

JOSHUA'S DYING APPEAL

Joshua 23: 14 - 16; 24: 14 - 22

INTRODUCTION:

1. Joshua was an extraordinary man; he was full of FAITH, he was DEVOUT, and he was PERSEVERING.

(1) He was born in SLAVERY in Egypt, so he knew the bitterness, cruelties, oppression and agonies of slavery -- Ex. 1:14

(2) He saw the mighty signs and wonders God did in Egypt.

(3) He crossed the Red Sea.

(4) He became the right-hand man of Moses.

(5) He was one of the 12 spies -- only he and Caleb had faith the land of Canaan could be taken.

(6) After Moses' death he led Israel into Canaan and destroyed the enemies and divided the land to the tribes.

2. His work was drawing to a close and he delivered his farewell dying appeal to Israel in Joshua 23 and 24 -- It seems there are two addresses given by him.

I. OBSERVE WHAT HE RECOGNIZED CONCERNING HIMSELF

1. *"I am going the way of all the earth"* -- Joshua 23:14

2. He recognized he was old and stricken in age and was dying.

3. This is a UNIVERSAL FACT OF MAN

(1) God's word teaches it -- Gen. 3:19; I Cor. 15:22; Heb. 9:27

(2) God teaches us this fact in Nature -- everything dies

1. Flowers, grass, trees and birds

2. Things all around us are dying along with man.

(3) History teaches death -- read the Bible:

1. Adam

2. Moses

3. David

4. Daniel
5. The Apostles

(4) Our family remembrances teaches it:

1. Parents
2. Son
3. Daughter
4. Uncles
5. Friends

4. Joshua recognized the fact of death as it related to HIMSELF

- (1) He could tell it would not be long.
- (2) This personal recognition of death was WISE.
- (3) He used this time he had left to give admonition to others.
- (4) Joshua did not complain or repine -- he was not SAD.

II. THE APPEAL HE MADE TO ISRAEL:

1. He spoke of the good things God had spoken -- Joshua 23:14

(1) God had spoken many good things concerning them:

1. He would make of them a great nation -- Gen. 12:2
2. He would give them the land of Canaan -- Gen. 15:18
3. He would deliver them from slavery -- Gen. 15: 13 - 16
4. He would give them cities they did not build -- Deut. 6:10
5. He would give them houses full of good things -- Deut. 6:11
6. He gave them wells they did not dig -- Deut 6:11
7. He gave them vineyards and olive trees -- Deut. 6: 11

2. He referred to the fulfillment of the good things spoken

(1) Josh. 23:14: "*And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth; and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.*"

3. He spoke of their knowledge of all this:

(1) "*And ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls..*" Josh. 23:14

(2) They had seen, heard, tasted, and handled.

(3) Not some of them, but everyone, ALL

4. He appealed to them to serve God in sincerity and in truth; and to put away idols -- Josh. 24:14

III. THE GREAT DESIGN OF THIS APPEAL

1. To awaken gratitude to God

(1) He did arouse them -- Josh. 24: 16 - 18

(2) Today our gratitude to God needs to be awakened in the church

1. God has given His only begotten Son that we might be saved -- John 3:16;
I Pet. 3:18

2. God, by the death of His Son, has given us the church -- Acts 20:28; Eph.
2:16

3. God has given us His Word to guide us -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17

4. God hears our prayers -- I Pet. 3:12

5. God takes care of our physical needs -- Matt. 6:11; 6: 25 - 34

2. To excite to continued obedience -- Joshua 23: 8 - 13; 24:16

(1) Today we need to be excited to continued obedience

1. Heb. 3:13

2. Heb. 10: 24 -25

3. Gal. 6:9

4. Luke 9:62

5. Rev. 2:10

6. Heb. 2: 1 - 4

3. To point out the severity of God

(1) Joshua 23: 16; 24:20

(2) Today we need the severity of God pointed out

1. Rom. 11:22

2. Matt. 10:22

3. James 4:12

4. II Thess. 1: 8 - 9

(3) Today Christ brings His Judgment against a congregation that will not repent of error -- Rev. 2:5

4. It was to establish loving confidence in their hearts -- Josh. 23:11

(1) Today we need loving confidence in God -- Matt. 22: 37 - 39; II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 13:5; John 14:15

CONCLUSION

1. Today a "greater than Joshua" appeals to US -- JESUS

(1) He is man's SAVIOR from sin -- Matt. 1: 21; Luke 19:10

2. Today He has spoken to man -- Heb. 1: 1 -2

3. Today He refers us to a more momentous death -- His death on the cross -- I Pet. 2: 24; 1: 18 - 19

4. Today He speaks of richer blessings -- Eph. 1:3

5. Today He refers us to God's faithfulness -- II Pet. 3:9

6. Won't you hear the appeal of Jesus and be saved today?

Donald Townsley

(Underwood Heights 1980)