



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOSHUA 24:1, 14-24

LESSON: JOSHUA'S FINAL EXHORTATION

October 29, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

THE CALL TO ASSEMBLE: 23:1-2 THE CALL OF REMEMBRANCE: 23:3-4 THE CALL TO COURAGE: 23:5-10 THE CALL OF SEPARATION: 23:11-16

Chapter 23 begins the transition of a great leader for God had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies. Therefore, Joshua thought it necessary to call all Israel and its leaders together to an assembly to give his farewell address. He was up in age and God is about to call him home at the age of 110yrs old. Joshua knew their weaknesses, so he reminded them how good God had been to them, then he commanded them to

1. Follow Moses' instructions without deviating.
2. Don't mix with heathen nations or be tempted to worship their idols. And...
3. Don't intermarry with the heathen nations.

LESSON: I. ASSEMBLY JOSHUA 24:1

THE REVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY: 24:1-13

24:1 And 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; and they presented themselves before God.

This verse tells whom Joshua has called an assembly together to appear before him at Shechem: the tribes of Israel, the elders of Israel, their heads, their judges, and their officers and presented themselves before God. Verse 2 convey not the words from Joshua, but words from the Lord: *"Thus said the Lord God of Israel..."* Our words should always be what God has related unto us to give to others. Shechem was a place for the erection of several altars for the worship of the One True God by Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and now Joshua.

The importance of Shechem:

- This was the scene of God's first Covenant with Abram (Gen.12:6-7).
- Jacob also built an altar (Gen.33:18-20), and he probably dug a deep well there (John 4:12).
- Joseph visited his brothers while they tended their father's herd at Shechem (Gen.37:12). The bones Joseph was taken from Egypt during the exodus and buried at Shechem (Jos.24:32).
- And after Joshua had led the Israelites to victory in Canaan, an altar was built in Shechem accompanied by a covenant renewal ceremony in which offerings were given and the law was read (Jos.8:30-35).

Therefore, Shechem would have been the best place for Joshua to give his final words in the Promised Land to address all the tribes of Israel because of all the history made there, and the stones on which the law had been written were probably still standing.

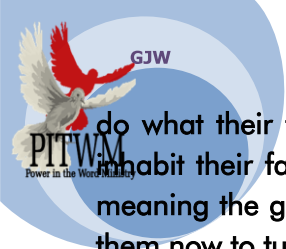
II. ADMONITION JOSHUA 24:14-20

THE COVENANT OF THE HEART: 24:14-24

24:14 Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. Israel is first called to fear the Lord! *"Fear the Lord"* means give reverence to Him, and serve him in sincerity and in truth (not half-heartedly or disregard in what God wants). Israel has blatantly disregarded the Lord's commandments and covenant time and time again. This was to any of them that were still wavering and wanted to go back to old habits. Their hearts are to be in sink, and in one accord with God. One bad apple spoils the whole barrel. When your heart sincerely fears the Lord, you will put away the gods that the fathers served. This meant to not

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do what their fathers did on the other side. Don't allow the curse to come upon them; the consequences to inhabit their family. Joshua explicitly said, *"those who served on the other side of the flood and in Egypt"* — meaning the gods they served that changed their fathers' lives. They knew what happened to them, but it's for them now to turn the page and continue to serve the Lord whole-heartedly!

24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua gives them a choice in spite of everything that's been said. *"If what I'm saying seems evil to you to serve the Lord, then go ahead and choose this day whom you will serve."* God's meaning shows that He's not going to make it where He chooses for them. He makes it to be your submissive choice; having a voluntarily; settled love for Him. Choose the gods of your fathers on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites whose land you dwelt in if you want to. But, Joshua made it clear in his farewell address, that *"as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"*

24:16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;— Well the Israelites had a choice, but it seems they have made the right choice by saying *"God forbid"* meaning this is not what we want to do: *forsake the Lord to serve other gods.* They admit this, for they knew how good God had been to them, and they knew that they couldn't win this fight.

24:17 For the Lord our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:— Joshua continued to expound upon what the Lord their God had done for them. He brought them up (rescued them) and their fathers out of the land of Egypt; from the house of bondage (slavery) with great signs that they had the privilege to see. The Lord preserved them from all their enemies when they passed through their land.

24:18 And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God. They were also reminded that the Lord drove out all the people before them even the Amorites that lived there in the land, So, this is the first time they are saying that they will serve the Lord for He is their God.

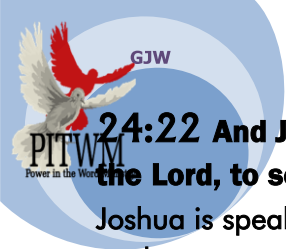
24:19 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the Lord: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. Joshua is still making it clear with this warning about God, for it is certainly something they will always have to remember who God is. He is a holy and jealous God who does not forgive blatant sin. They are because of the strange gods which their fathers served. They would not be able to justify this before God, for He will not forgive their transgressions or sins because they would be separated from a holy and jealous God. There is no pretense here. It's all laid out and made clear.

24:20 If ye forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. Again, the warning about serving strange gods and forsaking God Almighty would be a mistake on their part. Now, Joshua says *"God will turn and hurt (harm them) and consume (make an end of them) after He's done good to them."*

III. AGREEMENT JOSHUA 24:21-24

24:21 And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the Lord. So this is the second time they tell Joshua that they will serve the Lord.





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24:22 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the Lord, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. They are too much in a hurry to get this address Joshua is speaking. This means that they are witnessing against themselves which means they are willing to take on the curses and the consequences they have brought upon themselves by their actions. So they've quickly agreed to choose the Lord to serve Him. It's even strange that in 24:27 Joshua made a stone to be a witness to testify against them if they went back on their word because the rock has heard all the words the Lord has spoken to them.

24:23 Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the Lord God of Israel. Joshua is saying now prove it. This is where the rubber meets the road. If you are sincere about this, then *"Put away the strange gods; the foreign gods that are among you and incline (turn) your heart unto the Lord God of Israel!"* This means they are to destroy every idol that was among them. They were not to hide them, but to completely remove them.

24:24 And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. This is the third time the people have said for the last time to Joshua that they will serve and obey the voice of the Lord. In verse 29 Joshua dies at 110yrs old.

SUMMARY:

1Joshua has called an assembly together to appear before him at Shechem: the tribes of Israel, the elders of Israel, their heads, their judges, and their officers and presented themselves before God (**24:1**).

14Joshua spoke the words of the Lord: *"Fear the Lord"* meaning give reverence to the Lord, *"and serve Him in sincerity and in truth"* (not half-heartedly or disregard in what God wants). The Israelites were to "put away the gods that the fathers served," and serve the Lord. **15**Joshua gives them a choice in spite of everything that's been said. *"Choose this day whom you will serve"*—the gods of their fathers, or the gods of the Amorites, in the land they dwelt. But Joshua makes it clearer: *"as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* **16**Well the Israelites made the right choice by not wanting to forsake the Lord to serve other gods. **17**The Lord God brought them up (rescued them) and their fathers out of the land of Egypt; from the house of bondage (slavery) with great signs that they had the privilege to see, and the Lord preserved them from all their enemies when they passed through their land. **18**They were also reminded that the Lord drove out all the people before them, even the Amorites that lived there in the land, So, this is the first time they are saying that they will serve the Lord for He is their God (**24:14-18**).

19 Joshua tells the people that *"God is an holy God; He's a jealous God; and He will not forgive their transgressions nor your sins if they could not serve Him!"* This is because of the strange gods their fathers served. They would not be able to justify this before God. **20**"If they forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, *God will turn and hurt (harm them) and consume (make an end of them) after He's done good to them.*" **21**"The people said unto Joshua, *No, we will serve the Lord*" for the second time. **22**Joshua told the people, that they were witnesses against themselves; they've chosen the Lord, to serve. And they said, *"We are witnesses."* **23**"Now Joshua says *put away, the strange gods that you have now, and turn your heart unto the Lord God of Israel.*" **24**"And the people said unto Joshua, *the Lord our God will we serve, and His voice will we obey*" for the third time (**24:19-24**).