



# Conquering Canaan

Lesson 5: Joshua's Farwell

(Joshua 23:1-24:33)

God had given the Canaan land to the Israelites. They were at rest in the land from all their enemies who were around them. Now, Joshua was now very old. So, he called all the Israelites together and spoke to them – giving them all some final warnings and instructions before he died.

He told them that he was old and had seen everything God had done to all the nations for the Israelites. God was fighting for them. And, God would cause them to defeat all the remaining nations in the land so that they could take full possession of the land – if the Israelites would go and fight against them.

Joshua warned the Israelites to be strong and continue obeying all the law God had given them. They were not to turn away from the law at all – not to the right and not to the left. They were not to associate with the nations that still lived in the land. They were not to call on the names of their false gods, make oaths to them, serve them, or bow down to them in worship. Instead, they were only to worship and serve the one true God!

Joshua reminded the Israelites how God had driven great and powerful nations out of the land so that no one could fight against the Israelites and win. So, they needed to watch themselves and make sure that they really loved God and served Him. If they would stop obeying God and intermarry and associate with the remaining nations in the land, God would not continue to make Israel victorious. Instead, He would cause these nations to trouble the Israelites until they disappeared from the land.

Joshua then said he was dying and reminded the Israelites that God had kept all the promises He had made to them. And, just as God had kept His promises to bring good things on the Israelites whenever they obeyed Him, God would keep His promise to destroy the Israelites if they did not obey Him. So, he told them that they must not break the agreement they had made with God to only serve and

worship Him. If they did, God would be angry with them and they would quickly disappear from the Canaan land God had given them.

As Joshua came together with all the Israelite tribes and the leaders, Joshua spoke God's words to remind them of their history. He said that a long time ago, Abraham lived beyond the Euphrates River with his family who worshiped other gods. But, God took Abraham and led him through the land of Canaan. He gave Abraham a son named Isaac. Isaac was given Jacob and Esau.

Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. There, God sent Moses and Aaron and defeated Egypt and brought the Israelites out of Egypt, parting the Red Sea and killing the Egyptians. After that, the Israelites lived in the wilderness. Then, God brought the Israelites to the land of the Amorites and caused the Israelites to be victorious against the people who tried to hurt them.

Finally, the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River. They came to Jericho. When the people of Jericho and other nations fought against them, God caused Israel to win. He sent hornets ahead of them and drove the people out of the land. So, it was not the Israelites who defeated the people by their own strength. Instead, it was God who gave them the land by His own power. Therefore, they now lived in lands and cities they did not work for and were eating food they did not work to grow.

So, Joshua told the Israelites to choose who they wanted to serve. They could choose to serve false gods. But, they should know that God is the one who had blessed them in all these ways! Therefore, the people said they would serve God!

After all these things, Joshua died at the age of 110 years old and was buried. Joseph's bones that were brought up from Egypt were also now buried in Canaan. And, Eleazar also died and was buried.



## Memory Verse:

“But if it doesn’t please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship – the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

**Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:**