

Series: THRIVE 2025

Title: The Final Admonition of Joshua to the Leaders of Israel

Text: Joshua 23

Introduction:

These are the Preparations That Leaders Need to Make to Live Victoriously in the Promised Land (23:1-16)

1. The Final Admonition of Joshua to the Leaders of Israel

- a. (Vs 1) He was elderly:
- b. He & Israel had experienced many years of "God's rest"
- c. (Vs 2) He summoned all the leadership (see 24:1)

2. Joshua Charged Them to Obey the LORD & to Live a Life of Strict Separation: (vv.3-5)

- a. Remember the Blessings of God: (Vs 3)
 - 1) He has Given Victory Over the Enemies:
 - 2) He has given you the inheritance: **(Vs 4)**
 - 3) He will continue to conquer & have victory **(Vs 5)**
 - 4) He will give you more & more of the promised land:
A picture of the victorious life
- b. **(Vs 6) Hear the Admonition:**
 - 1) Be courageous, strong. careful to obey God's Word:
Keep all His commandments
 - 2) **(Vs 7)** The leaders must live lives of strict separation
 - Do not associate w/Immoral, Unrighteous/Worldly
 - Never become involved with false worship
 - **(Vs 8)** Cleave-hold fast to the LORD

Note how forcefully Joshua stressed this...

- they must not invoke the names of false gods

- they must not swear by false gods
- they must not serve false gods
- they must not bow down to false gods

- (1) We must obey God (Mat 7:15-20)
- (2) We must be careful to live lives of strict separation.
(Lu.21:34)(Acts 2:40)(Ro.12:2)
- (3) We must have nothing to do with idolatry. (Matt 7:6-9)
- (4) We must hold fast to the LORD. (1 Co.15:58)

3. The charge to love the LORD: (Vs 9)

- a. Remember the Blessings of God:
 - 1) He has given you total victory:
Over powerful enemies.
 - 2) **(Vs 10)** He has given you miraculous power to defeat the enemy: Through His power:

No matter who the enemy is, God will give us power to conquer and overcome, even such enemies as...

- some person who holds anger, bitterness, or hatred against us
- some person who ridicules or persecutes us
- some lustful passion or sinful desire
- some greed or covetousness
- some financial loss or bankruptcy
- Some terrible trial or temptation

(Matt 19:26)(Luke 1:37)(Acts 1:8)

b. **(Vs 11) Hear the Admonition:** Love the LORD
Joshua charged the leaders to love the LORD
(De.6:5;10:12;11:13)

(Matt 22:37-38)(2 Thess 3:5)(Jude 21)

c. **(Vs 12) Heed the Warning:** Judgment

1) The cause for judgment

- Turning away-backsliding apostasy
- Worldliness: intermarrying with the worldly

2) **(Vs 13)** The judgment: What is sown will be reaped

- The worldly enemy will cling, remain:
Be a snare or trap
- The ultimate judgment:
Will be led into captivity-perish from the land.

This is the strong warning of Holy Scripture:

(Matt 7:2)(Matt 24:30)(Mark 8:38)

4. **The warning to heed the judgment of God: (Vs 14)**

a. **Remember this Most Wonderful Blessing of God**

- 1) He has fulfilled all His "good" promises
- 2) Not a single promise has ever failed

God is faithful to His dear people, doing exactly what He has promised.

(Ro.4:20-21)(1 Cor 1:9)(2 Co.1:20)(2 Th.3:3)(2 Tim 2:13)

b. **(Vs 15) Heed the Warning:**

The surety of God's judgment

- 1) Just as surely as God fulfilled His promises,

2) **(Vs 16)** Just as surely as you break the covenant or commandments of God & engage in false worship, you will perish:

A picture of spiritual captivity & death

Just as surely as a person breaks the covenant or commandments of God and engages in false worship, he will perish (v.16).

Thought: The surety of judgment-this was the final exhortation Joshua ever gave to the leaders of Israel.

Judgment was the final subject he chose to preach to the leaders.

The surety of God's judgment is proclaimed throughout Scripture.

God will judge the world, judge all who turn away from Him and live worldly, immoral, covetous, unjust, lawless, and violent lives.

Any person who does not honor God by believing Him and following after Him will face the eternal judgment of God.

The judgment of God is sure and certain. It is inevitable.