

JOSHUA

# Joshua's Farewell Address

Joshua 23:1-16

Friends, & Fellow Citizens.

The period for  
of a citizen to administer  
Government of the United States  
is distant, and the time a  
long, when your thoughts  
are directed to the per-  
formance of that im-  
portant duty, it is a  
duty as it may be  
the preservation of the Republic.



# Joshua 23:1-2a

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**1** Now it came about after many days, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies on every side, and Joshua was old, advanced in years, **2** that Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders and their heads and their judges and their officers, and said to them,



# When Did This Occur?

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- A period of time has obviously passed.
- According to 24:29, Joshua was 110 when he died.
- If he was about Caleb's age (85) when the land was distributed in 14:10, then this speech is occurring about 25 five years after the main events of the book.
- Best guess: around 1370 B.C.



# The Audience

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“all Israel...their elders and their heads, and their judges and their officers”

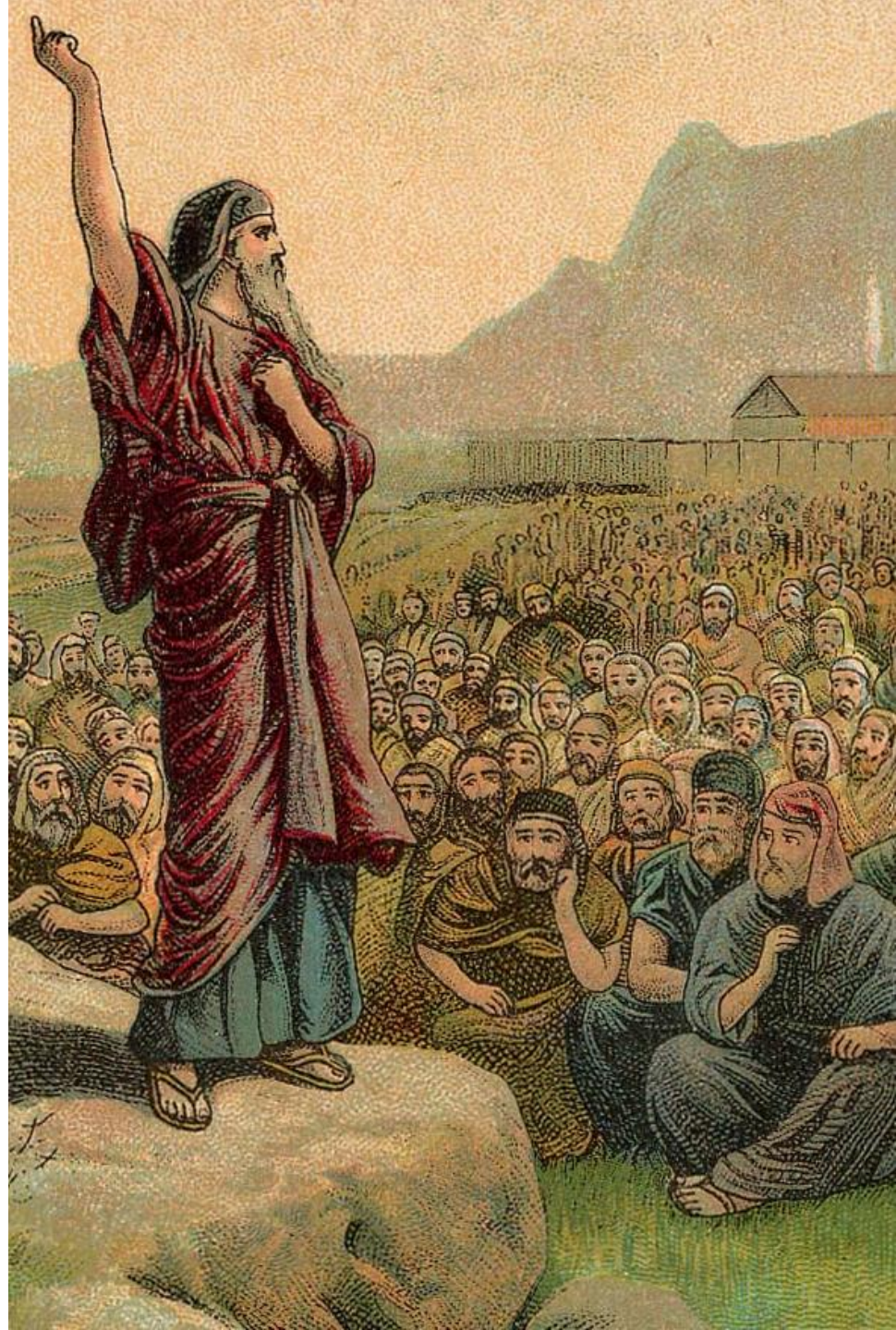
**These leaders represent the nation.**

His speech in Chapter 24 is directed to “all the people.”

# Deuteronomy

## 31:1-2

**1** So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. **2** And he said to them, “I am a hundred and twenty years old today; I am no longer able to come and go, and the Lord has said to me, “You shall not cross this Jordan.”





# Joshua 23:2b-4

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**2b** “I am old, advanced in years. **3** And you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the Lord your God is He who has been fighting for you. **4** See, I have apportioned to you these nations which remain as an inheritance for your tribes, with all the nations which I have cut off, from the Jordan even to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun.



# Joshua Looks Back

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The Lord has fought for Israel  
And the nation are witnesses of  
this truth

Joshua apportioned and distributed  
the land

Joshua fought and conquered the  
nations

# “nations” (*gôyîm*)

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- 13 times in Joshua; 7 times in this chapter
- This term refers to foreign, pagan nations, and here the danger of these godless nations is emphasized.
- The foundation is being laid for the rise of these “nations” as oppressing and corrupting forces in the book of Judges.

## Joshua 23:5

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**5** The Lord your God, He will thrust them out from before you and drive them from before you; and you will possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you.



# God's Promises (Deut. 9:3, 5) JOSHUA

“Know therefore today that it is the Lord your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and destroy them quickly, just as the Lord has spoken to you...It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

# Joshua 23:6-8

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**6** Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, **7** so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them. **8** But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.

# Secret of Success

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- Success is dependent upon Israel's obedience.
- Joshua, like Moses before him, has lived his life as an example of unwavering faith in the Lord.
- He is simply passing on the truth that has already shaped his own life.



# Joshua 1:7-8

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**7** Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. **8**

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

# Joshua's Charge

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- “keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses”
  - Do “not associate with these nations”
  - Do not “mention the name of their gods”
  - Do not “swear by them”
  - Do not “serve them”
  - Do not “bow down to them”
- “Cling to the Lord your God”





# Ephesians 4:29

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**29** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

# Israel's Besetting Sin

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Contamination by the nations and  
their gods

It is the problem of Judges

It was the cause of Solomon's downfall

It was the cause of the fall of Israel

It was the cause of the fall of Judah

It's even still a problem after the exile in the  
times of Ezra and Nehemiah

**Question:**

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**Why was Baal  
worship such a  
temptation for  
the Israelites?**





I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

Charles H. Spurgeon

 quotefancy

# “Cling” to the Lord

JOSHUA

*dabaq*

דָּבַק

Isaiah 41:7

“So the craftsman encourages the smelter,  
And he who smooths metal with the  
hammer encourages him who beats the  
anvil, Saying of the soldering, ‘It is good’;  
And he fastens it with nails, So that it will  
not totter.”

## 2 Kings 18:5-6

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5 He [Hezekiah] trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him. 6 For he **clung** to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses.



## Joshua 23:9-10

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**9** For the Lord has driven out great and strong nations from before you; and as for you, no man has stood before you to this day. **10** One of your men puts to flight a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, just as He promised you.

# Once Again

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God has been faithful to His promises.

He had indeed driven out the nations before the Israelites against impossible odds.

Deuteronomy 32:30

“How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the Lord had given them up?”

## Leviticus 26:7-8

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7 But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; 8 five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.



Joshua 23:11

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11 So take diligent  
heed to yourselves  
to love the Lord  
your God.

# Deuteronomy 6:5

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**5** You shall love the  
Lord your God with all  
your heart and with all  
your soul and with all  
your might.

# “Love the Lord your God” JOSHUA

Obedience to the Law is essential,  
however, it is a means to an end.

Avoidance of pagan entanglements  
is required, but it is not enough.

Israel is called to maintain a close  
and loving relationship with the  
Lord.



## Matthew 22:37-38

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**37** And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and foremost commandment.”

# Our Relationship to God

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Is not a business transaction

Is not due to fear

Is not tied to ritual

Rather, the people of God love the Lord because He desires our love; He deserves our love; He has proven Himself faithful; He has made reconciliation possible.

**8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



Turn to

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Romans 8:28-39

1 John 4:18

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18 We love,  
because He  
first loved us.

# Joshua 23:12-13

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**12** For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, **13** know with certainty that the Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they will be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you.









Turn to  
Judges 2:11-15

## 2 Corinthians 6:14-16a

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**14** Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols?



# Joshua 23:14

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14 “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.”

# In his Conclusion...

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Joshua indicates his death is near, and he uses the same phrase that David will use when he speaks to Solomon of his death in 1 Kings 2:2.

**And what is his closing admonition?**

“you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good works which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed”

# Joshua 23:15-16

JOSHUA

**15** It shall come about that just as all the good words which the Lord your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you. **16** When you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and you will perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you.”



# Compelling Language

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- “the Lord will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you.”
- “the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and you will perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you.”

# Joshua 7:1

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**1** But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel.

# And Elsewhere

## JOSHUA

- **Judges 3:8** – “Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, so that He sold them into the hands of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia”
- **Judges 10:7** – “The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the sons of Ammon.”
- **2 Kings 13:3** – “the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Aram, and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael.”



*Grace*

# Understand:

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- Israel knows in all their hearts and all their souls that God's promises come to pass.
- And if they have come to pass for the good of Israel, they will most certainly come to pass for the judgment of Israel if they forsake God and His Law.

# And Consider:

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- On one hand, as believers, we rejoice at the fact that God's promises will come to pass exactly as He said they would.
- On the other hand, we mourn the fact that so many will perish in unbelief and be judged because God's promises will come to pass exactly as He said they would.



If You Had a  
Chance to Give a  
Farewell Address,  
What Would You Say  
To Those You Love?

JOSHUA