

Joshua 24.1-28

ACM Graduation 2013

DAY of Recognition of ACCOMPLISHMENTS > Job WELL DONE! Success

SPECIAL Days in BIBLE – Days of REMEMBRANCE & RECOMMITMENT

God of COVENANT – BOND in Blood Sovereignly Administered

God of HISTORY – Sovereign Ruler – Savior – Faithful God to His People

Look BACK on what GOD has DONE / FORWARD with Faith in PROMISES

Read Joshua 24.1-28 > 1. What God has Done 2. What God Demands

Joshua > Building Kingdom of God - Taking the LAND for the people of God

O.T. > Kingdom of God: Definite, This Worldly, Physical, Geographic terms

Behind everything that Joshua did > Spiritual Principles valid in Every Age

POINTS to Eternal, Spiritual Kingdom > NEW Covenant now in Christ

1. What God has Done? – Everything!

Joshua 110 yrs old – FINAL Speech – Calls for COVENANT RENEWAL

72 Years since they LEFT EGYPT – Most of THEM Not Present for Events

v. 5 Egypt...*I brought you out*

v. 6 I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and *you came to the sea*

God ACTS on Behalf of His People > Blessing is for ALL His People

HIS STORY is OUR Story – We WIN in His VICTORY

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us

Romans 8.37

a. Delivered from Demons – from ALL men on Earth God picked ONE

Time of Jesus > Jews were PROUD of Ancestry from Father Abraham

John the Baptist: “Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham””

Luke 3.8

Our Father of Faith USED TO BE man that WORSHIPPED STONES!

ABE was NO Spiritual HERO, No SAINT, No Holy Man > IDOL Worshipper

v. 2 ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods’

That there is a people of God at all hangs on the single thread of the mere good pleasure of God, who, for no apparent reason, took hold of our father Abraham, the sinner.
Dale Ralph Davis

Work of God in Your Life NOT because you’re Graduate > God of GRACE

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
Psalm 130.3,4

b. Exceeded all Expectations

Things do not happen like we expect, Sometimes Think God forgot us!

NAME "Abram" = EXALTED FATHER - had no children – 25 yrs > Isaac
ANCIENTS "children are a reward from the Lord" > CHILDLESS = CURSED
NO SON- NO Inheritance - NO Great NATION - NO Blessing ALL PEOPLE

MEET NEW PEOPLE - ONE HATED QUESTION - and how many kids?

JUST 1 CHILD / ABRAHAM = FATHER OF A MULTITUDE

vs. 3,4 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau.

EXAGGERATION?? ‘Offspring MANY??’ – Just 3 kids Named Here

ONE Child God gave Abraham & Sarah was THE CHILD / Fulfilled Promise

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham...“In you shall all the nations be blessed.”
Galatians 3.7,8

TODAY Africans in Asia with this American – Praising Jesus! Abe’s SON

c. Sovereign amidst life's Surprises Wondrous / Unpredictable Story

v. 4 And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

ESAU – NOT Favored Son – LOSES Birthright & Blessing – Get's Blessed!

GIVEN Fertile Land with Natural Defenses – Favored Son builds Pyramids!

Sons of JACOB spend 400 years CAPTIVE as SLAVES in EGYPT

God is in NO HURRY – ON Time God but NOT an OUR Time God

God of UNEXPECTED – Ways Not our Ways – Own Plans and Timing

Got DEGREE and EXPECT it to OPEN MANY NEW, Exciting DOORS

God OPENS Doors No Man can Closes / Closes Doors no Man can Open

We cannot predict which way the story will go, we must trust Him, because God has made a bond. He has made a bond of permanent commitment with us.

God: "I have loved you. I have loved you. No matter what twists or turns or caveats, will you not trust Me to finish the story."

d. Saved from Slavery

vs. 5-7 And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. 'Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt

your eyes saw what I did in Egypt – Expand VISION to See God's Big Picture

Glory of People of God > Saving Power of their God

10 Plagues TRIUMPH Over the False gods of Egyptians

75 People went DOWN to Egypt > SEVERAL MILLION came BACK

e. Fights against our Foes

vs. 8,12 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you...And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow.

When the thing is effected by hornets the divine agency is indubitably assured. Accordingly, the conclusion is that the people did not secure the land by their own sword or bow...
John Calvin

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1.28-31

f. Curses turn to Conquering

vs. 9-11 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.

Strange Story of King of Moab – Hired Prophet for PROFIT

Balak and Balaam under CONTROL of God who makes DONKEY'S Preach!

What MAN intends for EVIL, God turns GOOD of People, GLORY His Name

No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD
Isaiah 54.17

g. Gives and Gives by Grace – Jehovah Jireh OUR PROVIDER

v. 7 And you lived in the wilderness a long time.

40 years FREE LUNCHEES – Clothes, Provisions, Protection from GOD

v. 13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.’

Manna in the WILDERNESS – VINEYARDS and HOUSES in CANAAN

God their COVENANT LORD has withheld NO GOOD Thing

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1.16

Oh to grace how great a debtor – Daily I’m constrained to be!

What God has Done? – Everything!

Young Man rode Bicycle to Small Shop deep in Village of Africa

Goes inside FINDS Something – WONDERFUL – Life-Changing

First Time he has ever SEEN IT – Knows Cannot Live Without It!

Asks shopkeeper “How Much is this?”

Very, Very, Expensive > But you CAN AFFORD it!

How much in POCKETS – Pulls out the FEW SHILLINGS he Owns

Shopkeeper “I will take them ALL”

Noticed you came on BICYCLE – “I WILL take that TOO!”

How am I going to get back to MY HOUSE? “I WILL take that TOO!”

Where will I put all my THINGS? - “I WILL take them TOO!”

My FAMILY Needs those things!! – Family? “I WILL take them TOO!”

You are DEMANDING ALL that I have in this WORLD!! Right!

But just ONE MORE Thing > “I WILL take YOU TOO!”

GOSPEL of Jesus Christ – PEARL of Great Price – Sell ALL to Buy IT

2. What God Demands? – Everything!

v. 1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.

Shechem > Genesis 12 the Lord 1st appeared to Abe > LAND Promise

Shechem – Abe’s GRANDSON ISRAEL turned from HIS IDOLATRY

Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves...So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had...Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem. Genesis 35:2,4

Wife / Husband - Remember time I proposed to you? Where it was? Words?

That’s the story of their covenant love and commitment.

Joshua: "Look at the ground upon which you are standing. It was here that the Lord God made a promise to Abraham that this land would be ours, and today it is ours."

a. Rebuke

In the LIGHT of ALL that God has DONE – In this LIFE AND the NEXT
 What kind of FOOL would choose NOT to Follow and Serve God
 World Filled with FOOLS who say there is NO GOD
 Some are Standing right in Front of God’s Servant JOSHUA on that DAY

vs. 14,15 “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.”

72 Years since they LEFT EGYPT! Still CARRYING Their IDOLS
 Cannot SERVE God and Mammon – God will ACCEPT No RIVALS
 JOSHUA does not even give them a CHOICE to Follow TRUE GOD
 CHOOSE between the IDOLS of EGYPT or CANAAN??

Joshua made of a DIFFERENT STOCK – Family of TRUE FAITH
 MEMBER of the HOUSEHOLD of TRUE, LIVING God
 Bible SILENT about Joshua’s Wife – Colleagues, Warriors, Spiritual Brothers

b. Remember

vs. 16-18 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

PEOPLE Offended that Joshua does NOT give them a CHOICE for God
 They REMEMBER ALL that God has Done > Crazy to Turn from HIM
 NOT Idolators – Servants of the LIVING GOD – Not their Dunghill Deities

c. Refusal

vs. 19,20 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. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”

You CANNOT Follow TRUE God – He will DESTROY YOU
 NOT a Soft & Cuddly Santa Claus in the Sky – HOLY, JEALOUS, AWESOME
 Actively PURSUE Other gods, Will be DESTROYED “He will NOT Forgive”

Many Evangelists BEG people to COME – Joshua WARNS them NOT TO!

Jesus was like Joshua > TURNED More People AWAY than He INVITED

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14.25-27

In the NAME of Jesus Christ I WARN you – Do NOT Play with God

NEVER play with LIVE ELECTRICITY – Shock could KILL YOU

We PLAY with the God who MADE the SUN – placed STARS in Space

You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth...And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 8.18-20

d. Repentance

vs. 21-24 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”

PEOPLE do not want to PERISH – Want to be like Joshua’s House

PROMISE to REPENT from IDOLS and PLEDGE to SERVE GOD

Joshua’s GOAL is not to CHASE Them but to see them CHOOSE to Come

Paradox – God COULD MAKE us Come – Calls us to Willing, Volunteer

God does NOT Want you to be His SLAVE but His SONS & DAUGHTERS

e. Renewal

v. 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem.

Key to Chapter v. 25 "On that day, Joshua made a covenant with the people."

Solemn and binding ritual of rededication and a re-consecration to God & Word

Often done in the Old Testament by the forging of a covenant.

Christ made New Covenant with us by HIS BLOOD

Apart from Him we can do NOTHING – In Him we can do ALL Things!

f. Reminder

vs. 26-28 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God." So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

HIDE SIN in your Heart? Trusting Baptism? Parents? Church? Graduation?

God is NOT FIRST – Then He is NOT LORD – Only Savior, Lord Jesus Christ

Large Stone > Witness to what they have promised to do for God

"How can a stone be a witness to words that people utter?"

Words of Covenant Commitment, "in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, til death us do part."

Witness > RING of Gold or Silver worn by Married Couple

If you're going to be true to God, you must throw away your idols, and you must trust in Christ who has bonded Himself to us in the new covenant and you must live without reservation for Him.

As we HONOR Graduates I pray you are TRULY WISE in what MATTERS

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Proverbs 1.7

FEAR = DREAD? RESPECT? HONOR? LOVE? > ALL of the Above!

FORSAKE God – Better RUN! FAST and FAR! – Won't Make It!! FEAR!

You can't have both. It's either the old way of life or the new way of life, but it cannot be both, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. 4 And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. 6 ““Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time. 8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. 11 And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand. 12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. 13 I gave you a land on

which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.’ 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.” 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, 17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” 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. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” 24 And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up

there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.” 28 So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.