

- I) V1 INTRO: Now it came to pass a long time after Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies
 - a) After Joshua divided the land up amongst the tribes, he had settled in Timnath Serah (19:49-51
 - 1) It was there that Joshua lived peacefully for the remainder of his life

- II) BY NOW: A great amount of time has passed from the initial entrance into the land
 - a) It took time to conquer the land and to begin to settle in it
 - 1) It has been estimated that when he distributed the land, he was around 95 (13:1)
 - 2) NOW: He has grown to be 110 (24:29)

- III) HE IS: Nearing the close of his life, and he feels led to gather the leaders for a final meeting
 - a) As his life is nearing its end, he is compelled to give them a final, heart felt exhortation
 - 1) The final thing he has to say is simply for them to remain *faithful to God*

- IV) WE LIVE IN A WORLD: With no shortage of advice givers
 - a) We have talk radio, afternoon TV programs, magazines, and professional counselors
 - 1) The Net is filled with pages filled with sites offering advice and information
 - 2) Facebook pages are often filled with people sharing their wisdom to their friends
 - 3) Eccl 12:12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making *many books there is no end*, and much study *is wearisome to the flesh*.

- V) EXPERTS ON LIFE: Abound, so how do we determine whom to listen to
 - a) We should look to those who have faithfully followed the Lord over a lifetime (Pastor Chuck)
 - 1) Ps 71:17-18 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, Your power to everyone *who* is to come.

- VI) KEY: When it comes to seeking advice, it is always wise to seek those with godly wisdom
 - a) Wisdom often follows experience
 - 1) Job 12:12 Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days understanding.

- VII) IMPORTANT: Be careful whom you allow to influence your life through their advice
 - a) Ps 1:1-2 blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
 - b) NLT: Oh, the joys of those who *do not follow the advice of the wicked*, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

- VIII) ADVICE: Should be sought from those who have a proven life, and *genuine concern* for you
 - a) Ro 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of *goodness*, filled with all *knowledge, able* also to admonish one another.
 - 1) Goodness and knowledge, and a willingness to encourage others makes for a good counselor

- IX) KEY: They should always have a desire to advise you to follow in the proper path, towards the Lord
 - a) Eccl 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.
 - 1) JOSHUA: Begins advising them by reminding them of the Lord's faithfulness over the years

- I) HE GIVES THEM: A brief history lesson, calling on them to *remember*

- a) This is a common practice in scripture
 - 1) Phil 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.
 - 2) 2 Pe 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*
 - 3) Jude 17 But you, beloved, *remember the words* which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ

- II) V1-2 HE IS OLD: And advanced in age, and he now calls the leaders of the nation to meet with him
 - a) He reminds them that he is old in his opening statement
 - 1) Pr 16:31 The silver-haired head *is* a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.
 - 2) He has guided them in times of war, and in times of peace and now has his final words to speak

- III) V3 YOU HAVE SEEN: All that the Lord your God has done to all these nations because of you
 - a) He reminds them of God's goodness towards them, His protection, and His deliverance
 - 1) IT IS: Wise to consider God's steady presence on our behalf, and remember past victories

- IV) FACT: Though they fought to take possession, it was God Who gave them victory
 - a) Ps 44:1-3 We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old: You drove out the nations with Your hand, But them You planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out. For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.

- V) V4-5 SEE: I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain to be an inheritance for your tribes
 - a) They had yet to drive out the remaining nations, as the conquest was gradual
 - 1) They were in the process of settling, but God was going to continue expelling their enemies
 - 2) Though there were nations still remaining, Israel remained separate from them

- VI) V6-8 THEREFORE: Be *very* courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law
 - a) QUESTION: What is going to safeguard them and make the total conquest possible
 - 1) Be exceedingly courageous: Live out your faith, and trust God as you obey Him

- VII) POINT: Do not be turned out of the proper path
 - a) Remain faithful to God, and avoid the temptation to abandon Him for other gods
 - 1) God's Word will protect you from doing such a thing, as you obey
 - 2) Dt 28:14 So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, *to* the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

- VIII) V7 NOTICE: You shall not make mention of the name of their gods nor cause anyone to swear by them
 - a) Let them be totally forgotten, as if they never had been heard of
 - 1) WHY: Is this so important

- IX) FACT: By remembering them, you will give an open door for you to become tempted to worship them
 - a) They could swear by them as the judges of their motives and actions; serve them in their rites, and bow themselves to them as their creators and preservers thus giving the whole worship of God to idols
 - 1) They were to completely detach themselves from these false gods

- I) V8 INSTEAD: They are to *hold fast* to the Lord in the same way they had consistently done
 - a) KEY: They hold fast to Him by holding fast to His Word

1) Dt 13:4 You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and *hold fast* to Him.

2) Josh 22:5 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

3) 2 Ti 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

4) God's Word reveals God to us, and we cling to the One revealed

II) KEY: This will make it possible for them to be in the midst of evil, but not part of it

a) Even as Christians live in the midst of those who do not believe, yet can remain separate

1) Jn 17:14-15 I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are *not of the world*, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

III) V9-11 FOR: The Lord has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you no one

a) Outside of their failure at Ai, Israel had move from victory to victory by trusting in the Lord

1) The Lord had fought on their side, and He had given them victory and rest

2) Ro 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

3) Ps 44:4-5 You are my King, O God; Command victories for Jacob. Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

IV) V12-13 OR ELSE: If indeed you do go back and cling to the remnant of these nations

a) No other relationship is as intimate as marriage so nothing is more certain to draw them away

1) 1 Ki 11:1-3 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites--from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

2) Who you love and want to marry reveals the depth of your true spiritual life

V) V13 IF THEY: Intermarry, they will lose God's protection and will bring great pain to them

VI) V14-15 BEHOLD: This day I am going the way of all the earth And you know in all your hearts

a) You have seen and experienced God's faithful keeping of His promises

1) These are experiences that you cannot deny, so continue trusting Him to keep His word

2) Lu 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

VII) V16 WHEN: You have transgressed the covenant of the Lord your God which He commanded you

a) This is not only a warning, but it is also a prediction

1) They had already been told what would happen if they turned away from the Lord

2) Dt 28:64-65 Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known--wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

3) In spite of God's faithfulness, they became unfaithful and went into captivity (722 BC/605)