

Joshua

“The Promised Land At Last!”

Lesson Eleven

*“Joshua’s Farewell;
The Covenant
Renewed”*

Text:23 – Address to Leaders (23:2)

Text: 24 Address to the Nation (24:1).

What is Joshua remembered for?

SURVIVOR (*FAITHFUL SPY*)

SOLIDER (*COURAGEOUS GENERAL*)

SHEPHERD (*CARING OLDER STATESMAN*)

Why did he call the leaders and nation together?

23:1 – Close to death

Concerned about the next generation!

2 Peter 1:12, Acts 20:27-32

**How does Joshua begin
his address?
JOSHUA 23**

With a **historical overview!** (vs 3-4)

Who else began this way?

Moses!

What are the major themes?

God is faithful and deserves the **credit** (vs 3-4)

Promise for the future (vs 5)

Responsibility for the present (vs 6-16)

Warning and Challenge to faithful commitment!

**CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY,
WHOM WILL YOU SERVE!**

Joshua 24:25

1. Personally - Choose you!

—————
2 Cor 5:10
—————

2. Purposefully – Say no to other gods

God demands loyalty – I Jn 5:21

3. Persistently – Choose now/continually!

Luke 9:23, I Cor 15:31

4. Publicly – Must not be ashamed!

Matt 12:30

#1

Joshua's primary message to the elders can be outlined into 4 main points. Paraphrase each.

- 23:3 – *You have witnessed all that God has done to the nations for your benefit*
- 23:4 – *You have been given, as an inheritance, the land from the Jordan to the sea*
- 23:5 – *God will drive out those nations that remain as He has promised*
- 23:6 – *Therefore, keep the whole Law*

Why did he tell them not to even
mention the names of the foreign
gods? (23:7)

“Watch” saying = *good reminder!*

What about Deut 18:10?

Eph 5:12

#2

What admonition does he then give them (23:11-13)?

God is who you must serve, not the idols of the Canaanites. You must be diligent to love the Lord and not intermarry with the people that remain in the land. If you do not do this, then know for certain that God will no longer push these people out, and they will become the source of your downfall; they will be the cause of the demise of Israel.

#3

What is the 'if/then' argument with which he closes (23:14b-16)?

IF: *God kept all of the good promises that He made to you, not allowing even one to fail, fulfilling every vow,*

THEN: *you can be certain that He will also keep all of the promises of punishment, bringing catastrophe upon the nation until it is completely destroyed.*

#4

Twice in chapter 23 Joshua refers to clinging to something. Where are they found? To what does he speak of clinging? What does this verb mean? What does this teach us today?

Joshua tells the elders and officials that they must “cling to the Lord your God” (23:8) and they must not “cling to the remnant of these nations” (23:12).

The word means to grasp closely (as for dear life).

Same as Acts 11: 24-25 – Barnabas

Continued on next slide

#4

Twice in chapter 23 Joshua refers to clinging to something. Where are they found? To what does he refer to clinging to? What does this verb mean? What does this teach us today?

Just as Jesus said that “no man can serve two masters”, it is not possible to stand with one foot in the camp of God and one in the camp of Satan.

We will cling to one or the other, even though some claim that they do not serve anyone.

Further, if we are not ‘clinging’ to God, then we are ‘clinging’ to Satan. It is as simple as that.

#5

Where does the gathering of **24:1** take place? Why do you think Joshua chose this location?

Instead of bringing the people together where the tabernacle is located (Shiloh), Joshua calls the people together at Shechem.

This place held a significant historical place in the hearts of the Israelites. What?

--The first and continual reaffirmation of the covenant. Blessings and Cursing.

-- Great acoustics. Law written –on altar.

#6

How would you summarize the point that God (through Joshua) is making in 24:3-13?

You have this land only because of Me!

It could also be noted here that God has briefly listed just a few of His great deeds in accomplishing his promise to Abraham.

#7

Do you think there remained a trace of idol worship within the ranks of the Israelites that listened to Joshua? Why or why not? If “Yes”, how were they able to drive out the Canaanites?

Almost certainly there was.

Joshua pretty well indicates that it was so.

Also, God (through Ezekiel) says that at least some of them did. Then there is human nature: when a group of people are directed to do something, someone will not follow orders. Finally, there was the quick departure from God to other idols by the Israelites soon after Joshua’s death.

Continued

#7

Do you think there remained a trace of idol worship within the ranks of the Israelites that listened to Joshua? Why or why not? If “Yes”, how were they able to drive out the Canaanites?

We are forced to conclude that even though the Israelites were not perfect in their adherence to the Law, God still granted them entrance to the Promised Land.

This should NOT, however, be construed as justification for a church to have ‘a little sin’ in its midst to be acceptable to God. He still requires us to “purge the evil... from among you”.

#8

With what 2 characteristics in [24:14](#) does Joshua say that they were to do to serve the LORD?

In sincerity and in faithfulness. (John 4:24).

See I Sam 12:24-25 "Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. 25 "But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king will be swept away."

Once more we see another indication that the Old Law was not merely external but also concerned the inward man as well.

#9

What 3 options did Joshua give the people for whom they would serve (24:15)? Why do you think he offered these 3?

1. Serve the gods of your fathers

or

2. Serve the gods of the Amorites

or

3. Serve the true God

Continued on next slide

#9

What 3 options did Joshua give the people for whom they would serve (24:15)? Why offer these 3?

Each was a logical option (in the eyes of the world) for the Israelites. The gods of their fathers would have been a traditional option. (Apparently, some families for generations had had 'secret' gods that they worshiped, probably for luck.)

The gods of a land were seen by man as being whom man should serve when in that land (II Kings 17:24-29) and that they would be the most powerful for that area.

#10

What does 24:15 do to the Calvinist and his doctrine of Unconditional Election?

One of the tenets of Calvinism is that man does not really have a free will. That is, God already knows whom He will choose to be saved and nothing a man does, good or evil, will change His mind about that person.

Hence, once a person is in a saved state, then they will always be in that state. If that is true, then Joshua's directive that the people "choose whom they will serve" makes absolutely no sense. There would be no need for them to choose: God had already done that.

#11

What lessons (if any) do you see for us today in [24:31](#)?

- 1. A church is only a generation away from apostasy. God has no grandchildren!*
- 2. Frequently, people are loyal to a man instead of God. Must be careful where our loyalty lies. Important to take a stand!*
- 3. It is critical for parents to diligently teach their children and for the older men and women to teach the younger men and women. Key: What comes first?*
- 4. Must always be on guard not to “drift.”*

TRUE/FALSE

11. T F *Eleazar was buried in the town of his son. (24:33)*
12. T F *Joseph's bones were buried in land that Abraham had bought from Hamor for 100 pieces of silver. (24:32)*
13. T F *Joshua said that the large stone at Shechem had heard the words of the people. (24:27)*
14. T F *Joshua said that God had used hornets to drive the inhabitants out of the land. (24:12)*
15. T F *Joshua said that the city of Jericho had been too terrified to fight the Israelites. (24:11)*