### Joshua

## Chapter 23

1Well, Jehovah had allowed IsraEl to rest from all their enemies [living] around them for a considerable time, until JoShua was old and up in years.  
  
2Then JoShua called all the children of IsraEl together – their elders, leaders, judges, and their officers – and said to them:  
  
 ‘I’m old and up in years, 3and you’ve seen all that Jehovah our God has done to these nations around us and how your God fought for you.  
  
 4‘Now look... I’ve given all these remaining nations to your tribes in a lottery; for even though I’ve destroyed some of them, our borders run from the JorDan to the [MediTerranean] Sea in the west, 5and Jehovah our God will keep on destroying them before us until they’re all gone.  
  
 ‘Then He will send wild animals against them until He’s wiped out them and their kings! So you’ll inherit their land, just as Jehovah our God has promised.  
  
 6‘However, you must be sure to observe and do all the things that are written in the book of the Law of Moses… Don’t stray to the right or to the left!  
  
 7‘And don’t associate with the remaining nations, nor should the names of their gods even be mentioned among you… Don’t serve them or bow before them!  
  
 8‘Rather, you must stick to Jehovah your God, just as you’ve been doing until now. 9Then Jehovah will destroy even the great and strong nations from among you – for no one has been able to stand against us so far! 10Each one among you has been able to chase thousands, for our God Jehovah has fought for you just like He promised.  
  
 11‘So, be sure to love our God Jehovah.  
  
 12‘But if you turn away from Him and start associating with these nations that still remain, then marry among them and get mixed up with them (and them with you)... 13Realize that Jehovah won’t destroy them. Rather, they’ll become snares and stumbling blocks – nails in your heels and darts in your eyes – until they’ve wiped you out of this good land that Jehovah your God has given to you.  
  
 14‘And now I’m getting ready to die, as everyone on this earth does...  
  
 ‘But, know in your hearts and souls that not a single word has failed of all the things that Jehovah our God has [promised] about us. 15And after all the good things that Jehovah God will bring upon you are completed, remember: He will also do bad things until He wipes you off of this good land that He’s given to you 16if you break the Sacred Agreement of our God Jehovah, then go and serve other gods by bowing before them.’