

## Finishing the Job – Joshua 24

Joshua's last words to Israel are contained in Joshua 24. In them, believers hear two essentials that will help them finish the job God has given.

- **Essential #1: UNDERSTAND AND REMEMBER WHO GOD IS.**

*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. Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the god of Israel, says . . ."* Joshua 24:1-2a (New International Version)

### What God Says About Himself

- God wants believers to understand His grace.

*"Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods. <sup>3</sup>But I took your father Abraham . . ."* Joshua 24:2b-3a (NIV)

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.* 1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV)

- God wants believers to understand His timing.

*But I took your father Abraham . . . and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, <sup>4</sup>and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau . . .* Joshua 24:3-4 (NIV)

*". . . hold fast to him . . ."* Joshua 22:5 (NIV)

*". . . hold fast to the LORD . . ."* Joshua 23:8 (NIV)

- God wants believers to understand His mystery.

*I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.* Joshua 24:4b (NIV)

*Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup>the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.* Hebrews 11:35b-38 (NIV)

*Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. <sup>5</sup>For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.* Psalm 30:4-5 (NIV)

- God wants believers to understand His power.

*"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 fathers 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 . . ."* Joshua 24:5-7 (NIV)

*You did not do it with your own sword and bow.* Joshua 24:12b (NIV)

*It was the LORD your God who fought for you."* Joshua 23:3c (NIV)

- God wants believers to understand His protection.

*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.* Joshua 24:9-10 (NIV)

- God wants believers to understand His provision.

*Then you lived in the desert for a long time. "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."* Joshua 24:7d, 13 (NIV)

- **Essential #2: MAKE A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO GOD.** (Joshua 24:14-18)

- A logical commitment

*So then, my brothers, in view of all these mercies that God has bestowed on you, I now make this plea. Present your bodies to God, present them as a sacrifice—a living one, not a lifeless one . . . For, when you consider your indebtedness to God, the consecration of your lives to His service is your logical act of worship.* Romans 12:1-2 (F.F. Bruce, An Expanded Paraphrase of the Epistles of Paul)

- An exclusive commitment

(See Matthew 6:24)

**Project the following under Essential #2: Make a Renewed Commitment.**

*“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the 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 forefathers served beyond the River, 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 fathers 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.”*  
Joshua 24:14-18 (NIV)