

Joshua's Final Words: Leaving a Legacy

Joshua 23 & 24

This morning, we finish our series on “The Conquest” by examining the last words of one of Israel’s greatest leaders, Joshua. In chapter 23:14, Joshua states, “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth.” Chapter 24:29 says, “It came about after these things that Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old.”

The Bible records many farewells and last words. They all have one thing in common: they are filled with emotion! When it comes time to die, there are no idle words or chatter; the moment brings clarity and demands brevity.

Paul’s farewell in 2 Tim 4:6-8, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

Joshua had served the Lord faithfully. Now at the age 110, he calls the nation together to give his final charge. Joshua takes this opportunity to reaffirm his own personal faith and to challenge the nation to keep following and serving God.

The most remembered words Joshua would ever speak are recorded in the closing remarks of 24:15, “but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- **Joshua took a stroll down _____.** (24:1-13) Joshua was a great historian, and he used God’s faithfulness in the past as a motivation for the people of Israel to follow God in the future. Who would turn away from such a great God that parted the Red Sea, gave them manna in the wilderness, water from a rock, rolled back the Jordan and gave them victory after victory?

Note: Reflection often comes with age! (Joshua 23:1-3) Let us not forget the countless blessings of our faithful God. What has God done in your past?

- **Joshua challenged their commitment to the _____.** (24:14-15) Joshua’s focus was laser sharp; he reminded the people that God’s blessings in the past did not guarantee His blessings in the future. Just as Moses had done in the last days of his life, Joshua calls the people to make a choice! (Deut. 30:19-20)

Note: There is no time to rest upon past victories; we must pursue the Lord in this present moment. In times of prosperity, don’t forget about God. They may have been in the promised land, but they would still need God every day! How is your relationship with God? It’s the most important in life!

- **Joshua finished _____.** (24:15) Joshua reaffirmed his personal commitment to Christ. Leaving no doubt about the God he loved and served! You cannot leave a legacy if it is unclear what you believed or what God you served. You cannot pass on what you do not have or what you do not share!

Note: Too many Christians do not openly share their faith, not even with their closest family. Joshua’s faith impacted his personal life, his family and his nation. Chapter 24:31 indicates the massive impact that the life of Joshua had upon those that knew him best!

Who is your life impacting? Who are you challenging to follow the Lord? Walk straight and speak boldly; the next generation is watching and listening!