

The Book of Joshua



Joshua Tree

The Joshua Tree is the largest of the Yuccas and grows only in the Mohave Desert. The Mormon pioneers named it the "Joshua Tree" because it reminded them of Joshua waving them on to the Promised Land!

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Bible Study – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Collinsville, Illinois

Chapter Twenty Three

The LORD's Faithfulness Creates Israel's Motivation to Be Faithful (23.1-8)

Second Farewell Sermon: The first sermon was recorded in 22.1-9 and was delivered to the transjordan tribes.

When: Joshua was old and advanced in years... This is probably 10-20 years after the first sermon.

Where: Joshua retired to Timnath-serah (19.49). He may have spoken from here or Shiloh (site of the last sermon) or Shechem (site of the next sermon).

How Does the Bible View Aging?

Deuteronomy 30.19-20 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ "that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."



"Honor your
father and
your mother..."
Exodus 20:12

Two Principles: 1. The primary blessing of faith is eternal life with God. 2. The secondary blessing is that life on earth will generally be better.

How does this relate to the account of the "Man Born Blind" in John 9?

Proverbs 16.31 The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.

Isaiah 3.5 The people will be oppressed, Every one by another and every one by his neighbor; The child will be insolent toward the elder, And the base toward the honorable."

Never underestimate the value that God places on all life from the tiniest unborn person to the feeblest person of age. Where there is life there is purpose. The greatest purpose of life is to be saved. To the very moment we cross the "Jordan" to enter the eternal rest there is opportunity to live by faith, bear witness to God's promises, and so to glorify Him.

Who Are the Elders (23.2)?

The term "Elder" usually refers to "one with the responsibility of authority." Numbers 11.11-17 describes the appointment of elders to assist Moses. They were endowed with the Holy Spirit. Their responsibilities included: Settling questions regarding the Covenant of Moses; property settlements; trial jurors. The New Testament takes the term and uses it to refer to pastors.

Love The LORD and Do Not Unite With Pagans (23.9-13)

How Are We to "Love the LORD"?

Note the pattern: Joshua recounts God's faithfulness and then appeals to Israel's faithfulness. Our faith is a gift of God that comes through the proclamation of the Gospel.



Romans 1.16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.



Luke 16.29-31 – The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

1 Peter 2.1-2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil

speaking,² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

What Should We Think About Inter-Marriage Between Christians and Non-Christians?

1 Corinthians 7.39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 9.5 Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

2 Corinthians 6.14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

1 Corinthians 15.33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

The LORD Will Fulfilled His Promises and Threats (23.14-16)

How Does Joshua Emphasize the Importance of These Messages?

Repetition: Joshua repeats the encouragements and the warnings from the previous sermons. He also stresses that this is is "last will and testament." Both Peter and Paul do the same thing in the New Testament.

^{NKJ} 2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

^{NKJ} 2 Peter 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,¹⁴ knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed

me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Do You Have Any Similar Thoughts for Your “Last Will and Testament”?

Did Joshua Prophecy Israel’s Unfaithfulness (23.16)?

Grammar: The infinitive construct of the verb “transgress” with the preposition κ almost always means “when” or “because.” It rarely means “if.” Joshua as well as Moses prophesied the future disobedience of Israel.

How Should We Think of the Covenants?

Paul indicates that the Covenant of Abraham was the Gospel. The Covenant of Moses was the Law. Galatians 3.8; 4.24 The covenants of the Law (Moses and Joshua) are always conditional. They promise blessings if there is obedience. But all human beings will discover sooner or later that they cannot keep these covenants of the Law. They need the covenants of the Gospel: The Covenant of Abraham and the New Covenant of Jesus. These covenants promise blessings through faith.



What then is the purpose of the covenant of the Law? It is a mirror to show us our sin and the need for salvation. It is a hedge to protect Israel’s identity and keep them from being mixed with the other nations. In this regard the Mosaic covenant is a covenant of judgment not only upon Israel who failed to keep it, but upon all nations. The Covenant of Moses prefigures Christ. Whereas we cannot keep it, Jesus did keep it and became the perfect sacrifice for sin.