

# Joshua 24:1-33

## “We Will Serve the Lord”

### Pastor Bruce Zachary

#### Discussion Qs

1. How has God called you to Himself, protected, preserved, and provided?
2. What are some of the master passions [objects of worship (idols)] in our land?
3. How can we choose to serve God and still enjoy some of the objects of our affections in this world?
4. How might your choice of serving God impact your life in the coming season?

**intro.** There are certain seasons on life that are a catalyst for reflection: a birthday, anniversary, and the brink of a new year. It is an opportunity to consider what has been and to wonder what will be. A time to dream what we want it to be; and the choices that we make today will undoubtedly impact the experience of tomorrow ...

**Subject: Israel renews their covenant with God**

**Object: Commit your life to Christ**

**A. Consider: God is faithful [1-13] [Israel’s history and the Promised Land]**

**v.1 Schechem:** Mountains of Ephraim, Joshua’s tribe, where the Lord appeared to Abraham and gave the promise of the land [Gen.12:6], and where Joshua renewed the covenant with the people after victory at Ai [Josh 8]. Now 20-30 yrs later

**v.2 Thus says the Lord:** God’s message to His people, not merely Joshua’s

**1. God’s promise [2-4]** Abraham and the Patriarchs & the Promised Land

**a. Call to separate from false gods to the true and living God.** God brought Abraham to the PL, gave Isaac [3-4] and brought Jacob and his 12 sons to Egypt [4]

**2. God’s protection [5-7]** God sent Moses and Aaron, the plagues and parted the

Red Sea to deliver Israel from Egypt. Proved Lord is God, not pagan gods of Egypt.

**3. God’s preservation [8-10]** God gave Israel victories and blessed them in the wilderness [Balak, Balaam **Num.22-25**].

**4. God’s provision [11-13]** God gave them conquest of the PL; gave them victory, cities, dwellings, orchards and vineyards.

*? How has God called you to Himself, protected, preserved, and provided?*

## **B. Choose: whom will you serve? [14-21]**

**1. A challenge to serve the Lord [14-15]** Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! [Jn. 4:23-24]

**a. A call to reverently worship God** serve Him in sincerity + truth, put-away idols

- i. The conquest was complete, tend towards apathy in re with God after battle ...
- ii. Joshua reminds Israel of God's faithfulness to encourage a renewed commitment

**b. A choice must be made [15]** And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.

i. We all serve someone or something. Choose wisely because you become like what you worship [Ps. 115:1-8].

**1Ki. 18:21-39** Elijah challenges the people to choose between God and Baal, but no response till God proved [Cf. Resurrection] **Matt. 16**

**c. A leader's choice declared [15]** But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD:

- i. Joshua is committed to God regardless of what others choose
- ii. Affirms his leadership not only in the congregation but his family.

**Jn. 6:68** [Peter] Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**2. The people's choice confirmed [16-18] Israel affirms their decision**

**a.** The people realize God's past faithfulness to their generation & generation(s) that preceded them. Therefore affirm they also will serve the YHWH for He is our God [18]

**3. The caution communicated [19-21] consider the consequences**

**a.** Joshua cautions the people to be serious about their commitment because of the consequences forsaking the Lord [19-20], and the people affirm they will serve the Lord [21]

## **C. Commit: the covenant renewed [22-28]**

**1. Repent:** since you have chosen the Lord put away idols and turn to the Lord [22-23]

**2. Renew:** a sacred agreement to serve the Lord [24-25]

**3. Remember:** copy of the covenant & large stone were witnesses to covenant [26-28]

**Rev. 2:1-7** Tendency to lose passion and the need to prioritize Christ

**D. Commemorate: remember the people who have served and influenced you for God [29-33]** Death of Joshua and Eleazar + burial of Joseph

**1. Joshua:** legacy **servant of the Lord** [29], Israel served Lord all his days [29-31]

a. Joshua was 110 when he passed [29]

**2. Joseph:** honored re bones buried in the Promised Land [32], Gen.50:25, Heb.11:22]

**3. Eleazar:** High Priest, son of Aaron, died and was buried [33]. Phineas became HP

**Conc. New Year and new commitment of your life to Christ**