

Inheriting the Land of Promise JOSHUA

Joshua 24 Covenant Renewal



² Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, *namely*, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods.

³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

⁴ To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau, and to Esau I gave Mount Seir to possess it; but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.

⁵ Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt by what I did in its midst; and afterward I brought you out.

⁶ I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and Egypt pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.

⁷ But when they cried out to the LORD, He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them and covered them; and your own eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness for a long time.

⁸ Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan, and they fought with you; and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land when I destroyed them before you.

⁹ Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel, and he sent and summoned Balaam the son of Beor to curse you.

¹⁰ But I was not willing to listen to Balaam. So he had to bless you, and I delivered you from his hand.

¹¹ You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, *and* the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus I gave them into your hand.

¹² Then I sent the hornet before you and it drove out the two kings of the Amorites from before you, *but* not by your sword or your bow.

¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

(Joshua 24:2-13)

Covenant Renewal

1. Historical Prologue

- *emphasizes the gracious work of Yahweh*
 - the sovereign, electing grace of God
 - the delivering, protecting power of God
 - the abundant, underserved provision of God

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

(Ephesians 1:3-5)

¹⁴ "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵ If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

(Joshua 24:14-15)

Covenant Renewal

2. Covenant Demands

- *fear Yahweh and serve Him wholeheartedly*

Covenant Renewal

2. Covenant Demands

- a) a winsome demand
 - in light of His mercies, there is nothing disagreeable about serving Yahweh
 - the choice between serving Yahweh and serving idols is an absurd choice

Covenant Renewal

2. Covenant Demands

- b) an exclusive demand
 - you cannot serve God and idols – you must choose between them
 - this exclusive demand is a loving demand intended for our good

Covenant Renewal

2. Covenant Demands

- c) a difficult demand

¹⁹ Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins.

²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you."

²¹ The people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD."

²² Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the LORD, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses."

²³ "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

²⁴ The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and we will obey His voice."

²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

²⁷ Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, so that you do not deny your God."

²⁸ Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance.

(Joshua 24:19-28)

Covenant Renewal

2. Covenant Demands

c) a difficult demand

- we must be cautious of superficial, casual commitments to follow the Lord
- Yahweh demands supreme, undivided loyalty or nothing at all – no nominal faith