

Joshua: Chapter 24

- V. 1 – Then (SC: after all that; so I recommend you go and re-read chapter 23 for yourself personally) Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders and their heads, (SC: so he's doing it again), and their judges and their officers. And they presented themselves before God.
- V. 2 – Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says to the Lord, from ancient times your fathers lived beyond the river, Terah, the father of Abraham, the father of Nahor, and they served other gods (SC: key words, “and they served other gods”).
- V. 3 – Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the river and led him through all the land of Canaan and multiplied his descendants (SC: key words, “multiplied his descendants”), and gave him Isaac.
- V. 4 – And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau, and Esau I gave Mount Seir to possess it, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.
 - SC: So he's recounting everything that's been done here.
- V. 5 – Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt by what I did in its midst; and afterward I brought you out.
- V. 6 – Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt...
 - SC: Now remember what happens here? They had been in the wilderness for two years.
 - They get right to the border of the new land. Then they send spies to the new land. The spies come back, and eight of the ten spies say, “We can't go in there. The people are too big, they'll kill us.”
 - So God said: “Alright, you guys are cursed, you stay here in the wilderness for another 38 years.” Did they know it was another 38 years? No. God said, “Ok, you stay here. You will die, your children will inherit the earth, not you.” And it took 38 years for the last one to die off.
 - ...and verse 6 continued: “and you came to the sea; and Egypt pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.”
- V. 7 – But when they cried out to the Lord, He put darkness between you and the Egyptians (SC: circle “darkness”), and brought the sea upon them and covered them.
 - SC: Now, that's the key right there: there was “darkness”. So was it figurative “darkness” or literal? Think about that.
 - “and brought the sea upon them and covered them. And your own eyes saw, what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness for a long time.
- V. 8 – Then, I brought you in to the land of the Amorites, who lived beyond the Jordan, and they fought with you; but I gave them to your hand, and you took possession of their land, when I destroyed them before you.
 - SC: Why didn't he say, “When *you* destroyed them?” It was *Israel* that destroyed them.

- V. 9 – Then Balak, the son of Zipporah, king of Moab, came to Israel, and he sent his son Balaam, the son of Beor, to curse you.
- V. 10 – But I was not willing to listen to Balaam, so he had to bless you, and I delivered you from his hand.
- V. 11 – And you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the citizens of Jericho fought against you...
- SC: Now go down to verse 15.
- V. 15 – But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord. Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served, which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
 - SC: ***“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” – Key passage right there. You should have that memorized.***
- V. 16 – The people answered, said, “Far be it from us that we should forsake God and serve other gods.
- V. 17 – “For the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage (SC: underline that), who did His great signs in our sight and reserved us to all the way in which we went and among all the peoples to whose midst we passed.
 - SC: Now that's interesting. “All the peoples to whose midst we passed.” It's not like they were out in the desert away from all other societies, groups, peoples.
- V. 18 – And the Lord drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites. We also will serve the Lord for He is our God.”
- V. 19 – Then Joshua said to the people, “You will not be able to serve the Lord for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He will not forgive your transgressions or sin.
- V. 20 – If you forsake the Lord and serve a foreign god, then
 - SC: Again, what have we said about “if-then” statements? Here’s another example. “If-then.”
 - “He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you.”
 - SC: Key phrase – “After He has done good to you.”
- V. 21 – And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the Lord.”
- V. 22 – And Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the Lord and to serve Him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”
 - SC: Here’s an interesting question: Why are we so fixated on the negative? Notice how this is posed in such a negative (vs. positive) way. I’m not saying it’s wrong. It’s just interesting.
- V. 23 – “Now, therefore, put away foreign gods in your midst. And incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”
- V. 24 – And people said, “We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice.
 - SC: And obey means “listen to”, literally.
 - How good are you at listening? If you're poor at listening to other people, what makes you think you can listen to God?
 - One of the greatest skills you can learn is to ***listen***.
 - Another one is to ***communicate***.
 - Another one is to ***be decisive***. The tool for that is: “Make decisions and carry them out.”
- V. 25 – So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made for them a statute (SC: that is “a principle to conduct themselves by”) and an ordinance in Shechem.
- V. 26 – And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.

- V. 27 – Then Joshua said to all the people, all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us for it has heard all the words the Lord has spoke to us and it shall be for a witness against you, lest you deny your God.
 - SC: Again, why does it have to be in the negative? Why can't it be voiced in the positive? Why does it have to be fear and doom? Are people more motivated by the negative, than the positive? Think about this.
- V. 28 – Then Joshua dismissed the people (SC: again, that’s an action), in each to his inheritance.
- V. 29 – And it came about after these things that Joshua, being 110 years old, died.
- V. 30 – And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance.
- V. 31 – And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua and had known all the deeds of the Lord which he had done for them.
 - SC: In other words, they're giving credit to God for all their accomplishments. They're the one that did it. They're the one that risked their lives. They're the one that eliminated all the inhabitants. Yet they're giving God the credit for it.
- V. 32 – And they buried the bones of Joseph, which some of Israel brought up from, at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamar the father of Shechem for 100 pieces of money.
 - SC: See, why is that level of detail important here, but detail is not that important in other parts? There’s a reason for that. Think about it and consider it.
 - V. 33 – And Eliezer the son of Aaron died and they buried him at Gibeah and Phinehas his son, of Phinehas his son which was given him in the hill country of Ephraim.