

Joshua 23-24: Reason Upon Reason: Whom will you serve?

1. Introduction
 - a. Recap Joshua 22
 - b. Read Joshua 23
 - i. What are the reasons given to follow God?
 - ii. What are the reasons to not follow God?
2. **Joshua's Charge to Recognize Responsibility (23:1-16)**
 - a. **See what God has done and will do**
 - i. **Gives rest**
 - "When the Lord had given rest to the land" vs 1
 - ii. **Fights for you**
 - "it is the Lord your God who has fought for you" vs 3
 - "it is the Lord your God who fights for you" vs 10
 - iii. **Protects you**
 - "The Lord your God will push them back...and drive them out" vs 5
 - "The Lord has driven out...great and strong nations" vs 9
 - iv. **Keeps promises**
 - "as the Lord your God promised you" vs 5
 - "just as He promised you" vs 10
 - v. **Provides victory**
 - "no man has been able to stand before you this day" vs 9
 - vi. **Gives good gifts**
 - "this good ground that the Lord has given you" vs 13
 - b. **Know what you should do**
 - i. **Stay strong to obey**
 - "be very strong to keep and to do all that is written" vs 6
 - ii. **Stay focused on the Lord**
 - "neither to the right or left" vs 6
 - iii. **Don't compromise your beliefs**
 - "you may not...make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or bow down to them" vs 7
 - iv. **Love God**
 - "Be very careful, therefore, to Love the Lord your God." vs 11
 - v. **Realize that God is all you need**
 - "if you turn back..." vs 12
 - c. **Understand who does what**
 - i. **God provides good things**
 - "good things the Lord has promised" vs 14, 15
 - "good land He has given you" vs 16
 - ii. **God doesn't fail**
 - "not one word has failed" vs 14
 - "not one of them has failed" vs 14

- “just as all the good things ...have been fulfilled” vs 15
- iii. **We are responsible for the consequences**
 - “if you turn back” vs 12
 - “if you transgress” vs 16

3. **God’s Covenant Reminder (24:1-13)**

a. **Remember where you came from**

- “Long ago” vs 2

b. **Remember what God did**

- i. “I took your father Abraham...and made his offspring many” vs 3
- ii. “I gave him Isaac” vs 3
- iii. “I gave” vs 4
- iv. “I gave” vs 4
- v. “I sent” vs 5
- vi. “I plagued Egypt” vs 5
- vii. “I brought you out” vs 5
- viii. “I brought” vs 6
- ix. “put darkness” vs 7
- x. “I brought” vs 8
- xi. “I gave them into your hand” vs 8
- xii. “I destroyed them” vs 8
- xiii. “I delivered you” vs 10
- xiv. “I gave them into your hand” vs 11
- xv. “I sent” vs 12
- xvi. “I gave” vs 13

c. **Don’t forget that you needed saving**

d. **See the blessings you have (vs 13)**

4. **Joshua’s Conversation of Rededication (24:16-28) ****Read Joshua 24:14-27******

a. **Requirements of following God**

i. **“fear the Lord” (vs 14, 19)**

ii. **Serve only Him**

- The word for “serve” appears 7 times in verses 14-15
- 24 times in Chapter 24

1. **Serve Him sincerely** (vs 14)
2. **Serve Him faithfully** (vs 14)
3. **Serve Him exclusively** (vs 14, 20, 22)
4. ILLUSTRATION: Compartments of life

iii. **Be true to your commitment**

1. ILLUSTRATION: Hen and Hog
2. **Don’t make this decision recklessly** (vs 19-20)
3. **Realize there is no other choice**

iv. **Be accountable to others (vs 22-27)**

1. **Make your commitment known**

- a. This is now the ninth memorial we’ve seen in Joshua

- b. Memorial is not to be worshiped but is to point to the one worthy of worship.

2. Have a correctable spirit

- a. “A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.” (Prov. 18:2)
- b. “And you say, ‘How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.’” (Prov. 5:12–13)

There was a hen and a hog walking together one day when they passed a church sign with the pastor's sermon title on it. It read, "What can you do to help the poor?". As they kept on walking, the hen and hog entered into a conversation on what they could do to help the poor. After many ideas and times of silent thought, the hen finally exclaimed, "I know, we could give the poor a ham and egg breakfast!" The pig replied, "Oh no you don't, for you that only means a contribution, for me that's a total commitment!"