

## Joshua 23

Verses 1 - 3

**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,<sup>2</sup> that Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, their heads, their judges, and their officers, and said to them, “I am old, advanced in years.<sup>3</sup> 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**

**Now it came about after many days, Joshua was old, advanced in years**

The many days refers to the time frame from when the eastern tribes returned home until the time when Joshua is close to the end of his life.

So it was about 17 years

See chart 2305

Chapter	Event	Year	Other
10	Sothern cities conquered	1406 - 1403	
10	Sun stands still	1403	
11	Northern Kings defeated	1403 - 1400	
12	List of Kings defeated	1400	7 years of war
13	Still a lot of land to be taken over	1400	Joshua is very old
14	Hebron given to Caleb	1400	Caleb is 85
14 - 19	Land allotted in Canaan	1400 - 1393	Took 7 years
20	Cities of Refuge	1392	
21	Towns for Levites	1392	
22	Eastern tribes return home	1392	14 years from home
23	Joshua's farewell	1375	vs 1 - a long time had passed
24	Covenant Renewed	1375	110 years old
24	Joshua dies	1375	110 years old

**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**

Before Joshua died, he wanted to remind the people that their success in war was because of what God had done.

In whatever ways any person or nation has success or demonstrates special skills in this life it is because of what God has given them. So if we talk or act as though it is because of our hard work or self-determination we have become foolish. What we should do is praise God for what we have been given.

Verses 4 - 11

**<sup>4</sup> See, I have apportioned to you these nations which remain as an inheritance for your tribes, with all the nations which I have eliminated, from the Jordan even to the Great Sea toward the west. <sup>5</sup> And the Lord your God, He will thrust them away from you and drive them from you; and you will take possession of their land, just as the Lord your God promised you. <sup>6</sup> Be very determined, then, to keep and do everything that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, so that you will not turn aside from it to the right or to the left, <sup>7</sup> so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain with you, or mention the name of their gods, or make *anyone* swear *by them*, or serve them, or bow down to them. <sup>8</sup> But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day. <sup>9</sup> For the Lord has driven out great and mighty nations from before you; and as for you, no one has stood against you to this day. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> So take great care for yourselves that you love the Lord your God.**

Joshua listed 5 things that the Israel must do:

1. **Be very determined to keep and do everything written in the Law of Moses**
2. **Do not associate with these nations which remain with you**
3. **Do not mention the name of their gods, or make *anyone* swear *by them*, or serve them, or bow down to them.**
4. **But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.**
5. **So take great care for yourselves that you love the Lord your God.**

Verses 12 - 13

**<sup>12</sup> For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain with you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, <sup>13</sup> 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 this good land which the Lord your God has given you.**

**For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, and intermarry with them, they will be a snare and a trap to you, until you perish from this good land**

The Promised Land belonged to Israel only if they remained faithful to God.

This meant they should avoid close relationships with other nations. It was ok to trade with foreign nations but there was a line that should not be crossed. Clinging to a foreign nation indicates a relationship that was too close.

Foreigners that had not converted to Judaism were allowed to live in Israel but they were still required to follow certain laws.

See Leviticus 20:1-3

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "You shall also say to the sons of Israel:

**'Anyone from the sons of Israel or from the strangers residing in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech, shall certainly be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.**

It was also wrong to intermarry with foreign peoples because they served false gods.

A Jewish man could take a foreign woman as a wife if she had converted to the Jewish religion. This was the case with Boaz and Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite who had converted to the Jewish faith because of her relationship with Naomi.

When Solomon took foreign wives to cement treaties between Israel and foreign nations he broke the covenant that Israel had with God.

The fact that Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines also broke the law given by God in Genesis 2:24-25.

He broke that law 999 times. ☹

Verses 14 - 16

**<sup>14</sup> “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; they all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. <sup>15</sup> But it will 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 warnings, until He has eliminated you from this good land which the Lord your God has given you. <sup>16</sup> When you violate the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, and you 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 the good land which He has given you.”**

**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; they all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.**

God kept his promise to Israel despite the fact that Israel had been unfaithful to Him on many occasions. However, they paid a serious price for their unfaithfulness. 40 years in the wilderness is just one example of the many tribulations they suffered for not keeping their part of the covenant with God.

**But it will 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 warnings, until He has eliminated you from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.**

These words should have been taken as a prophetic warning from God.

This promise was fulfilled 3 times during the history of Israel from 1406 BC to 100 AD.

1. The deportation of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC
2. The deportation of the Southern Kingdom in 586 BC. (If we count the 3 deportations of Israel by Babylon as one)
3. The Jews were exiled from Jerusalem in 70 AD, and many were exiled or taken as slaves throughout Judea in the years that followed.