

Joshua 23

Joshua 23.1-10

V1 – Situation in Israel? Rest from their enemies

-Situation for Joshua? Very old (probably near death)

V2 – What did Joshua do? Called everyone together (possibly the leaders only – representing the people)

-Why would Joshua want to speak to the people? He knew their weaknesses, and he was nearing death

-Does this remind you of any similar passage in the New Testament? *2 Tim. 4*

V3 – What did he first remind them of? All that God had done for them, especially how God had fought their battles for them

V4 – Next reminder? God had divided the land up for them

-Great Sea? Mediterranean Sea

V5 – Next comment? God would get rid of all their enemies

V6 – But these blessings were all conditional

-What did the Israelites have to do? Keep the commandments of God

-Notice "right" and "left" – Remember Joshua 1.7 – right or left...

Read Deut. 5.32, Deut. 17.20, Deut. 28.14, Prov. 4.27

We have this same type of warning in the New Testament

Read 2 John 9-11

V7 – What specific warnings were given? Not to mention the names of the pagan gods, not to make people swear by them, not to bow down to them

V8 – Meaning of "cling"? Stay right next to

-Remember Gen. 2.24 – the husband was to cling/be joined to wife

V9 – God had driven out strong nations for them

V10 – Example of God's help? One man could drive out 1000

Joshua 23.11-13 – warnings after the blessings

V11 – Who were they to watch after? Themselves

-In other words, it was up to each person to be responsible for his/her own situation

-Read Phil. 2.12

V12 – What might they be tempted to do? Cling to pagans/intermarry (see *2 Cor. 6.14*)/associate with them

-Notice the ban against intermarriage/it is important (but not required) to marry Christians under

the New Testament

-What are the dangers of marrying a non-Christian?

V 13 – **The penalty for violating these restrictions?** Pagans would become a snare, whip to sides, thorns in eyes, Israelites would be removed from the land

-Did this ever happen? Yes: 721 BC for the northern 10 tribes/586 BC for the 2 southern tribes

Joshua 23.14-16

V 14 – **How much time did Joshua have left?** Not very much

- "today" might be symbolic

-His observation? God has fulfilled everything that he had promised

V 15 – He will also carry out all his words of punishment (if the Israelites disobeyed God)

V 16 – God's anger would burn against them if they disobeyed him

-Why did Joshua keep going over these same points again and again? People are forgetful and need to be reminded (Christ often repeated himself in the four gospels)

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