

Life Group Study  
Joshua 24  
“Future Forward – Renewed”  
Week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Study by Wayne Arcand

Pastor Sean Morton: **BOTTOM LINE – Your choice, your future. Your future is fully realized and enriched when you commit to God and his infinite plan for your life. “As for me and my house I will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15)**

Who are you going to serve?

*The Covenant Renewed at Shechem*

*24 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.*

*<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. <sup>3</sup> But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, <sup>4</sup> and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his family went down to Egypt.*

*<sup>5</sup> “Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I did there, and I brought you out. <sup>6</sup> When I brought your people out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea. <sup>7</sup> But they cried to the Lord for help, and he put darkness between you and the Egyptians; he brought the sea over them and covered them. You saw with your own eyes what I did to the Egyptians. Then you lived in the wilderness for a long time.*

*<sup>8</sup> “I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I gave them into your hands. I destroyed them from before you, and you took possession of their land. <sup>9</sup> When Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab, prepared to fight against Israel, he sent for Balaam son of Beor to put a curse on you. <sup>10</sup> But I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you again and again, and I delivered you out of his hand.*

*<sup>11</sup> “Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands. <sup>12</sup> I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you—also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow. <sup>13</sup> So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.’*

*<sup>14</sup> “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

*<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”*

*<sup>19</sup> Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”*

<sup>21</sup> But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

<sup>23</sup> “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”

<sup>25</sup> On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. <sup>26</sup> And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the Lord.

<sup>27</sup> “See!” he said to all the people. “This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the Lord has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

<sup>29</sup> After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. <sup>30</sup> And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah<sup>[a]</sup> in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

<sup>31</sup> Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.

<sup>32</sup> And Joseph’s bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph’s descendants.

<sup>33</sup> And Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah, which had been allotted to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

We are often encouraged to journal our journey with the Lord and record all of the times the Lord has answered prayer, not only in our lives but in the lives of those we have prayed for. When we don’t this, it is easy to forget the goodness of the Lord. Remembering God’s goodness to us is a source of encouragement when we encounter those rough patches in life.

Ask someone to read the first 13 verses of Joshua 24.

1. As we read the first 13 verses of Joshua 24:
  - a. What is the theme of these verses?
  - b. If you are having trouble determining the theme, count the number of times “I” is used. Who does this refer to?
  
2. Compare verses Joshua 24:1-13 to Joshua 21:43-45. <sup>43</sup> So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. <sup>44</sup> The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. <sup>45</sup> Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.
  - a. What are the three main things the Lord did for Israel?
  - b. Which verse stood out for you? Why?
  - c. Discuss the lesson there is for us in these verses.
  
3. In Joshua 24:14-33:
  - a. How many times did the people say they would serve the Lord?
  - b. What did the people recognize in verses 17 and 18?

- c. What did Joshua's statement in verse 19 recognize?
    - i. Read 1 John 4:4 and discuss the advantage that a New Testament child of God has?
      - 1. Who is in us?
        - a. When did we receive him?
      - 2. Who is in the world?
      - 3. What comfort can we take from this verse?
      - 4. How does this relate to Joshua's statement to the people in Joshua 24:19?
4. Read Joshua 24:31:
- a. What does this verse suggest?
  - b. Now read Judges 2:10-15:
    - i. What prophecy of Joshua did this fulfil?
    - ii. What did the generations following Joshua forget?
    - iii. What does this tell us about human nature?
    - iv. Last Sunday, Pastor Sean encouraged us to put an open bible on our night stand so it would be the first thing we saw when we rose in the morning. Why?
    - v. Why is it important to remember what God has done for us?

For Reflection:

Pastor Sean asked the question, "who will you serve"? We can quickly and without thought say, "the Lord". But, what does it mean to serve the Lord? How am I using my spiritual gifts in his service? Prayerfully come before the Lord this week, thank him for all he has done for you, thank him that he has equipped you with spiritual gifts to serve and ask him to guide you by his Spirit as you serve him. If you are unsure how you can serve the Lord, ask yourself what the Lord has given you an interest, a passion, and giftedness to do. He equips us for all he asks us to do. Sometimes it requires us to step out of our comfort zones. Remember Philippians 4:13, "I can do all this through Christ who strengthens me". Who are you going to serve?