the scenes, never trying to up-stage Moshe (Moses). You can't learn from someone if you interrupted and tried to teach while they are teaching.

Numbers 27:18 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

19And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.

20And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

21And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

22And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation:

23And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.” (KJV)

V. 20 tells us that Yehoshuah (Joshua) graduated with flying colors from a Talmid to a Sheliach (Apostle, a sent one).

Why, was Yehoshuah (Joshua) a spiritual man? Because he obeyed and imitated His spiritual father Moshe (Moses).

Deut. 31:1 “And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.

2And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

3The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

4And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

5And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

6Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

7And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” (KJV)

Deut. 34:9 “And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.

10And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,” (KJV)

This is the Transfer of Power inauguration of Yehoshuah (Joshua) as successor.

Joshua 1

“1Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

2Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

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

4From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

5There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.

7Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

9Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (KJV)

Joshua 3:7 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.” (KJV)

What was the secret to Yehoshuah’s (Joshua’s) success? He was fearless and obedient to the Torah (1:7).

Yehoshuah (Joshua) was revered and respected as Moshe (Moses) too:

Joshua 1:16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

17According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

18Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

We find that many miracles Yehoshuah (Joshua) preformed were that like unto Moshe (Moses):

- Moshe split the Red Sea, Yehoshuah split the Jordan (Josh.3)
- Moshe seen ADONAI via the Angel of the Lord through the Burning Bush, and Yehoshuah seen ADONAI via the Angel of the LORD disguised as a warrior, and both removed their sandals.
- Just as Moshe’s staff and hands were raised to keep the sun from setting so as to will the battle, Yehoshuah raise his spear to win a battle at Ai and the sun stood still at Gibeon (Josh. 8:18,26, 10:12)

- Both were initially reluctant to lead.
- Both became leaders around the age of 80 (Acts 7:23, 30)
- Both interceded for the Israelites before G-d (Ex. 32:30-34, Josh. 7:6-9).
- Both told Israel to obey the Torah (Deut. 30:15-20, Josh. 23:6-8).
- Both delivered a farewell speech.
- Both were called a “Servant of ADONAI” (Josh. 1:1, 24:29).

Not only was Yehoshuah like Moshe, but Yehoshuah was also like Yeshua (Name’s come from the same root) Messiah:

Yeshua Like Yehoshuah (Joshua):

- Yehoshuah obeyed and imitated his spiritual father Moshe and Yeshua Moshieynu imitated and obeyed ADONAI His Father in Heaven (Jn. 17).
- Spent time with Abba ADONAI: Early: Mark 1:35 and Alone: Luke 5:16
- Fasted 40 days and 40 nights: Mark 1:12, Matt. 17:21
- Spent time in the Temple: Luke 4:16
- Tabernacled during Sukkot in the Shekinah with Moshe: Matt. 17:1-8
- Was a behind the scenes kind of guy: Luke 5:12-16, John 2:1-12

Yeshua was commissioned like Yehoshuah:

Matt. 3:17 At His Mikvah “This is my son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased.

Matt. 17:5 At the Mount of Transfiguration: “This is my son, whom I love with whom I am well pleased, LISTEN TO HIM!”

Joshua 1:17 “Just as we listened to everything Moshe said, so we’ll listen to you. Only may ADONAI your God be with as he was with Moshe.”

The secret to our success is the same:

- Be humble, stay behind the scenes until called upon.
- Observe and imitate Yeshua Moshieynu the Living Torah.
- Never leave His Presence
- Fearlessly obey Torah; walk it, live it out.

Shalom,

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr