

# Bible Basics 2016

## Session 12

### Joshua 23 & 24

# structure of this talk

the context

Joshua's message

the Lord's message

Joshua's challenge

what happened

the challenge for us

# context of Joshua 23 & 24

chapters 23 and 24 take place 'a long time after that the Lord had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about' [23:1]

Joshua 'was old, advanced in age' [23:1]

'And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth' [23:14]

in chapter 23 Joshua 'called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers'

in chapter 24 Joshua 'gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers'

# approximate timeline

Joshua's approx age

30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110

led fight against Amalek

spy

appointed leader

Jericho  
Ai  
Gibeon

south confed  
north confed

Joshua 23 & 24

died

years Moses' assistant

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

wandering

inheritance for 7 tribes

left Egypt

law given

at Kadesh-Barnea

crossed Jordan & entered promised land

inheritance for Judah, Ephraim,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Manasseh

Caleb's inheritance

# Joshua 23 & 24

in chapter 23 Joshua speaks to the  
Israelites

in chapter 24 the Lord speaks to the  
Israelites through Joshua

then Joshua challenges the people  
and they have a dialogue

# a repeated sequence

- this is what the Lord has done (or is doing)
- this is what you must do
- (this is what happens if you don't obey)

# 1st time: Joshua 23:1-8

## WHAT THE LORD

## HAS DONE

fought for you  
given you an  
inheritance

OBEY

BE SEPARATE

HOLD FAST

## WHAT YOU MUST DO

be very courageous to keep & do  
all in the Law of Moses

don't turn to right or left

don't go among the Canaanites

don't mention the names of their  
gods

don't cause anyone to swear by  
their gods

don't serve their gods

don't bow down to their gods

hold fast to the Lord your God

## 2nd time: Joshua 23:9-13

### WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE & IS DOING

driven out from before you great & strong nations  
fights for you so that no-one can stand before you

### LOVE THE LORD

### BE SEPARATE

### WHAT YOU MUST DO

take heed that you love the Lord your God

don't cleave to remnant of the Canaanites

don't marry Canaanites

don't mix with the Canaanites

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T OBEY

if you mix with the Canaanites, marry them etc then:  
God will no longer drive them out before you  
they will be snares, traps, scourges, thorns  
you will perish from this good land



# third time: Joshua 23:14-16

## WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE & IS DOING

all the Lord's promises have been fulfilled  
not one of the Lord's promises has failed

## WHAT YOU MUST DO

keep the covenant of the Lord your God

do not serve other gods  
do not bow down to other gods

OBEY

BE SEPARATE

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T OBEY

the Lord's anger will burn against you  
you will quickly perish from the good land that He has given you

# fourth time: Joshua 24:1-14

## WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

taken Abraham from idolatry  
brought him to Canaan  
given him descendants  
brought the Israelites from  
Egypt  
destroyed the Amorites (east  
of the Jordan)  
delivered you from Balaam

delivered Jericho into your  
hands  
driven the Canaanites from  
the land  
given you a land, cities,  
vineyards, oliveyards for  
which you did not work

FEAR THE LORD

SERVE THE LORD

BE SEPARATE

WHAT YOU MUST DO

fear the Lord

serve Him in

perfectness & truth

put away other gods

# so, in summary

## WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

taken them from slavery in  
Egypt into their inheritance  
fought for them  
dispossessed their enemies  
given them the land promised  
everything that He said He  
would do

## WHAT THEY MUST DO

FEAR THE LORD

OBEY THE LORD

BE SEPARATE TO THE  
LORD

HOLD FAST TO THE  
LORD

LOVE THE LORD

## WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY DIDN'T OBEY

the Lord's anger would burn against them  
they would quickly perish from the good land that  
He had given them

the challenge  
&  
the response

# the challenge & response

Joshua's challenge to the people [Josh. 24:15]:

"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.

**But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**

The people's response [Josh. 24:16-18]:

"Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;

for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt,

from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land.

**We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God."**

# but will they? ...

But Joshua said to the people  
[Josh. 24:19-20]:

"You cannot serve the Lord,  
for He is a holy God.  
He is a jealous God;  
He will not forgive your  
transgressions nor your sins.  
If you forsake the Lord  
and serve foreign gods,  
then He will turn  
and do you harm  
and consume you,  
after He has done you good."

The people's response  
[Josh. 24:21]:

"No, but we will serve  
the Lord!"

# witnesses against themselves

So Joshua said to the people  
[Josh. 24:22]:

"You are witnesses against  
yourselves  
that you have chosen the Lord  
for yourselves,  
to serve Him."

The people's response  
[Josh. 24:22]:

"We are witnesses!"

# put away foreign gods ... incline your heart to the Lord

So Joshua said to the people  
[Josh. 24:23]:

"Now therefore, put away the  
foreign gods which are  
among you,  
and incline your heart to the  
Lord God of Israel."

The people's response  
[Josh. 24:24]:

"The Lord our God we  
will serve,  
and His voice we will  
obey!"



# the stone witness

So Joshua made a covenant with the people  
He set them a statue & an ordinance  
He wrote the words in the Book of the Law of the Lord  
He set up a stone by the Lord's sanctuary

“Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us,  
for it has heard all the words of the Lord  
which He spoke to us.  
It shall therefore be a witness to you,  
lest you deny your God.”

so, what happened?

# after Joshua died ...

Judges 1 tells us:

Judah (with Simeon)  
victory over several cities  
possession of hill country  
did not dispossess those in the  
valley because of their iron chariots

Benjamin  
did not dispossess Jebusites  
lived with them in Jerusalem

Ephraim & Manasseh  
victory at Bethel

Manasseh (western half)  
did not dispossess Canaanites in  
several cities  
when Israel strong they made  
Canaanites serve them

Ephraim  
did not dispossess Gezer



# after Joshua died ...

continuing with Judges 1:

## Zebulun

did not dispossess cities  
Canaanites lived among them &  
became their servants

## Asher

did not dispossess cities  
they lived among the Canaanites

## Naphtali

did not dispossess cities  
they lived among the Canaanites  
inhabitants of Beth-shemesh &  
Beth-anath served them

## Dan

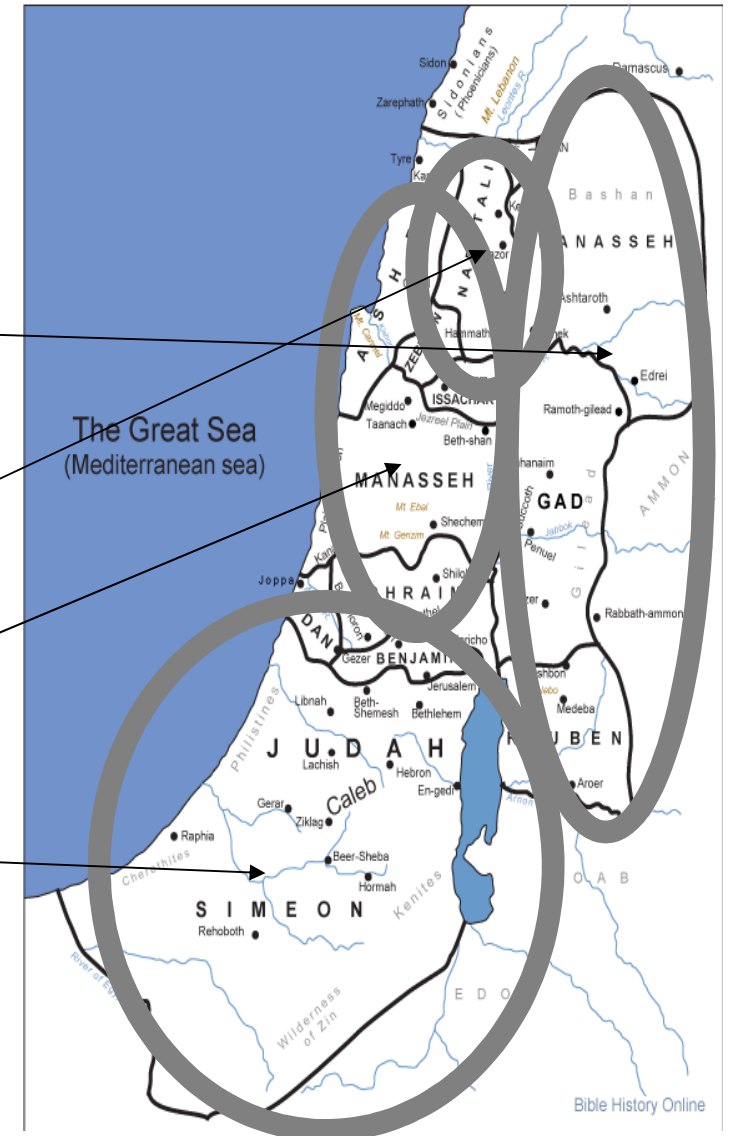
forced into hill country by Amorites  
Amorites wouldn't let them come  
down to the valley



# WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T OBEY

“you will quickly perish from the good land that He has given you”

- in 732 BC: Gilead (east Jordan) taken captive by Assyrians
- in 732 BC: Naphtali & Galilee region taken captive by Assyrians
- in 722 BC: other northern tribes [Israel] taken captive by Assyrians
- in 608 to 586 BC: southern tribes [Judah] taken captive by Babylonians



# "you will quickly perish from the good land"

these are some of the reasons that God gave:

... they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger, for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

...they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them.

[2 Kings 17:11,12,15]

# we should learn ...

this is not just interesting history!  
we can & should learn principles for our  
own lives from what Joshua & the Lord  
Himself told the Israelites

# what the Lord has done

## WHAT HAD THE LORD FOR THE ISRAELITES

- freed them from slavery in Egypt
- looked after them, kept them, fought for them, defeated their enemies
- given them an inheritance

in fact, He did everything that He said He would do

## WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR US

- freed us from slavery to Satan & sin
- looked after us, kept us, fought for us, defeated our enemies
- given us an inheritance

He has done or will do everything He has said He would do



# the Lord Himself reminded the Israelites of what He had done for them [Josh 24:2-14]

I took your father Abraham ... led him ... multiplied his seed ... gave him Isaac ...

I gave Jacob & Esau to Isaac

I gave Mount Seir to Esau

I sent Moses & Aaron to the Israelites in Egypt

I plagued Egypt

I brought you out of Egypt

I brought you to Amorite land

I gave the Amorites into your hands

I destroyed the Amorites before you

I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you

I delivered you out of Balaam's hand

I delivered the Caananites into your hand

I sent the hornet which drove them out from before you

I have given you a land, cities, vineyards, olive groves

# we should keep reminding ourselves of what the Lord has done for us

Therefore remember that you,  
once Gentiles in the flesh—  
who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the  
Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—  
that at that time you were without Christ,  
being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and  
strangers from the covenants of promise,  
having no hope and without God in the world.  
But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have  
been brought near by the blood of Christ.  
[Ephesians 2:11-13]

... giving thanks always for all things to God the Father  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ  
[Ephesians 5:20]

# He is faithful, He always does what He promises

Joshua said to the Israelites:

You know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed. [Joshua 23:14]

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the Scriptures say to us:

All the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God [2 Corinthians 1:20]

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. [1 Thes. 5:24]

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. [2 Timothy 2:13]

... eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised<sup>27</sup>. [Titus 1:2]

# what the Israelites had to do, we must do too

<b>FEAR THE LORD</b>	reverence, respect
<b>OBEY THE LORD</b>	although we are not under Law, there are many New Testament commands
<b>BE SEPARATE TO THE LORD</b>	be holy, sanctified, set apart - marriage, associations, business, etc
<b>HOLD FAST TO THE LORD</b>	hold fast - keep your grip, don't be dragged away
<b>LOVE THE LORD</b>	love the Lord

# fear the Lord

show proper reverence & respect to God:

Honour all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. [1 Peter 2:17 ]

Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. [2 Corinthians 7:1]

Since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. [Hebrews 12:28]

and there is blessing:

The churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified.

And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied. [Acts 9:31]

FEAR THE  
LORD

OBEY THE  
LORD

BE  
SEPARATE  
TO THE  
LORD

HOLD FAST  
TO THE  
LORD

LOVE THE  
LORD

# obey the Lord

the Romans believers were obedient:

God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. [Romans 6:17]

our responsibility:

Jesus said: "If you love Me, keep My commandments."  
[John 14:15]

Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men." [Acts 5:29]

... including our thought life:

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. [2 Corinthians 10:5]

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# be separate to the Lord

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.  
For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?  
And what communion has light with darkness?  
And what accord has Christ with Belial?  
Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?  
And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?  
For you are the temple of the living God.  
As God has said:  
"I will dwell in them and walk among them.  
I will be their God, and they shall be My people."  
Therefore  
"Come out from among them and be separate, says the  
Lord.  
Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.  
I will be a Father to you,  
And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the Lord Almighty." [2 Corinthians 6:14-18]

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# be separate, be holy

we were chosen to be holy:

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. [Ephesians 1:4]

we are instructed to be holy:

As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." [1 Peter 1:15,16]

why are we to be holy?

You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. [1 Peter 2:9]

I beseech you ...

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. [Romans 12:1]

FEAR THE  
LORD

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LORD



# hold fast to the Lord

the church at Pergamos are commended for it:  
You hold fast to My name, and did not deny My  
faith. [Revelation 2:13]

it is necessary for healthy spiritual growth:  
... holding fast to the Head, from whom all the  
body, nourished and knit together by joints and  
ligaments, grows with the increase that is from  
God. [Colossians 2:18,19]

and for us ...

Hold fast what is good. [1 Thessalonians 5:21]

Hold fast what you have till I come.

[Revelation 3:25]

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who  
has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son  
of God, let us hold fast our confession.

[Hebrews 4:14]

FEAR THE  
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# love the Lord

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. [Mark 12:30]

the Lord Jesus tells us how love is shown:

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." [John 14:21]

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word." [John 14:23]

love originates with Him:

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him ... We love Him because He first loved us. [1 John 4:16,19]

an extremely serious matter:

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. [1 Corinthians 16:22]

FEAR THE  
LORD

OBEY THE  
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# the challenge & response

Joshua's challenge to the people [Josh. 24:15]:  
"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 ... or the gods of the Amorites ...  
**But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**

The people's self-confidently asserted that they would serve the Lord

they hadn't recognised the horror of idolatry

- they had to be instructed to put away their idols

their hearts were not inclined towards the Lord

- they had to be instructed to incline their hearts to the Lord

# the challenge & our response

and us ...

do we recognise idolatry? - an idol is  
anything in our lives that takes the place  
the God should have

are our hearts inclined towards the Lord?  
do we really want to obey & please Him?

# "... we will serve the Lord"

We belong to Christ

You are not your own? For you were bought at a price.

[1 Corinthians 6:19,20]

A choice which has to be made

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? [Romans 6:16]

An instruction

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord [Romans 12:10,11]

God notes & remembers our service

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. [Hebrews 6:10]

The Father will honour one who serves Christ

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour." [John 12:26]