

THE END.....
BUT NOT YET NOW.....
Joshua 23-24 WFR WC 8-24-25

INTRODUCTION

- A. Open & Welcome
- B. Scripture Reader: Hayden Park 8, Home school, Jujitsu & super sharp when it comes to the Bible **Joshua 24:15**

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

- C. Today, we wrap up our study of the Book of Joshua
 - 1. Challenges of Historical Studies (Stories, Cultural Timing & Bigger Narrative of God's Will/Humanity)
 - 2. Biblical Relevance of a Living Document
 - a. Hermeneutic: Then/There & Here/Now
 - b. Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
 - c. Honest/Heart Introspective (Heb. 4:12)
- D. **Joshua 23-24** To The End....Not Yet Now..... (25+ years after the conquest & allotment of promised land)

1. Fulfillment of one/some things....
2. Future of more things promised or prophesied....
3. Faith needed to live in the moment.....

I. Wonders-Joshua Looks Back & Sees The Work of God FOR His People

Joshua 23:3 *You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you.....*

[Joshua 24:2-12] From Abraham to Moses in Egypt to Crossing of the Jordana and the Conquering of Canaan & Land Inheritance....]

Joshua 24:12b-13 *You did not do it with your own sword and bow. So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.* ' (Tendency for humans is to take the Wonders of the Almighty and add my works to them to complete..)

Three Responses to God's Wonders in these two chapters:

Josh 23:11 *Be very careful to love the Lord your God.*

A. Love the Lord Your God (Pro Active & Reactive)

1. **John 13 & 1 John 4**
2. **1 Cor. 13**

Joshua 24:14 *Now Fear the Lord.....*(Punishment to Respect)

B. Fear the Lord

1. **Proverbs 9:10**

2. The journey from punishment/consequences to appreciation/respect

Joshua 24:14band Serve the Lord with all Faithfulness.

C. Serve the Lord with all Faithfulness

1. Power of the Son of God becoming the Son of Man
2. Foot washing context of John 13...**Matt. 20:28**

II. **Warnings**-Joshua Looks Around and Sees the Challenges of The Moment, The Mindset & Motivation & The Cultural Idolatry

Joshua 23:6-8 *“Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.*

A. Challenges of the Moment

Joshua 24:15 *“...choose for yourselves **this day** whom you will serve....”*

B. Challenges of the Mindset & the Motivation

Josh 23:6 *“Obey the law....don't turn to the right or left.....”*

1. The Law and the Purpose of the Law
2. Jesus' speech about the motivation of the heart/mind (Matt. 5 Sermon on the Mount)

C. Challenges of the False gods, False Idols & Cultural Identity

1. From the beginning....Satan's whisper....
2. Follow your instincts & passions (Told Eve/Adam in the Garden of Eden), follow me (Told Jesus in the wilderness & Garden of Gethsemane) & follow others (Tells generation after generation).
3. The Power is in You! The Power is in Your Peers! The Power is in Your Circumstantial Position & Surroundings!
4. The Power is in the One, True God! YHWH-Yeshua-Ruach (The Father-Son-Holy Spirit)

III. Witness-Joshua Looks Ahead to Not Just Now

Not Just Now Concept.....(Works In Progress) Judges-Kings...

Joshua 24:15 "....*But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*"

- A. I can only decide for myself, but my decision affects my earthly family (Witness begins to those closest)

Joshua 24:20-22 *If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.” But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD. Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.*

- B. The actions & consequences for false witness will always come to light, usually at the worst possible time

Joshua 24:24-27 *On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD. "See!" he said to all the people. "This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the LORD has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God."*

- C. The Stone/Rock is the Ultimate Witness & the Ultimate Redeemer.....Not Yet Now!

1. Daniel 2 (A Rock that smashes Human Empires)
2. Jesus asks Peter (Grk. for rock) who he believes Jesus is in Matt. 16:15ff
3. Peter says that Jesus is the living Stone in 1 Pet. 2:4 (Paul says the same thing in Eph. 2:20-chief cornerstone) and he quotes Isa. 28:16, Psm. 118:22 & Isa. 8:14 as all prophesying this about the Messiah being that Stone of Witness

CONCLUSION (Praise Band/Team Back Up)

- A. Where does all this lead us to today?
- B. 1st step.....Middle Progress....Final Leap
- C. Offer Invite