

Episode13: Choose this Day Whom You will Serve

*“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.* ***But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.****”*

*Joshua 24:14–15*

1. **The Final Meeting with the People**
   1. Joshua first spoke to the rulers and now he would speak to all the people.
   2. Joshua again reviews God’s faithfulness and goodness toward Israel and His expectations for the people. (24:1–24)
2. **The Summary of what the Lord has done (24:1–13).** Review of Israel’s past and the lessons we can learn from it.
   1. In the days of Abraham (24:1–4)
   2. In the days of Moses (24:5–10)
   3. In the days of Joshua (24:11–13)
   4. God’s promises were fulfilled (13) – See Deuteronomy 6:10-11.
      1. Deuteronomy 6:10-11 – *When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied.*
      2. This promise was made to them decades before it was fulfilled. The original promise was made to Abraham over four hundred years before it was fulfilled. It may take time, but all of God’s promises will be filled at just the right time.
3. **What Israel must do** (24:14–24): Joshua tells Israel that they must obey and serve the Lord, just as he and his family will do.
   1. Hittite *suzerainty* treaty – These treaties were typically made between a king, dominant party, or sovereign party and his vassals.
   2. *Joshua 24:14–15: 14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord,* ***choose this day whom you will serve****, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*
   3. The Gospel before the Gospel: We cannot do it on our own.
      1. ***19****But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. [[1]](#footnote-2)*
      2. We cannot follow God perfectly on our own (verse 19) – Here Joshua reminds them that God is a holy God. Nobody could fulfill all of His standards. Relying on themselves would be a recipe for failure.
      3. Joshua sets the stage for Yeshua: The need for God’s Grace—and the Good News of God’s Grace.
         1. **17***“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.[[2]](#footnote-3) (Matthew 5:17)*
         2. ***21****For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [[3]](#footnote-4)*
      4. There are consequences of disobeying God. (verse 20)
      5. Joshua reminded them that true faith would be accompanied by action. (verse 23)
      6. The symbol (24:25–28): Joshua sets up a large stone by the Tabernacle to remind the Israelites of their promise.
4. **The end of an era** (24:29–31, 33)
   1. Joshua (24:29–31)
   2. Eleazar (24:33)
   3. Joseph comes home. (24:32): Joseph’s bones, which have been carried to Canaan from Egypt, are buried at Shechem.

1. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Jos24.19&off=0&ctx=or+he+is+our+God.%E2%80%9D+%0a~19%C2%A0But+Joshua+said+t). (2016). (Jos 24:19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Mt5.17&off=31&ctx=+to+Fulfill+the+Law%0a~17%C2%A0p%E2%80%9CDo+not+think+th). (2016). (Mt 5:17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.2Co5.21&off=0&ctx=+reconciled+to+God.+~21%C2%A0q%EF%BB%BFFor+our+sake+he). (2016). (2 Co 5:21). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)