

The Book of Joshua



DO NOT BE
DISCOURAGED,
FOR THE LORD
YOUR GOD WILL
BE WITH YOU
WHEREVER
YOU GO.

JOSHUA 1:5

The Book of Joshua

Bible Study – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Collinsville, Illinois

Chapter Twenty Four

Joshua's Review of Covenant History (24.1-13)

What is the salvation history of Shechem?

^{NKJ} Genesis 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

^{NKJ} Genesis 33:18-19 Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.¹⁹ And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

^{NKJ} Joshua 24:32 The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

^{NKJ} Genesis 35:1-4 Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."² And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments."³ "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

Genesis 37.12-36 It was here that Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers.

Joshua 8.30-35 The covenant renewal took place here. Joshua built an altar, offer burnt offerings and peace offerings, and copied the Torah. Here Israel repeated the blessings and curses commanded by Moses.

What are the four practical proofs of the LORD's grace toward Israel?

Joshua 24.2b-4 The call and care of Abraham

Joshua 24.5-7 Deliverance from Egypt, Preservation in the desert

Joshua 24.8-10 Victories and blessings East of the Jordan

Joshua 24.11-13 Victories and allotments after crossing the Jordan



The grace of the
Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion
of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.
1 COR. 13:13

Was this grace merited or earned?

Joshua 24.2 Abraham worshiped idols. The traditional Jewish/Muslim view was that he didn't worship idols and that he in fact rebuked his relatives for doing so. This view is based on the works righteousness theology that says God saw something good in Abraham and therefore chose him to be the father of a great nation.

Joshua 24.3 The LORD took Abraham across the River (Euphrates) and caused him to walk through Canaan. God's Word (Genesis 12.1-3) created Abraham's faith.

^{NKJ} John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

^{NKJ} John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

^{NKJ} Matthew 3:9 "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

^{NKJ} Romans 9:7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

^{NKJ} Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Not What These Hands Have Done TLH 389

Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.

Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.

Thy love to me, O God,
Not mine, O Lord to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest
And set my spirit free



2. Joshua's Exhortation & Confession (24.14-15)

Is "fear" a Law & Gospel Word?

Psalm 130.3-5 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with You, That You may

be feared. ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope.

What is meant by “removing gods”?

Deuteronomy 10.16 “Circumcise the foreskin of your heart.” All idolatry begins with ideas that we create about reality. Since we create them, we make ourselves into a god. The greatest idol tempting all of us is the one behind the image we see every day in the mirror.

Do Joshua’s words support decision theology?

To Whom are These Words Addressed? They are addressed to faithful Israel. This does not show that faith is our decision. It is an opportunity to express the faith that God has created in our hearts by His Word. When we confuse the gift of faith with the response of faith, we are attributing something to ourselves that belongs to God.

There is a choice suggested: The choice is to be made by any apostate Israelite who has rejected the LORD, and the only choice is which worthless god do you prefer to serve.

^{NKJ} Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

3. Joshua’s Exhortation & Confession (24.16-24)

Was anyone listening?

Compare to John 6:65-71 – Here Jesus speaks to those who have been called to faith, and asks if they will continue. Good evangelism means presenting the truths of Jesus and waiting for the response of faith. Salvation is God’s choice. Rejection is our choice.

Why is Joshua’s response so harsh?

Testing: Joshua may be testing their



sincerity.

Self-reliance: Joshua wants them to avoid self-reliance. He wants them to have confidence in God alone.

Future Apostasy: Joshua may be prophesying future apostasy.

Sinful Nature: Joshua knows that we all have a struggle between the sinful nature and the new nature.

4. The Covenant of Moses is Renewed (24.25-28)

What was the purpose of Moses' Covenant?

1. Mirror – The Covenant would be a constant reminder of their sinfulness. They would always need to look to God's grace that He showed when He called Abraham.
2. Hedge – The Covenant would provide a hedge that would keep Israel from blending in with the other nations. They would remain so that the Messiah would come through them.
3. Shadow – The Covenant prefigured the new and better covenant in Christ. The sacrifices, including Passover and the Day of Atonement, are pictures of the redemption that Jesus would bring to the whole world.

What purpose does the "stone" serve?

Pointer – the stone points to the Word. In the same way statues, stain-glass windows, crosses, etc. serve to point us to the promises of God's Word.

5. Three Saints Laid to Rest (24.29-33)

Joshua, Joseph, and Eleazar are buried in the Land of Promise to await the complete fulfillment of that promise in the New Heavens and the New Earth.