

Joshua 23:1-16

Joshua's Farewell Message

- I. Introduction:** Joshua delivered a farewell message to the leaders of Israel and called them to honor their commitment to follow God in light of His faithfulness to them.

- II. Joshua's Farewell Message (Josh 23:1-16).**
 - A. The Basis For Blessing (vv. 1-11).
 1. Joshua reminded Israel that they could have victory over the Canaanites because of God's grace, but they needed to obey Him if they were to remain in the land.

 - B. The Warning For Waywardness (vv. 12-16).
 1. Joshua warned the Israelites not to cling to the nations instead of their God, or He would allow them to be defeated and expelled from Canaan.

- III. Conclusion:** Joshua reminded the Israelites that if they followed God fully, He would help them conquer Canaan, but if they abandoned Him they would be destroyed.

Study Questions: Joshua's Farewell Message

1. What would you say if you knew you were going to die? What message would you want to communicate to your family? What were some of the last words of God's great leaders?
2. Why did Joshua call the leaders of Israel together? (**Josh 23:1-2**) How did Joshua instruct them to remember God's promises? (**Josh 23:3-5**) How had God fought for Israel? (**v. 4**)
3. What did Joshua tell Israel about following God's word? (**Josh 22:6**) How did God give Joshua the same command? (**Josh 1:6-9**) How is this the key to a long life? (**Deut 32:44-47**)
4. How did Joshua warn Israel about compromising with their pagan neighbors? (**Josh 22:7**) How could they avoid apostasy? (**v. 7**) What are the gods of the modern age?
5. What else did Joshua instruct Israel to do? (**Josh 23:8-11**) What does it mean to "cling" to God? (**v. 7**) Who drove out the nations? (**vv. 9-10**) How did God fight for Israel? (**v. 10**)
6. What did Joshua say would happen if Israel turned apostate? (**Josh 23:12-16**) Why did he instruct them not to intermarry? (**v. 12**) What would happen if they did? (**v. 13**)
7. How had all of God's promises been fulfilled? (**Josh 23:14-16; 21:43-45**) How did Joshua warn Israel of judgment if they disobeyed? (**vv. 15-16**) What would happen to them? (**v. 16**)
8. Are you committed to following God today? Do you live under His blessings or His judgment? Will you cling to Him your entire life? Are you following the gods of this world?

Prayer

1. Pray God will keep you committed to following Jesus for the rest of your life.
2. Ask God to help you resist the world, the devil, and the flesh which will destroy you.