

Numbers 27:12–23
Ordination by the Spirit

Friday, November 29, 2024 • Read Numbers 27:12–23

Questions from the Scripture text: Who spoke to whom in v12? Where does He tell him to go (cf. Deut 3:23, 32:49)? To do what? And then what will happen (v13)? Why (v14)? Who speaks to Whom in v15? How does he address Him (v16)? For what man does he ask? To do what (v17)? So that what will not happen? Who speaks to whom in v18? Whom does He say to take? Who is in Joshua? What must Moses do to him? Before whom (v19)? What is Moses to do even before he dies (v20)? Who will function how with him (v21)? What did Moses do (v22–23)? According to what?

What are we to learn from the ordination of Joshua? Numbers 27:12–23 looks forward to the hearing of God's Word, publicly read, in the holy assembly on the coming Lord's Day. In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the ordination of Joshua displays God's grace to His church, even though they are sinners.**

This passage concludes the two chapters that focus upon God's faithfulness despite the former generation's sin. There was the census of the new generation that replaced the one that fell in the wilderness (ch. 26). And then there were the daughters of Zelophehad (cf. v1–11), whose inheriting was especially about their replacing their father, who died in his sin (cf. v3). And now, the succession of Moses and Aaron by Joshua and Eleazar is presented especially against the context of their sin (v14; the 'you' is plural). God's compassion for His people is reflected in Moses's desire that the congregation of YHWH would not be like sheep without a shepherd (v17, cf. Mt 9:36). He ordains a new officer, through the laying on of hands, indicating that Joshua is full of the Spirit, called by the Spirit, and will be helped by the Spirit (v18–19). The great grace for Moses was not that he was permitted to see the land from the mountain (v12), but that he was enabled to continue prophesying (v23) and to be obedient to the end (v22). He finished well. It is God's faithfulness and compassion to His people that gives them faithful, ordained officers from one generation to the next. And it is His ultimate faithfulness that has given us His own Son as everlasting Prophet, Priest, and King!

Who have been ordained by laying on of hands in your church? What would be an indication of grace in their ministry?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving to us Christ to be Prophet, Priest, and King. And thank You that in His compassion to lead us, He has given us ordained officers, by His Spirit. Bless their ministry unto Your church's good and Christ's glory, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP78 "O Come, My People" or TPH222 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Numbers chapter 27 verses, 12 through 23. These are God's words. Now, Yahweh said to Moses go up into Mount aberim. And see the land, which I have given to the children of Israel. And when you have seen it, you shall also be gathered to your people, as Aaron, your brother was gathered for in the wilderness of Zinn during The Strife of the congregation you reveld against my command, to hallow me at the waters before their eyes.

The Waters of maraba at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zinn. Then Moses spoke to Yahweh saying let Yahweh the god of the spirits of All Flesh, set a man over the congregation. Who. Go out before them and go in before them who may lead them out. And bring them in.

that the congregation of Yahweh may not be. Like sheep, which have no Shepherd. And Yahoo said to Moses take Joshua, the son of noon. You a man in whom is the spirit. And lay your hand on him. Set him before. Now, the answer the priest and before all the congregation, and Inaugurate him in their sight.

And you shall give some of your Authority to him. That all the congregation of the children of Israel, may be obedient. He shall stand before. Elliotts are the priest who shall inquire before, Yahweh for him by the Judgment of the urim. His word. They shall go out into his word, they shall come in.

He and all the children of Israel with him. All the congregation. So Moses did as Yahweh commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before eliatzar the priest and before all the congregation And inaugurated him. And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him. Just as Yahweh commanded.

By the hand. Of Moses. Just for the reading of gods inspired and inerrant word. yes, she would like to know what does inaugeuse? That's a good question. What does inaugurated mean? Especially since the new King James should have translated this word ordained, it means what you saw done to the deacons in the public worship if a few weeks ago when The elders laid hands on them and they were ordained into their position in front of the assembled, congregation of God's people at the Hopewell.

And we'll be learning about ordination because this is a passage about ordination. The first thing that we see is, we need ordination, because we are sinners. We need this in two ways, one because we are sinners, we really need to be led out and Brought in. As the Lord describes who Joshua, we need.

Those who are set over us to make judgments and decisions, sin has greatly complicated and hindered us, each of us individually and all the more when you put a bunch of Sinners together in any Community, even the community of a church We need authority to help us just like we saw in the midweek sermon in Proverbs chapter 6.

That one of God's mercies to humans because they're sinful in a way that ants aren't That we need commanders and rulers, and Chiefs To help us with fighting against our laziness. And so that's one way that ordination is a mercy to centers. Or the that's being Sinners. Means we need ordination as a mercy.

The other way. And this has more to do with that, we need ordinations over and over again. Is because even ordained men die. The book of Hebrews tells us that this was one of the problems with The erotic priesthood. In fact we see in this passage that Aaron isn't priest anymore.

Why? Why does eliazar his son the priest? Now, well, Aaron died because of his and Moses's sin at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zinn in the matter of striking, The Rock, Aaron was complicit in that. So you, and you rebelled, Is translating a verb. That is plural in verse 14.

And so Aaron now has died and Moses also is going to die. And so, because we are sinners because our lives are shortened, but our lives are shortened by death. We need continued ordinations. The apostles and Elders. Should be Elders for life. But their life ends. Deacons should be deacons for life, but their life ends.

And so there's the necessity of ordination here. Now, praise God. Ordination. One of the things that ordination does is it recognizes That those who are officers. God's Church are selected by God are called by God to that office, even if they are recognized, By what looks like an election by the people.

It is not so much a selection of the people because it is God, who has put into those who are recognized. First saving them and then putting into them by his grace the character qualities. by which he has taught us to recognize them now, he does even more than that for Moses.

He tells. Moses that Joshua, the son of none. Is a man in whom is the spirit. And this matches what the Lord had said, when he asked the Lord for a leader for the children of Israel, he didn't just want Someone who is intelligent and prudent and careful. He wanted someone in whom the spirit of God is actively working.

Now the spirit of God does produce those things and those in whom he is working, but notice how Moses makes his request in verse 16. Let Yahweh the god of the spirits of All Flesh. A man over the congregation. And so, he he was looking for a man.

In whose Spirit God's spirit has been at work. And so Verse 18, you always identifies Joshua, as a man in whom is the spirit. That's one of the things that we're saying or seeing. when we have the laying on of hands in ordination, This is one whom God has selected and now this is one in whom God the spirit has been at work upon their Spirit.

This is one of the reasons why Doctrine of ordination is so important and you can't say, that it's no big deal that we would not agree for instance as a Presbytery or as a synod upon whom we should ordain. Hebrews chapter 6. Calls the laying on of hands.

One of the elementary principles of Christ, one of the foundations, That even those who We're in a place where they could no longer digest meat but only Milk according to the end of Hebrews 5 and the beginning of Hebrews 6. Even, they would still have been agreed. Upon that Foundation.

And then it is the spirit who is going to Help. With the work. So the spirit calls. The spirit equips. And then the spirit actively helps in the work. That's a great encouragement and comfort. And then the laying on of hands, for instance, upon our deacons, a few weeks ago.

We're recognizing that, we believe it is, God himself, who has called them to the work. And that is God himself, who has qualified them for the work and equip them for the work. But also in the laying on of hands in the act of ordination. We are expressing our Bible, taught hope that it has got himself.

Now who is going to sustain them in their work. Now, in this particular case, That help of the spirit comes not just by the acting upon Joshua's Spirit by God. The Holy It comes by the ministry that God had provided for him that he may stand before. Elliot's of the priest verse 21.

And that the priest is able to inquire of Yahweh. as one whom the Lord has literally dressed for the occasion. Elevates are now would have the high Priestly garment and he would have the pouch on the chest of his high Priestly garment and in that pouch are the urim and the thumbing.

And as he used those things. To understand from God, in in difficult questions, what the Lord would have them to do? The Holy Spirit would be the one who is most obviously, giving Joshua The wisdom that he needs. So that as verse 21 continues at his word, they shall go out and at his word, they shall come in.

and so, we have those three great things in the doctrine of ordination and praise God. He does use Sinners. And his grace as such that Sinners may even be, kept faithful to the end of their days. Moses and Aaron had. Committed a great sin. Aaron had committed some Stunning sins.

But for the most part, A picture that we get of him is that he was generally faithful Moses even much more. So And, Moses did as Yahweh commanded him verse 22. He gave him again, obedience. He laid his hands on him and ordained him just as Yahweh had commanded.

By the hand of Moses. He enabled Moses to finish his race. Well, and whether we are an officer in the church and we should pray this For the officers of the church or any other Christian, It is by the help of the spirit that we hope to finish. Well, And even if we sin in a stunning fashion, even if there are severe consequences as there were from Moses and Aaron who could not enter the land, By God's grace to us.

We? Repent from that and finish. Well, The Lord Grant for our officers and for each of us, that it would be. So, let's pray. Our gracious God and our heavenly father. We thank you. For the biblical doctrine of ordination, we thank you that you have had compassion upon us.

Even as Jesus had compassion. Upon the multitudes of the Jews who were sheep without a shepherd. But you have not left us. To be as sheep without a shepherd.

Because you have given us the greater Joshua, the greater yahshua. Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. To be our Good Shepherd. And though we pray for, And he has set over us by the laying on of hands. That. They would. Be sustained and fruitful faithful in their Ministries. We pray for all of us.

That your Holy Spirit would keep us faithful until we have finished our race in this world. We ask these things in Christ's name. Amen.