

JOSHUA 22-24

REVIEW...

- **JOSHUA 11-21 - THE NORTHERN WAR / DIVISION OF THE LAND...**
 - A massive Northern army - sand of the sea - came together to attack Israel...
 - God gave Israel the victory - they were to hamstring the horses / burn the chariots
 - Joshua killed all the Anakim in the Land - defeated 31 kings in all!
 - Joshua was old - much of the land still to be conquered...
 - God commanded Israel to divide the Land among the 12 tribes by Lot...
 - 9 ½ Tribes were to receive Land on the western side of the Jordan River...
 - Rueben / Gad / and the ½ tribe of Manasseh were given Land on the east side...

THE END OF THE WAR... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - CIVIL WAR IN ISRAEL... READ: JOSHUA 22:1-4**
 - 1st - Time for Rueben / Gad / and Manasseh to go home... vs. 1-9 v
 - With the end of the Northern war - Rueben / Gad / and Manasseh fulfilled their vow...
 - Promised to fight along side Israel until the land was conquered - **Joshua 1:15...**
 - Only then would they return to their families on the east side of the Jordan River...
 - It had been a LONG time - fighting in MANY battles...
 - I am sure there were LOTS of times they regretted the promise - wanted to give up
 - But in the end - the 2½ tribes were faithful to everything they had promised...
 - It is easy in our excitement to make a promise to God...
 - But it is something else all together to see that promise through to the end...
 - It is easy to say we want to dedicate our lives to following Jesus...
 - **Luke 9:32** - "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
 - When we realize the cost - there are going to be MANY days we want to give up...
 - Yet God does not promise us an easy life - what he promises is eternal life!
 - **Matthew 24:13** - "He who endures to the end shall be saved."
- **2ND - BUILDING AN ALTAR ON THE FRONTIER... VS. 10-20 READ: JOSHUA 22:10-12**
 - 1st - Before crossing over the Jordan River the Eastern Tribes built an impressive altar...
 - An exact replica of the altar that God had commanded built for the Tabernacle...
 - When the 9½ Western Tribes heard about the altar - they mobilized for war!
 - Israel was ONLY allowed to offer sacrifices at the Tabernacle...
 - **Leviticus 17:8-9** - "Anyone... who offers a... sacrifice, and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting... shall be cut off from among his people."
 - The purpose was to make sure the children of Israel stayed accountable...

- If people could offer sacrifices anywhere - they might pervert the worship of God...
 - The danger of being far from believers - we loose accountability...
 - We can get 'off' in our walk with Jesus - without anyone there to warn us...
 - I have known people who did not think it was important to 'go to church'...
 - More often than not - they ended up falling into sin / or some 'off' doctrine...
 - **Hebrews 10:25** - "Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other... so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
 - Going to church does not save us - it gives us accountability / encouragement..
 - One of the most important things to have in life - a good church family!
- o 2nd - The 9½ Eastern Tribes knew the danger of compromise...
 - When Israel had sinned at Peor - with the women of Moab because of Balaam...
 - God had sent a plague that wiped out 23,000 people - **Numbers 25**...
 - The results of the plague could still be seen up to that very day... vs. 17
 - Perhaps because of children whose parents had died / scars that did not heal...
 - Their point being the effects of sin spread out quickly and hurt many!
 - We often make the mistake of thinking that our choices only affect us...
 - If we choose to sin – only we face the consequences – we are not hurting others...
 - The truth is that our lives effect many people – our kids / family / friends...
 - Either indirectly by our example – our children following us...
 - Or directly as a result of hurting others with our actions or words!
- o 3rd - The 9½ Eastern Tribes offered to have the 2½ Western tribes relocate...
 - If they were not able to refrain from compromise being far away - come closer...
 - They would have additional accountability - be closer to the Tabernacle...
 - It is hard to stand for the Lord alone - without a 'church family' to support us...
 - If we see a brother or sister in the Lord struggling in their faith - far from God...
 - It is our opportunity / obligation - to step out and try to help them
 - **Galatians 1:6** - "You who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness..."
- o 4th - A reminder for future generations... vs. 21-34 **READ: JOSHUA 23:23-25**
 - The 2½ Western Tribes answered - 'the Lord alone is God!'
 - They had not built the altar to offer sacrifices to the Lord - that was forbidden...
 - They built the altar because they feared for their future generations...
 - They realized the Jordan River stood between the two groups of Tribes...
 - They feared in the future the Eastern Tribes would reject the Western Tribes!
 - It was a valid concern...
 - Western tribes said the Altar was built - 'on the children of Israel's side of the river'
 - They were already referring to themselves as THE 'Children of Israel'...
 - Meaning they looked at the Eastern Tribes as being different - not equals...
 - The altar stood as a memorial to remind future generations they were one!
 - The leaders of the Western Tribes were satisfied - and stopped short of a civil war
 - Just because someone is different - does not mean they are wrong...
 - We often get the idea we are different/better than other churches...
 - As if somehow we have perfected the idea - and everyone else needs to catch up...
 - We forget this is God's church - and He has a plan for each and every part of it...
 - Just because someone does not go to the same church – or is not in our group...
 - Does not mean they are not saved – a Christian – or going to heaven...
 - 'The Church' is HUGE and diverse – but it has one thing in common – Jesus!
- 4TH - THE LAST WORDS OF JOSHUA TO THE LEADERS... VS. 1-16 **READ: JOSHUA 23:5-8, 11-13**

- o 1st - Many years passed - Joshua was VERY old - he called the leaders of Israel... vs. 1-10
 - God had fought for Israel - they defeated nations far greater than they were...
 - One of them put to flight 1000 of their enemies - they were unstoppable!
 - The reason was because the leaders had been faithful to the Lord - and to His Word...
 - The biggest problem in the world today - is people do not know the Word of God...
 - They do not know the dangers of hell - or the reward of heaven...
 - About the coming judgment of God - or His amazing Love and salvation!
 - They do not know Jesus - because they do not know His Word!
 - And the ones who should be teaching them - the leaders / pastors - do not...
 - **Hosea 4:6** - "My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. It is all your fault, you [pastors], for you yourselves refuse to know me."
 - Pastors need to teach the Word - faith comes by hearing the Word - **Romans 10:17**
 - When pastors are faithful to teach the Word - the people have victory!
- o 2nd - Therefore be careful not to compromise... vs. 11-16
 - If Israel began to intermarry with the pagan nations that remained...
 - Then God would no longer fight for them - those nations would be a snare to them...
 - They would be a thorn in their eyes - and Israel would be removed from the Land...
 - Because the unbelieving spouses would turn their believers hearts from the Lord...
 - Because their children would be raised in a home that had - at best - mixed values!
 - When we get married - we should not marry 'unbelievers'...
 - **II Corinthians 6:14** - "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers..."
 - If someone is 'religious' and knows 'about Jesus' does not mean they are saved...
 - Do not marry someone just because they are cute - marry one who loves the Lord...
 - Be very careful whom you choose to be your spouse - it is a permanent decision...
 - Find a man/woman who loves the Lord - not just in words - but also in actions...
 - Otherwise they might end up drawing you away from your walk with Jesus...
 - There have also been many women who were convinced they were 'in love'...
 - The only problem was their 'man' was not a Christian (*in his actions*)...
 - But they were convinced they could change him - make him into a Godly man..
 - Only to end up in a bad marriage - with children who learned mixed values...
 - So find a man or woman who loves the Lord - for you and for your children!
- 5TH - THE LAST WORDS OF JOSHUA TO THE NATION... VS. 1-33 READ: JOSHUA 24:2-3 / 15 -16 / 26-27
 - o 1st - The nation of Israel had come from a pagan background... vs. 1-14
 - Terah - the father of Abraham - had worshiped many false gods...
 - But Abraham was not like his father - the Lord led him...
 - Many of us may comes from families did not know or follow the Lord...
 - But just because we did not have a good example - does not mean we are stuck...
 - We are not stuck - bound to our past - we can be different and follow Jesus!
 - God brought Israel out of bondage in Egypt - through the Red Sea...

- God refused to listen to Balaam when he wanted to curse Israel at Peor...
 - He gave them victory in Jericho / against all the Southern and Northern armies...
 - In fact they had victory at every turn - but not because of their swords or bows...
 - God sent hornets / He sent Hail / He was the one who gave them victory!
 - Being successful in life has nothing to do with our talents - or our abilities...
 - We can do everything right - but we will ultimately fail without God...
 - We can be stubborn and rebellious - like Israel - but with God we will have victory!
- o 2nd - Choose this day - who will you serve... vs. 15 **READ: JOSHUA 24:15**
- Joshua gave the people a choice - choose today whom you will serve...
 - They could choose to serve the gods of Terah / or of the people in the Land...
 - But as for Joshua and his home - he choose to serve the Lord!
 - Everyone one has this simple choice - whom do we choose to follow in life...
 - We can follow the example of our unbelieving family - drinking / parties...
 - We can follow the example of those around us - friends / classmates...
 - Or we can choose to follow the Word of God - follow Jesus!
- o 3rd - We will follow the Lord... vs. 16-33
- Israel was quick to respond - 'we will never forsake the Lord!'
 - That was the right answer - but it was not going to be easy to follow...
 - Joshua knew the people were stubborn / rebellious - and challenged their words...
 - 'You are not able to serve the Lord - for He is a jealous God...'
 - But they people insisted - 'we are determined to serve the Lord!'
 - Joshua loved the people too much to let them fall - he was going to help them...
 - He knew he would not be around forever to keep them looking to God...
 - So Joshua took a stone - 'it head their promise' the Children of Israel made...
 - It would testify against them if they broke their word!
 - **I Corinthians 10:4** - "And that Rock was Jesus Christ..."
 - Even the best of men are not perfect - and that do not live forever...
 - Only Jesus never changes - He is the perfect example to follow after...
 - The best things someone could ever do - point us to Jesus - **I Corinthians 11:1**...
 - Joshua was 110 years old when he died...
 - Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua...
 - We need to be careful whom we spend time with – who we are influenced by...
 - We all follow someone's example – they lead us either towards or away from God...
 - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "...bad company corrupts good character."
 - Surround yourself with godly men - those who encourage your walk in the Lord...