

Joshua Series "Time to Decide"

Joshua 24

July 18, 2021

Joshua 24:1-13 (ESV)

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates,[a] Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River[b] and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. 4 And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and 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 And when they cried to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time. 8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. 11 And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand. 12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. 13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'

God is faithful in mysterious circumstances.

The Christian is part of a longer story and tradition.

Joshua 24:14-15 (ESV)

14 "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond 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."

Be in awe of the Lord.

Love and awe lead to an “all in” life.
“As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:16-18 (ESV)

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Joshua 24:19

19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God.

You can't.

God can.

Joshua 24:21-22

21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the Lord.” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”

Trust the Lord's faithfulness and love.

Grow Group Discussion Questions.

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Joshua spends the first section of Ch 24 recounting God's faithfulness to Israel. Why is this history important before Israel renews her commitment? Why is it helpful for you to look back and see God's activity?
- Why is it important that Israel make a commitment today and not simply trust yesterday's pledge? What might this mean for our own present day response to God?
- When the people respond to Joshua's challenge, Joshua then tells them they can't do the very thing he has asked them to do. What do you think is going on?
- Joshua establishes a witness to Israel's commitment to the Lord. What is Joshua hoping to do by giving Israel a witness to their words? Are their places or people that are good reminders of your love and dedication to the Lord?
- How can your Grow Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?