

JOSHUA CHAPTER 23

Joshua, aware of his aging years, has a word for Israel. He calls all to be present and it specifically records that elders, leaders, judges and officials are present. Joshua reminds them of the victory the Lord has won for them and how he has allotted to the tribes the land that remains with the assurance that God will give them all He has promised. There are clear instructions still to be followed.

Be strong and keep all of God's law. Selective obedience is not allowed, it must be total obedience. The heathen nations they come alongside must not infiltrate their beliefs or practices at all. They must be thoroughly devoted to the Lord Himself.

Great and powerful nations have fallen. It is **God's favour and love**, even one of them can overcome a thousand. Therefore they must be rigorous to keep close to God and remember it is not their military skill or natural talent that has brought victory it is God alone.

They are warned **any compromise with the enemy will see them defeated** and they will suffer.

Snares and traps. To play with the enemy is so foolish. He sets his traps, he deceives, he is cunning, he entices, he does everything to lure from the Lord, we must be vigilant.

Whips on your backs. When we entertain the enemy we do not benefit. He is a ruthless task master. To follow his ways however initially attractive brings sores and wounds. We must resist him.

Thorns in your eyes. To blind us and spoil our vision is always the devils plan. Playing with sin robs us of sight, we lose direction and focus and again we suffer.

Not one promise of God has failed. Everything God has said He would do He has done.

However just as every promise is kept so **every judgement will be exacted too.** God's warnings are not to be trivialised. They are very serious, we ignore Him at our peril.

Violation of the covenant is a very dangerous action. God's anger will burn and we will perish. God has given us an inheritance but we receive it by faith and perseverance.

Points to consider

Joshua knows his life is coming to an end. He is very concerned to point out the principles of victory while he can. He knows soon he will not be there to warn the people for ever. Our lives are in God's hands so we must redeem the time and take every opportunity to keep God's people on track.

Wholehearted obedience. Are there areas of our lives and walk with God where we are reluctant or careless?

Are we alert to the snares, traps, whips or thorns that would trouble us?

We enjoy quite rightly the grace, love and abundant forgiveness of our gracious God and Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ but do we work out our salvation with fear and trembling or has God's lavish grace been misused to create carelessness. (Philippians 2 v 12)