

JOSHUA 24 SELECTED TO SERVE 25 January 14 by Glenn Palmer

REVIEW CONQUEST

Joshua 1: *Strong in the Lord*
Joshua 2: *Spies*
Joshua 3: *Surge*
Joshua 4: *Stones*
Joshua 5: *Sacraments*
Joshua 5-6: *Supreme Commander*
Joshua 6: *Sound of the Trumpets*
Joshua 7: *Sin*
Joshua 8: *Sack*

Joshua 9: *Schemers*
Joshua 10: *Sun stands still*
Joshua 11: *Sparing no one*
Joshua 12: *So many kings*

SETTLEMENT

Joshua 13-15: *Slaying the Giants*
Joshua 16-19: *Settlements*
Joshua 20-21: *Safety and Sanctity*
Joshua 22: *Separation and Sanctity*
Joshua 23: *Stay the Course*

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Introduction: The book of Joshua comes to the end with triumph. This is an optimistic book. In the beginning of Joshua, the Israelites were on the east side of the Jordan, and although they had conquered Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan, there was a lot to do. Now they can look back and see God's blessing them - God has given them the land. There is peace in the land and they recommit themselves to serving the Lord.

1. Vs. 1: Shechem
 - a. In the middle of the land, but the real importance is (see below)
 - b. Genesis 12:6-7 *Where the Lord appeared to Abraham and where God promised to give him the land; Abraham built the 1st altar*
 - c. Genesis 35:1-4 *Jacob buried all the household gods and ear rings - symbol of mastery*

THEMES

SELECTED - ELECTION - GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN MAN'S WAYS

2. Vs. 2: What did Abraham's father worship? *Foreign gods*
3. Vs. 2: Jewish tradition is that Abraham's father, Terah, was an idol maker. Abraham got disgusted with the idols, broke them, and then he and his father had to flee because the locals were mad at him because he worshipped the one true God. Does this square with the Biblical account? *No*
4. Was Abraham selected because he was righteous? *No*
5. Sin, the moon god, was the god that the people of Ur worshipped.
6. Vs. 3: God said that he would make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky and as the sands of the sea shore. How many children did Abraham have by his wife Sarah? *One - Isaac*
7. Vs. 4: "the Promised Land": Who stayed in the Promised Land and who fled to Egypt? *Jacob fled, Esau stayed in Seir*

8. Vs. 3-4: What does God do in
 - a. vs. 3: *"I took Abraham from beyond the River"*
 - b. vs. 3: *"I led him throughout Canaan"*
 - c. vs. 3: *"I gave him many descendants"*
 - d. vs. 3: *"I gave him Isaac"*
 - e. vs. 4: *"to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau"*
 - f. vs. 4: *"I assigned the mountains of Seir to Esau"*
9. What boasting can Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob do? *None*
10. Vs. 5: What did God do?
 - a. *I sent Moses and Aaron*
 - b. *I afflicted the Egyptians*
 - c. *I brought them out*
11. Vs. 5: What did the Israelites do? *Nothing*
12. Vs. 6: What did God do? *"I brought your forefathers out"*
13. Vs. 7: In the beginning of this verse, what did the Israelites do? *Cried for help*
14. Vs. 7: What did God do?
 - a. *Put darkness between the Israelites and the Egyptians*
 - b. *Brought the sea over them*
15. Vs. 7: What were the two things that the Israelites did?
 - a. *Saw*
 - b. *Lived in the desert*
16. Vs. 8: What were the three things God did?
 - a. *I brought you to the land of the Amorites*
 - b. *I gave them into your hands*
 - c. *I destroyed them*
17. Vs. 8: What did the Israelites do? *Took possession of the land (after God gave them the land)*
18. Vs. 9: With which weapons does Balak fight the Israelites? *Curses*
19. Vs. 10: What three things did God do?
 - a. *I would not listen to Balaam*
 - b. *I delivered you out of his hand*
20. Vs. 11: What did the Israelites do? *Crossed the Jordan (but only after God stopped the river Jordan)*
21. Vs. 11: How many nations fought against the Israelites? *Seven*
22. Cf. Acts 13:19 *Paul stated that there were seven nations*
23. Vs. 11: What did God do? *I gave them into your hand*
24. Vs. 12: What did God do? *God sent the hornet*

25. Vs. 12: The hornet - two main theories:
- Hornet = literal insect - a miracle that the hornet stung only the Canaanites, much like the hail in 10:11 struck only the bad guys. But this is never mentioned in Joshua.
 - Hornet = figure of speech - terror over came them and that is why they fled.
 - 2:24
 - 5:1
 - 10:2
26. Vs. 12: Did the Israelite fight? *They did not do it with their own sword or bow*
27. Vs. 13: What did God do? *He gave them the land!*
28. Vs. 14: How did the Israelites helped themselves to the land?
- They lived in cities that they did not build*
 - They eat from vineyards they did not plant*
 - They eat from olive groves they did not plant*

Note that in all these efforts, these take lots of time. Vineyards take at least 3 years, but will produce for 50-70 years; olive trees take 10 years to mature, and houses (Rome) was not built in a night.

Practical Applications:

- We must be very humble. As seen above, God does the work, and we enjoy the benefits. Thus, we have to be very careful not to boast and be full of pride. Francis Schaeffer writes "If I am in a different place, it is not because I am intrinsically better than you, but simply because God has done something in my life. There is no place for pride." John Calvin writes "For God gathered them together to be His peculiar people, from no respect to anything, but His mere good pleasure."*
- God's ways are higher than our ways. Would we have selected an idol worshipper to be the founder of the Israelite nation? Would we have promised the old man that he would have numerous descendants and then given him only one son, and that when he was 100 years old? Would we have given his son only one child of the covenant? Would we have picked the younger son (Isaac, not the 1st born Ishmael, the wimp Jacob, not the 1st born mighty hunter Esau, [Malachi 1:2-3], etc.) Would we have promised the land to them and then sent them to Egypt for four hundred years (same time from founding of Jamestown to now!!)?*
- Because we have been selected by God (election), we must now serve Him.*

TAKE AWAY: WE SERVE A HISTORICAL GOD WHO ACTS IN OUR WORLD. GOD IS NOT JUST A THEORETICAL GOD, BUT A REAL GOD. HE ACTIVELY PERFORMED MIRACLES. THIS ACTIVE, HISTORICAL GOD IS DIFFERENT FROM EVERY OTHER RELIGION.

SELECTED TO SERVE

29. Vss. 14-31: How many times is the idea of serving the Lord mentioned in this section?
Write down the number and the verses. *14 times*
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Vs. 14: Serve Him with all faithfulness</i> | <i>Vs. 14: Serve the Lord</i> |
| <i>Vs. 15: If serving the Lord seems undesirable</i> | <i>Vs. 15: Whom you will serve</i> |
| <i>Vs. 15: But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!!</i> | |
| <i>Vs. 16: Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods</i> | |
| <i>Vs. 18: We too will serve the Lord</i> | <i>Vs. 19: You are not able to serve the Lord</i> |
| <i>(Vs. 20: Serve foreign gods = disaster)</i> | <i>Vs. 21: We will serve the Lord</i> |
| <i>Vs. 22: You have chosen to serve the Lord</i> | <i>Vs. 24: We will serve the Lord</i> |
| <i>Vs. 29: Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord</i> | |
| <i>Vs. 31: Israel served the Lord</i> | |

30. Choices:
- a. Foreign gods:
 - 1.) Vs. 14 & 15: Beyond the River: (Euphrates: Ur - Sin, the moon god)
 - 2.) Vs. 15: Egyptian gods - golden calf
 - 3.) Vs. 16: Amorite gods
 - b. The Covenant God
31. Vs. 14: "Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped"
- a. Literal - Gen 31:30-34: Abraham's, Isaac, and Jacob. In the third generation, Rachel still has household gods. And then again in Genesis 35:4!!! How is that possible? Could the Israelites still have had some small gods (golden calf/bull) that they still had hidden away?
 - b. Figurative - "throw away any [inclination for] the gods your forefathers worshipped.
32. Vss. 14-24. A masterpiece of challenge. Joshua prods them so that they are determined to follow the Lord. He makes them beg him to make the covenant. There is no arm twisting as Joshua is giving them every opportunity to back out. He wants to make sure that they are really ready to commit themselves wholeheartedly.
33. Vs. 25: Joshua makes the covenant for the people, on behalf of the people.
34. Vss. 26-27: Stone - lots of memorial stones
- a. Joshua 4:7, 20-22
 - b. Joshua 7:26
 - c. Joshua 8:29
 - d. Joshua 10:27
35. Why did he write it on a stone? *Permanent covenant*
- SUCCESS AT LAST**
36. Vss. 28, 30, & 32: Inheritance is mentioned three times.
- a. Genesis 23:4:
 - b. Genesis 33:19:
 - c. Unlike Abraham who bought a burial plot for his wife Sarah and then himself, and then Isaac and Rebekah and Leah were buried there (Genesis 49:29-31) and where Jacob was buried (Genesis 50:13). They can now bury Joseph in their inheritance land. They no longer have to buy the land to bury their dead
37. Vs. 29: In the book of Joshua, Moses is described as "the servant of the Lord" or "my servant" or "his servant Moses" nineteen times. Joshua has now reached that level and for the first time he is called "the servant of the Lord."
38. Old guys:
- a. Genesis 50:26: How old was Joseph when he died? 110
 - b. Joshua 24:29: How old was Joshua when he died? 110
39. Vs. 30: Septuagint - also buried the flint knives that were used to circumcise in Chapter 5
40. Vs. 30. They served the Lord!! **Do you?**