

Joshua Chapter 24 Commentary

1 ¶ And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. **2** And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. **3** And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. **4** And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. **5** I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out. **6** And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea. **7** And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

Here I want to point out; God put a darkness between Israel and the Egyptians. So, he has done for each born-again Christian, who is walking in obedience to him. The darkness that stands between the world and God's born-again people, is the darkness of unbelief. They have not been born-again and brought into the marvelous light of salvation by grace. They do not see that Jesus is the Christ and the only source of salvation and eternal life in the eternal heaven. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for thy light that shineth abroad in our hearts and minds.

8 And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you. **9** Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you: **10** But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand. **11** And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Gergashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand. **12** And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. **13** And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and olive yards which ye planted not do ye eat.

Joshua reminds Israel; God has performed all these miraculous works before you. God has fought for you and destroyed your enemies before you. You did not do this by your own power. This is a lesson for us in time today. Our deliverances are not by our own power and might, but rather, they are by the power of Christ in us. Praise and glory to his matchless name!

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. **15 ¶** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua commands Israel to make their choice of who they intend to serve. You have the example of my life, which has been of faithful service to God, and God has been faithful to preserve and keep me in all his ways. He has blessed me to be a faithful leader for you unto this day, and still, I choose to serve him. Choose to follow the Lord or the gods that the Lord has destroyed before you. This is a reminder to us today. Each day, we must choose to be faithful servants to Christ, or be servant to idols and the devil. God help us to be faithful to you, we pray in Christ name, Amen!

16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; 17 For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: 18 And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God. 19 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. 20 If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. 21 And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

Israel's answers: we will continue to serve the Lord in faithfulness "*for he is our God.*" Joshua reminds them; they have not always been faithful to God, and warns them that they cannot serve God and idols. The same is true in our Christian lives today.

22 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. 23 Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. 24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

Again, Israel confirms that they will follow God only. Joshua reminds them that they are not currently being faithful to God, because they still have some idols they have not destroyed. Another warning to us to be faithful to Christ and not be lustful after the things of this world.

25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. 27 And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. 28 So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

Joshua, like Moses before him, writes down this oath of Israel and the law that they have bound themselves to by a holy vow. Joshua set up a monument before the sanctuary of the Lord as a witness and a reminder to Israel of their vow.

Jesus made a covenant with God on our behalf. Jesus has faithfully fulfilled all that he promised to do, so that we might be saved and brought into the eternal land of promise. Christ has left a memorial for us in the bible, which is to be in use and prominently put on display in our churches and homes. Understand, when you are born-again and make your public profession of faith to the church that

Jesus established on earth, you are making a covenant with God, and Christ, to be faithful to "***thus saith the Lord.***"

As Joshua sent Israel to their places of inheritance, so it is with us. When we make that public profession of faith in Christ and join the local church body, we have been sent to our land of promise here on earth in time.

29 ¶ And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. 30 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathserah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. 31 And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel. 32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph. 33 And Eleazar the son of Aaron died; and they buried him in a hill that pertained to Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim.

Having faithfully performed all that God has given him to do, Joshua dies and is buried in his own place of inheritance. What a wonderful prophetic picture of promise to God's people. How, you ask? Do you understand? If you die before the return of Christ, you shall die and be buried in the place of your inheritance. What do you mean? When we die, our souls immediately go to Christ in heaven, and our bodies go into grave. However, our bodies go to the grave with the promise of God that our bodies shall be raised immortal and incorruptible, rejoined with our souls, and spend eternity in the true land of promise. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!