



Choose Whom You Will Serve

Joshua 24

Much time had passed since God had led the Israelites into the land of Canaan and they took the land. Joshua was now old and aged. One day, Joshua called the leaders of Israel and said,

"I am old, advanced in age. You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you. Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses. Do not forsake them. And hold fast to the LORD your God and take careful heed to yourselves, that you love God always."



choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15



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And again, Joshua gathered all people of Israel to Shechem and said,

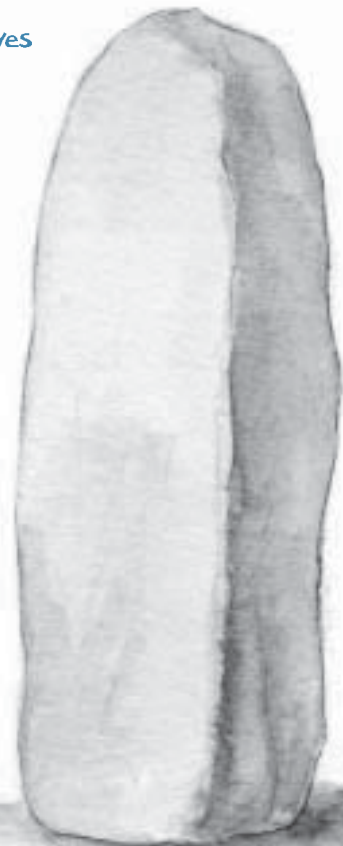
"God called your father Abraham and made him your forefather and sent Moses to lead your fathers from the land of Egypt. The Red Sea was miraculously divided and you were allowed to cross. Then you destroyed the Amorites. When Balaam tried to curse you, God did not allow it to be so and he blessed you instead. The LORD helped you defeat the many nations of Canaan, and finally you have been led into the land of Canaan. Therefore, fear God and serve Him with all your heart. Put away other gods and serve only the LORD."

"If it is disagreeable to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods which were served in Egypt, or the gods of the Amorites. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

When the people heard it, they answered and said,

"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, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us through all the way we went. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance. Then it came the time for Joshua, servant of the LORD, to die, being one hundred and ten years old. And he was buried at Timnath Serah.



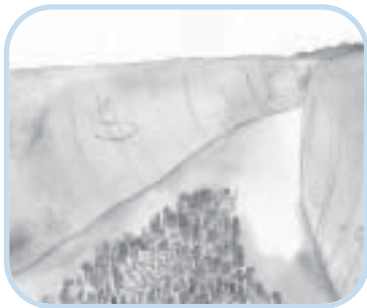


Today's Study

Joshua's Commandment

1. Joshua had one last request to the people of Israel before he passed away. What were the things that Joshua requested to the people of Israel?

2. Joshua said, "put away any other idols and serve God." What were the reasons that the people of Israel wanted to just serve God? Think of what God had done for Israel and write down the answer below.



3. If you were Joshua and lived 110 years and saw many great signs from God, what would you want to say to the people before your death?

The People's Decision

Joshua showed how decided he was to serve only the LORD in front of all the people. Write down what the people decided after they heard the resolution of Joshua.



"I and my house will serve only God. Now, choose, who will you serve!"

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"The LORD drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God" (Joshua 24:18)



Today's Lesson

Now You Choose

Although Joshua has since died, his words are still alive and give us a lesson.



"Remember God. He is your God.
How were you saved? How has God loved you and
protected you so far?"



"I promised to serve only God. Think about how you
want to live for God now on."

Even though the people of Israel firmly decided to serve God only, later they forgot the promise and ended up leaving God to worship idols.
Let's try not to forget our promise with God and make sure we can stay resolute until the day we die.

"My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing, I will sing praises, even with my soul."
(Psalms 108:1)

Let's Find out



* Be Obedient to Just One Being

Kang Jo, the general of Korea, and second general Lee Hyun-On were fighting against Guh-Ran when they were suddenly captured. The two people stood before the king of Guh-Ran, King Sung-Jong.

Sung-Jong: If you choose to be fighters for Guh-Ran, I will your lives.

The Cunning Lee Hyun-On: Since I'm under a different sky now, why should I miss my old sky? There's nothing stopping me. I'll fight you. And he promised to serve Sung-Jong.

However, the brave and loyal Kang Jo shouted out otherwise.

Kang Jo: I will breathe my last as a Korean General!

And he shouted to LEE, who was next to him.

Kang Jo: How dare you speak like that as a Korean! For a man like yourself, you are deserving of death for trying to serve two masters!

Lee still ended up selling his country for his life, while Kang boldly faced his death for the loyalty of his country. If a man can be as loyal and obedient for his country as Kang Jo, how much more can we live obediently for our God!

Parents

Teacher