

Joshua 23:1-16 **Be very Courageous to Obey Yehowah `Eloheykm**

Joshua called an assembly in his old age

¹ Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age. ² And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: "I am old, advanced in age.

You are eyewitnesses of all that Yehowah Eloheykm has done for you

³ 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 fought for you.

⁴ See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward. ⁵ And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

Call for courageous obedience – Hold fast to Yehowah Eloheykm for continued success

⁶ Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, ⁷ and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you.

You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, ⁸ but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day. ⁹ For the LORD has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day. ¹⁰ One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He has promised you. ¹¹ Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.

Expect no help from God if you turn away from Him

¹² Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations--these that remain among you--and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, ¹³ know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

All God has promised, He has fulfilled

¹⁴ "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.

When you turn away from Yehowah Eloheykm – You will Perish

¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the LORD your God promised you, so the LORD will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the LORD your God has given you. ¹⁶ When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ A long time has passed since the wars ended and the land was apportioned to the tribes of Israel, (about 25 years) and Joshua is now old and well advanced in age. [Joshua 23:1]
- ✧ Joshua and Caleb were both leaders of their tribes when sent to spy out the land of Promise from Kadesh Barnea by Moses, so they would have been close to the same age of 40 years according to the testimony of Caleb and 85 years of age when the wars ended. [Numbers 13:1-33, 14:1-38, Joshua 14:6-10]
- ✧ Joshua died at age 110 after this exchange, so the time between the end of the wars and the gathering of Israel before the death of Joshua would have been about 25 years. [Joshua 24:29]
- ✧ And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: "I am old, advanced in age. [Joshua 23:2]

You are eyewitnesses of all that Yehowah Eloheykm has done for you

- ✧ **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 fought for you.** [Joshua 23:3]

- ✧ The land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea was apportioned to the tribes of Israel by the lot, containing the nations that remain among the Children of Israel.
- ✧ Joshua then assured the Children of Israel that Yehowah Eloheykm (the Lord your God) will expel the remaining nations in the land so the Children of Israel will possess their land. [Joshua 23:4-5]

Call for courageous obedience – Hold fast to Yehowah Eloheykm for continued success

- ✧ Continued success is dependent on the courageous obedience of Israel to the written Book of the Law given by Moses. [Joshua 23:6-11]
 - ✧ Do not turn from the Law to the right or to the left.
 - ✧ Do not go among the nations who remain.
 - ✧ Do not mention the name of their gods.
 - ✧ Do not cause anyone to swear by them.
 - ✧ Do not serve them or bow down to them.
- ✧ Hold fast to Yehowah Eloheykm as you have to this day.
- ✧ Yehowah has driven out from before you great and strong nations.
- ✧ No one has been able to stand against you to this day.
- ✧ One man of you shall chase a thousand, because Yehowah Eloheykm is He Who fights for you as He promised you.
- ✧ Be very careful to make sure that you love Yehowah Eloheykm.

Expect no help from God if you turn away from Him

- ✧ **If indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations--these that remain among you--and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you:** [Joshua 23:12-13]
 - ✧ **Know for certain** that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you.
 - ✧ **The nations that remain among you** will be **snares** and **traps** to you.
 - ✧ They will be **scourges** on your sides and **thorns** in your eyes.
 - ✧ **Until you perish** from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

All God has promised, He has fulfilled

- ✧ Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. [Joshua 23:14]

✧ You know in all your hearts and in all your souls that **not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you.**

✧ **All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.**

When you turn away from Yehowah Eloheykm – You will Perish [Joshua 23:15-16]

✧ Therefore it shall come to pass, that as **all the good things have come upon you which the LORD your God promised you, so the LORD will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.**

✧ **When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them;**

✧ **Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you."**

✧ God has never failed to keep His covenant with Israel.

✧ When Israel kept the commandments of God, they experienced success on every hand, everything they touched was blessed and prospered for them. [Exodus 23:20-31, Leviticus 26:1-13, Deuteronomy 7:12-16, 28:1-14, Joshua 21:45, 23:14, 1 Kings 8:56]

✧ When Israel turned away from God and failed to keep His commandments, they experienced all the curses God had promised. [Deuteronomy 28:15-68, Leviticus 26:14-39, Ezekiel 49:21-24]

✧ Even during the Holocaust, God kept His Word, they were scattered among the nations and they were persecuted and killed. Yet God was faithful to keep a remnant alive, just as He said He would. [Leviticus 26:40-45, Jeremiah 23:3, Ezekiel 6:8-10, Micah 2:12-13, 5:3-5, Zechariah 8:11-17, Romans 9:27]

✧ The destruction of Israel as a result for their disobedience, is just as much a part of God's covenant with Israel, as was the blessing and abundance God promised for their faithfulness.

✧ God kept a remnant of Israel as it is today, and the promise remains that in the future, God will restore Israel in the land of Israel and will restore the earth before them with a blessing and a thousand years of peace, prosperity, and tranquility. [Deuteronomy 4:30-31, Romans 9:27, 11:25-32, Hebrews 8:7-13, Isaiah 10:20-23, 11:10-12, 14:1-2, 27:2-13, Ezekiel 39:25-29, Isaiah 40:1-2, 41:1-20, 44:21-23, 49:1-26, 55:1-5, 61:4-9, 66:20-22, Jeremiah 3:14-19, 16:14-18, 23:3-8, 30:1-3, 30:8-24, 31:1-40, 32:36-41, 33:6-16, 46:27-28, Ezekiel 11:14-21, 16:59-63, 20:39-44, 28:25-26, 34:11-31, 36:1-38, 37:1-28, Hosea 3:1-5, Amos 9:11-15, Zephaniah 3:9-20, Zechariah 9:9-17, 10:1-12]