

Joshua 24:1-28 **Joshua's final words to Israel**

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

From idolatry to God's called and chosen people

2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods. **3** Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. **4** To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. **5** Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagues Egypt, according to what I did among them. Afterward I brought you out. **6** Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. **7** So they cried out to the LORD; and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, brought the sea upon them, and covered them. And your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. Then you dwelt in the wilderness a long time.

Victory over the Amorites east of the Jordan River

8 And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you.

Balak and Balaam

9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. **10** But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. So I delivered you out of his hand.

Defeat of the enemy in the Promised Land – Inheritance of the Land

11 Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you-- also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand. **12** I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow. **13** I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

Call to choose – Joshua's choice

14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! **15** And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

People's promise to serve Yehowah Eloheynov

16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; **17** for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. **18** And the LORD drove out

from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

Warning against failure to serve Yehowah

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good."

21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD!"

You are witnesses against yourselves – People's confirmation of their choice to serve Yehowah

22 So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!" 23 Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel." 24 And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!" 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

Book of the Law – Stone of Witness

26 Then 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. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God." 28 So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. [Joshua 24:1]

From idolatry to God's called and chosen people

- ✧ Joshua rehearsed the well known history of the People of Israel. [Joshua 24:2-7]
 - ✧ Abraham's fathers and ancestors were idolaters living in Mesopotamia (land between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates) the land on the other side of the Euphrates River.
 - ✧ Being Chaldeans, they worshipped the heavenly hosts, sun, moon, and stars, they were sorcerers and idolaters.
 - ✧ God called Abraham to depart from the idolaters and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, multiplying his descendants.
 - ✧ God gave Abraham a son Isaac, who produced Esau and Jacob.
 - ✧ God gave Esau the mountains of Seir as his possession.
 - ✧ Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.
 - ✧ God sent Moses and Aaron and plagued Egypt, bringing the Children of Israel out of Egypt.
 - ✧ God brought the Children of Israel to the Red Sea where He delivered the Children of Israel and drowned the armies of the Egyptians.
 - ✧ Your own eyes saw as eyewitnesses what God did in Egypt and at the Red Sea.
 - ✧ You dwelt in the wilderness a long time (40 years)

Victory over the Amorites east of the Jordan River

- ✧ And I brought you into the land of the **Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan**, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you. [Joshua 24:8]

Balak and Balaam – Doctrine (counsel) of Balaam

- ✧ Then **Balak** the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called **Balaam** the son of Beor to curse you. But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. **So I delivered you out of his hand.** [Joshua 24:9-10, Numbers 22:1-41, 23:1-30, 24:1-25, 25:1-18, 31:1-20]

Defeat of the enemy in the Promised Land – Inheritance of the Land

- ✧ The victory over the inhabitants of the Promised Land was God's doing. [Joshua 24:11-13]
 - ✧ God gave you land for which you did not labor, cities you did not build, vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.
 - ✧ Now you dwell in them and eat their fruit.

Call to choose – Joshua's choice

- ✧ "Now therefore, **fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth**, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!
- ✧ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.
- ✧ But **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" [Joshua 24:14-15]

People's promise to serve Yehowah Eloheynov

- ✧ So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the **LORD our God** is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. **We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.**" [Joshua 24:16-18]

Warning against failure to serve Yehowah

- ✧ But Joshua said to the people, "**You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.**" [Joshua 24:19-20]

- ✧ And the people said to Joshua, "**No, but we will serve the LORD!**" [Joshua 24:21]

You are witnesses against yourselves – People's confirmation of their choice to serve Yehowah

- ✧ So Joshua said to the people, "**You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him.**"
- ✧ And they said, "**We are witnesses!**"
- ✧ Now therefore," he (Joshua) said, "**put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel.**"
- ✧ And the people said to Joshua, "**The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!**"
- ✧ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. [Joshua 24:22-25]

Book of the Law – Stone of Witness [Joshua 24:26-28]

- ✧ Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God.
- ✧ Joshua took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

- ✧ Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, **this stone shall be a witness to us**, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. **It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God.**"
- ✧ So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.