### Joshua

## Chapter 24

1So JoShua gathered all the tribes of IsraEl at ShiLoh, where he summoned their elders, officers, and judges; then he stood them there before God.  
  
2And JoShua spoke to all the people and said:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah the God of IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘Your ancestors (such as Terah, the father of AbraHam and NaHor) once stayed beyond the [JorDan] river and served other gods... 3But I took AbraHam (your ancestor) from the other side of the river and guided him throughout this entire land. Then I made his offspring grow…  
  
 4‘I gave him IsaAc, and to IsaAc [I gave] Jacob and Esau. Then I gave Mount SeIr to Esau as his inheritance, as Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt, where they became a great and mighty nation.  
  
 ‘But then, the Egyptians started oppressing them, 5so I struck down Egypt with the miracles that I sent among them. 6And afterwards, I brought your fathers out of Egypt.  
  
 ‘Then when they approached the Red Sea, the Egyptians chased them into the Sea with their chariots and horses. 7But when they called out to Jehovah, I put a cloud and darkness between [them and] the Egyptians, and brought the Sea down upon [the Egyptians] and covered them.’  
  
[And JoShua continued:]  
  
 ‘So with your own eyes, you’ve seen all that Jehovah did in the land of Egypt, and of how you spent a long time in the desert. 8And now He’s brought us into the land of the Amorites that lived across the JorDan, and Jehovah has given them into our hands…  
  
 ‘You have inherited their land and destroyed them!  
  
 9‘[Do you remember when] Balak, the king of MoAb, son of SepPhor, went to war against IsraEl, and of how he called BalaAm to curse us?  
  
 10‘Yet, Jehovah your God wouldn’t destroy you; he blessed us and saved us from their hands, then He handed them over to us!  
  
 11‘Thereafter, you crossed the JorDan and came to JeriCho, where the people of JeriCho fought against us – as did the Amorites, CanaAnites, Pherezites, Evites, Jebusites, Hittites, and the Gergesites – and Jehovah gave them all into our hands.  
  
 12‘You didn’t chase them with swords or bows; instead, He sent hornets ahead of you and drove them away… The 12 kings of the Amorites!  
  
 13‘Now He’s given you a land that you didn’t clear and cities that you didn’t build, where you’ve now settled and where you’re eating from vineyards and olive groves that you didn’t plant.  
  
 14‘So, fear Jehovah and serve Him righteously and justly… Get rid of all the strange gods that our ancestors served across the river and in Egypt, and serve Jehovah!  
  
 15‘However, if you don’t wish to serve Jehovah, then choose whom you’ll serve today… Whether it’s the gods whom your ancestors [served] while they were on the other side of the [JorDan] river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you’re now living.  
  
 ‘But as for me and my household, we will serve Jehovah, because He alone is holy!’  
  
16And the people answered:  
  
 ‘We won’t leave Jehovah and serve other gods, 17because our God Jehovah is The God!  
  
 ‘He was the One who brought our ancestors and us out of Egypt, and that protected us from all the nations that we passed along the way that we walked.  
  
 18‘And it was Jehovah who threw out the Amorites and all the other nations that lived in this land.  
  
 ‘Yes, we’ll serve Jehovah, for He is our God!’  
  
19Then JoShua said to the people:  
  
 ‘You won’t really be able to serve Jehovah, because He’s holy.  
  
 ‘And because He’s very zealous, He won’t forgive your sins and your errors.  
  
 20‘So when you leave Jehovah to serve other gods, He will come against you, oppress you, and consume you, because He’s the One who did all these good things for you.’  
  
21Then the people replied:  
  
 ‘No! We will serve Jehovah!’  
  
22And JoShua said:  
  
 ‘Then, you’re witnesses against yourselves that you’ve chosen to serve Jehovah.  
  
 23‘So now, get rid of all the strange gods that you have and set your hearts right with Jehovah the God of IsraEl.’  
  
24And the people replied:  
  
 ‘We will serve Jehovah and listen to His voice!’  
  
25So JoShua made a sacred agreement with them that day, and he gave them the laws and rules there in front of the Tent of the God of IsraEl, in ShiLoh. 26And then he wrote those words in the Scroll of the Laws of God.  
  
  
Thereafter, JoShua took a large block of stone and erected it under the oak tree before Jehovah.  
  
27Then he told the people:  
  
 ‘Look, this stone will serve as a witness among you, for it has ‘heard’ all the words that you’ve spoken before Jehovah... And because He’s spoken to you on this day, this stone will serve as a witness against you in the last days when you deal treacherously with my God Jehovah.’  
  
28Then JoShua dismissed the people and they each returned to their homes.  
  
  
29Thereafter, JoShua (son of NaWeh), the servant of Jehovah, died at the age of 110, 30and they buried him in the land that he’d inherited in ThamNa Sarach in the hills of Ephraim north of Mount GileAd.  
  
They put his [body] in a tomb, along with the stone knives that he’d used to circumcise the children of IsraEl at GilGal after Jehovah had brought them out of Egypt… And they’re all still there today.  
  
  
31Well, IsraEl served Jehovah for as long as JoShua and the elders of JoShua’s era (who knew all that Jehovah had done for IsraEl) were still alive.  
  
32And thereafter, the children of IsraEl brought the bones of JoSeph ([which they’d carried from] Egypt) and buried them in Sicima, in the tract of land that Jacob bought from the Amorites in Sicima for 100 ewes, and which was given to JoSeph as his property.  
  
33Shortly thereafter, EliEzer (Aaron’s son) the High Priest also died and was buried in GabaA in the hills of Ephraim (which had been given to his son PhiNeas). And on that day, the children of IsraEl took the Chest of God and carried it among the people.  
  
Then, after EliEzer’s death and burial at GabaA, PhiNeas was appointed as [High] Priest in place of his father.  
  
  
Well, the children of IsraEl each left and returned to their own cities and homes, and then they started worshiping Astarte, AstarOth, and the gods of the nations roundabout them.  
  
So Jehovah handed them over to Eglom, the king of MoAb, who ruled over them for the next 18 years.

# Judges

Judges is a history book.  
  
It covers the history of IsraEl from the death of JoShua to just prior to SamuEl’s birth.  
  
Most of it was likely written by SamuEl, with at least Judges 18:30 added after the Babylonian exile, perhaps by Ezra.  
  
Judges is clearly a continuation of the book of JoShua, because it picks up the narrative where that book ended.