

Deuteronomy 31: 1-8

The Greeks had a word for everything and everyone. The Epigonoi' were the descendants of the 7 heroes who fell in battle fighting against Thebes. The Epigonoi' were the 2nd and 3rd generations, regarded as inferior to their heroic forefathers. Yet they were successful in conquering Thebes, the task which their famous grandfathers (for all their strength and prowess) failed to do.

So it was with Joshua, the man who followed Moses. The Bible sings the praises of Moses for book after book. Yet when Moses was taken by God and was no longer on earth, the tremendous job of conquering Palestine still remained to be done. It was Joshua who was chosen to accomplish what Moses failed to do. God Himself called Joshua and through Moses made a great promise to him, the same promise which God makes to each of us through these words recorded in the Bible:

"I, the Lord, will not fail you or forsake you."

It is meet and right that we should honor the pioneers and patriarchs of our family: John Jacob who came from Germany to South Carolina 232 years ago, and John Adam Epling, and Joseph Brabham, and Jacob Kearse, and John Samuel Howard; like Moses, they accomplished much. But they, like Moses, also left much undone. It remains for us to win the victories which God has set before us.

Let us never forget that it is God alone who givest us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is He who has promised us:

"I, the Lord, will not fail you or forsake you."