

Joshua—Joshua 24

Joshua's Farewell Address

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

1. Verse 12... HORNETS—“**Hornet**. The hornet bears a general resemblance to the common wasp, only it is larger. It is exceedingly fierce and voracious, especially in hot climates and its sting is frequently dangerous. In Scripture, the hornet is referred to only, by the means which **Jehovah** employed, for the extirpation of the Canaanites. [Exo 23:28](#); [Deu 7:20](#); [Jos 24:12](#).” [*Smith's Bible Dictionary*].
2. Verse 14... “**and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt**; that is, express an abhorrence of them, and keep at a distance from them, and show that you are far from giving in to such idolatries your ancestors were guilty of, when they lived on the other side Euphrates, in Chaldea, or when they were sojourners in Egypt; for it cannot be thought that the Israelites were at this time guilty of such gross idolatry, at least openly, since Joshua had bore such a testimony of them, that they had cleaved to the Lord unto that day, [Jos 23:8](#); and their zeal against the two tribes and a half, on suspicion of idolatry, or of going into it, is a proof of it also” [*John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible*]. /// “In [Jos 24:2](#), [Jos 24:3](#), [Jos 24:14](#), [Jos 24:15](#), the word “**flood**” (R.V., “river”) means the river Euphrates. In [Psa 66:6](#), this word refers to the river Jordan” [*Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*].
3. Verse 19... HE IS A JEALOUS GOD—“When jealousy is attributed to God, the word is used in a good sense. The language is, of course, anthropomorphic; and it is based upon the feeling in a husband of exclusive right in his wife. God is conceived as having wedded Israel to Himself, and as claiming, therefore, exclusive devotion. Disloyalty on the part of Israel is represented as adultery, and as provoking God to jealousy. See, e.g., [Deu 32:16](#), [Deu 32:21](#); [1Ki 14:22](#); [Psa 78:58](#); [Eze 8:3](#); [Eze 16:38](#), [Eze 16:42](#); [Eze 23:25](#); [Eze 36:5](#); [Eze 38:19](#).” [ISBE].
4. Verse 22... WITNESSES AGAINST YOURSELVES—“Ye have been sufficiently apprised of the difficulties in your way - of God's holiness - your own weakness and inconstancy - the need you have of Divine help, and the awful consequences of apostasy; and now ye deliberately make your choice. Remember then, that ye are witnesses against yourselves, and your own conscience will be witness, judge, and executioner” [Adam Clarke].
5. Verse 32... Cf., Gen 50:25; Ex 13:19; Acts 7:16; Heb 11:22; Gen 33:19.

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Period of the Conquest.**

III. Summary.

Joshua delivers words from the Lord to the people to challenge them to be faithful to the covenant. Actually they are called upon to make up their minds whether or not they will serve the Lord. The people are reminded of their own history and its connection with serving other gods. Their deliverance from Egyptian bondage is mentioned. The conflict with the Amorites is talked about; also, the Balaam curse incident. The Lord, through Joshua, reminds the

Israelites of the great victories He had given them. Based upon all of these good things that have been done for Israel, they are challenged to serve the Lord faithfully. They are called upon to make a choice this day. Two of the qualities of God are pointed out to the people. God is a holy and jealous God and will consume them if they forsake Him. The people said, “Nay, but we will serve the Lord.” Joshua made a covenant with the people that day. Joshua dies at the age of 110. We read about the burial of Joseph’s bones and the death of Eleazar.

IV. Outline.

1. A review of Israel’s history (Josh 24:1-13).
2. A decision needs to be made about faithfulness to the Lord (Josh 24:14-28).
3. The burial of three of Israel’s leaders (Josh 24:29-33).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Terah served other gods.
02. _____ The place of Joseph’s burial was part of the inheritance of his children.
03. _____ The Amorites were defeated by the sword of Israel.
04. _____ Israel was given vineyards and oliveyards they did not build.
05. _____ Joshua lived more than a century.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Out of the Israelites, Joshua calls for the elders, judges, officers, and (a) warriors; (b) lawyers; (c) heads.
07. _____ Beor was the father of: (a) Joshua; (b) Eleazar; (c) Balaam.
08. _____ Joshua exhorted that the Israelites should serve the Lord in sincerity and in: (a) truth; (b) faith; (c) devotion.
09. _____ If Israel forsakes the Lord, after He has done them good, He will do them: (a) no reward; (b) hurt; (c) more good.
10. _____ Joshua tells the people that a stone at Shechem would be a witness unto them and also another witness would be: (a) they would be witnesses against themselves; (b) Moses; (c) Joseph.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “..._____ you this day whom ye will _____.”
12. “But I would not hearken unto _____.”
13. “If ye _____ the Lord, and serve _____ gods, then he will _____ and do you _____.”
14. Eleazar was the son of _____.
15. _____ called upon Balaam to curse Israel.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-82 ... [01—True, Josh 22:1-2; 02—True, Josh 22:7; 03—True, Josh 22:13; 04—True, Josh 22:20; 05—False, Josh 22:33; 06—a, Josh 22:20; 07—b, Josh 22:28; 08—c, Josh 22: 6; 09—c, Josh 22:20; 10—b, Josh 22:25; 11—burnt, Josh 22:26; 12—forbid, rebel, Josh 22:29; 13—Shiloh, war, Josh 22:12; 14—witness, Josh 22:34; 15—diligent, Josh 22:5.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. ...and they presented themselves before God (Josh 24:1). This expression implies that the Ark of the Covenant had been moved to Shechem from Shiloh for this solemn occasion. The people are being asked at this assembly to state whether or not they accept the covenant and intend to be faithful to it. By accepting, they become witnesses against themselves (v. 22). In the last days of Joshua it will relieve him greatly to hear from the people that they intend to be faithful to the Lord. Joshua uses very clear and plain language to WARN the people that the Lord will consume and do them hurt if they forsake Him (v. 20). We see in the message from the Lord, delivered by Joshua, that not only is it proper to be motivated by the grace of God, but also by punishment that will come to the disobedient.
2. And I took ... of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat (Josh 24:3-13). This rehearsal of some of the blessings God had given to this people is not exhaustive, but is an impressive list. Can not this people count these blessings and figure the proper response to them is faithful service to the Lord? Thankfully, they were able so to reason. Our God is a loving and gracious God. He has blessed us in innumerable ways. Our service to Him ought to be easy to render and entirely devoted. Oftentimes we fail to count our blessings and we fail in our service to Him as a result.
3. ...and serve him in sincerity and in truth... (Josh 24:14). The word SINCERE is an interesting word. In his book, *How to Succeed with Your Money*, George M. Bowman writes concerning this word... "You see, the word 'sincere' comes from two Latin words meaning 'without wax.' Artificers of Middle Eastern countries fashioned highly expensive statuettes out of a very fine porcelain. It was of such fragile nature that extreme care had to be taken when firing the figurines to keep them from cracking. Dishonest dealers would accept the cracked figurines at a much lower price and then fill the cracks with wax before offering them for sale. But honest merchants would display their uncracked porcelain wares with signs that read, "*sine cera*," "without wax." Joshua was telling the people that their service to God was to be rendered without any attempt at deception.
4. ...choose you this day whom ye will serve... (Josh 24:15). Here is one of the great challenges any leader in the Bible ever put forth. What a great leader Joshua was! He made it clear in his challenge that the people would have to make up their own minds, but that his mind had been made up and he intended for his house to be faithful to the Lord. Joshua's challenge is similar to that of Elijah during the time of the Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 18:21).
5. ...he is a jealous God... (Josh 24:19). It is helpful to pay attention as we read and find that God is being described as having some particular attribute. It is very important for us to know Who God is! The fact that He is a jealous God means that unfaithfulness to Him is displeasing to Him. The only proper reaction for us to have regarding the jealousy of God for His people is to be zealous in our service to Him.
6. ...he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good (Josh 24:20). Joshua knew nothing of the ALL GRACE and no JUDGMENT God.
7. And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua... (Josh 24:31). This is a GREAT legacy left behind by Joshua. His influence was for the good and he led the people in the right way. What a contrast between Joshua and Jeroboam. Nine times it is said of Jeroboam that he made Israel to sin. That is, following the changes that Jeroboam made in the worship to the Lord at the division of the kingdom, meant rebellion against the Lord's will and was sinful. Joshua did well in his job of replacing Moses as the leader of Israel.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q A Z X S W E M D C V F R T G B N H Y U
 J M Y I U J M N Y B G T R F V C E D E W
 Q A K M N B V C X H Z A W O L I G K M J
 E B G T Y H N M J U O I K L O P Y T G B
 V S F R E D C X S W Q U A Z X S P W E D
 D C O V F R P T G B N H S N H Y T U J M
 Q A X O C D E U R F V B G E T H N Y U J
 X S W E H Z A Q T T G B N H Y U J M R E
 F V B G T C Y H N A M J U I K T G B V V
 E Y W S X C D E R C W V F R T G B R N H
 T T V B N M C X Z E R A Y A H N E B G T
 R I F V C D E W S X C D Y N R S F V B G
 T R Y H N B G S E D C X S S C D E R F V
 B E G T Y J E M K I Y H N W B G T R F V
 E C D C X T S S W Q A Z X E C D E R F V
 B N V B I M N R V C X Z L R H G F D S A
 T I Y R U J M I A R F V E E R F V C D E
 W S O E D C V F R E T G B D N H Y U J M
 C M C D E R F V B G F B G T Y T R U T H
 A C V B N G T D O O L F E D C V F D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Josh 24:14-16--¹⁴Now 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. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶And the people **answered** and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;