

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

In Those Days There
Was No King in Israel

Lesson 4 • May 8 • Joshua 15-24
"Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve"

And the land had rest from war. (Josh 14:15)

Joshua 15-19 describes the territory inherited by the various tribes of Israel. After establishing six cities of refuge (Josh 20) and providing cities for the Levites to dwell in, along with pasturelands for their livestock (Josh 21), notice the summary in Joshua 21:43-45:

Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he _____ to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one _____ of all the good _____ that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

For now, let's focus on Joshua 23-24 and notice the things Joshua said to the nation and its leaders when he was old and well advanced in years:

- "You have _____ all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought _____ you." (23:3)
- "Be very _____ to _____ and to _____ all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left." (23:6)
- "You may not _____ with these nations remaining among you; be very careful to _____ the LORD your God." (23:7-13)
- "If you _____ the covenant of the LORD your God, you shall perish quickly from _____ the good land that he has given to you." (23:14-16)
- "The LORD, the God of Israel has kept his _____." (24:1-13)
- "Now, therefore, _____ this day whom you will _____." (24:14-15)
- "The LORD takes _____ seriously, and so must you." (24:16-28)

The book concludes by noting that Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua (24:29-33).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Even though Joshua's encouragements and warnings to the people of Israel and their leaders were spoken a very long time ago ([Josh 23-24](#)), they are still worth thinking about and applying in many ways today. Let's think through each one of these together... What can we learn? How do these things apply to us? How are things different for modern disciples of Jesus? What do we need to remember and be careful to follow?
 - "You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you." ([23:3](#))

 - "Be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left." ([23:6](#))

 - "You may not mix with these nations remaining among you; be very careful to love the LORD your God." ([23:7-13](#))

 - "If you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you." ([23:14-16](#))

 - "The LORD, the God of Israel has kept his promises." ([24:1-13](#))

 - "Now, therefore, choose this day whom you will serve." ([24:14-15](#))

 - "The LORD takes covenants seriously, and so must you." ([24:16-28](#))

- What do you think Joshua meant by describing God the way that he did in [24:19](#)?

- Some of the last words in *Joshua* ([24:32](#)) describe the bones of Joseph. Let's briefly revisit [Genesis 50:24-26](#) and [Exodus 13:17-19](#). What's this all about?

- As you look at the book of *Joshua* as a whole, how would you describe it? What's this book all about? What are the basics we need to remember? The core lessons we need to apply?

Take the time to learn where each of the tribes of Israel settled in the land the LORD had sworn to give to their fathers (Josh 21:43-45).

