

Applications of Joshua's Final Message to Israel

By David DeWitt

Joshua 23

- (1) *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* (v. 3).
 - Whatever your circumstances, understand that God is fighting for you. He is clearing the way for you to serve Him in your circumstances.
- (2) *He's appointed these nations to possess their land* (vv. 4-5).
 - God's appointed a piece of His work to each of us. He's given us the opportunity to be involved with Him while He builds His church.
- (3) *Do all that is written in the Law of Moses* (v. 6).
 - We should also obey the commands written in the Scripture, not turn to the right or to the left.
- (4) *Do not associate with these nations, don't even mention the name of their gods* (v. 7).
 - We are to be separated from the culture of our world. Do not be in social situations which tempt you to live like they do. Do not even pretend to follow the gods of the world, such as the horoscope, karate, etc., and don't intermarry with them (v. 12).
- (5) *Be diligent to love the Lord your God* (v. 11).
 - Your first command is to love the Lord your God (Matthew 22), then other people.
- (6) *The Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you* (v. 13).
 - If you ignore the Word of God and become like the world, then God will not use you to build His church.
- (7) *Not one good word of God has failed* (v. 14), *and so His word will not fail* (v. 15).
 - Realize that God's Word will not fail concerning what He says about the church.

Joshua 24

- (8) *Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth* (v. 14).
 - Fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth, not with selfish motives.
- (9) *Choose for yourself who you will serve* (v. 15).
 - Do not serve God and idols. Do not call yourself a Christian and read your horoscope or pursue a divorce or have an affair, or practice karate, or lie to your customers, etc.
- (10) *God is a jealous God* (v. 19).
 - Realize that because God is holy, you will fail in serving Him. Because He is a jealous God, He will not tolerate your failure. Your failure will be in serving Him only. You will mix serving God with materialism, etc. Your only recourse is repentance and confession (v. 23), *put away your foreign gods in your midst*.
- (11) *Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived* (v. 31).
 - We need to disciple people. But leadership for the next generation will require not just disciples but an understanding of the need for ongoing discipleship as a means for reproducing the Kingdom of God. There is no evidence that preaching, teaching, counseling, pastoring, or even good godly leaders will provide spiritual leadership for the next generation.