

*Choose*

TODAY

WHOM YOU WILL  
SERVE

*Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18*

# JOSHUA SERIES: CHOOSE THIS DAY...

## Joshua Series – Last Message

- Crossing
- Conquering
- Claiming
  - entering into the Promise
  - settling and setting up as a nation
- Gathered before scattering to settle land
- Key address from Joshua

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Joshua 24:13-14 (1)

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Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. <sup>3</sup> Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

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<sup>4</sup> And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. <sup>6</sup> “Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. <sup>7</sup> And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time.

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Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. <sup>9</sup> Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, <sup>10</sup> but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. <sup>11</sup> And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.

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James 2:19-21

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<sup>12</sup> And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. <sup>13</sup> I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant <sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>

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Joshua 24:14-15

# JOSHUA SERIES: CHOOSE THIS DAY...

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup> for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

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But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”

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He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” <sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. <sup>26</sup> And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. <sup>27</sup> And Joshua said to all the people,

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Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.”<sup>28</sup> So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance

<sup>29</sup> After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being 110 years old.<sup>30</sup> And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

<sup>31</sup> Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel.

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## 1. Clear About What Has Happened 1-13

a) I chose you – you were far from me

- Abraham, while you served other gods

b) I rescued you – were slaves in Egypt

- leaders sent, plagues, waters

c) I protected you – in desert, while vulnerable

- nations destroyed, fearful

d) I delivered this land to you – gave, destroyed

- land, cities, produce – all given

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James 2:19-21

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Deut. 9:4-6 “ “Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you. <sup>5</sup> Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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JOSHUA 24:14-15

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## 2. Clear About the Choice You Face 14-22

### a) Cannot Serve Many gods

- customs of other nations
- Deut 5:6-10
- Jesus – Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13

### b) My Choice is Clear and Declared

- as for me, and my house – we choose God
- public, identifiable – no wondering

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Joshua 24:13-14(1)

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c) not a simple yes 16-22

- evidence presented makes it a no-brainer
- told clearly – you are unable to keep this
- God is – holy, jealous, punishing sin
- Deut. 9:7-8, 13, 23-24
- consequences are immense

d) declared Yes. We Will Serve the Lord

- you are witnesses – we have chosen

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Joshua 24:13-14 (1)

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## 3. Clear Action & Evidence

### a) Needed to Take some Steps

- put away foreign gods among you
- incline your heart towards God

### b) Mark this Commitment you Make

- declaration before witnesses
- covenant drawn up – clear and concise
- stone marking the moment - witness throughout the generations

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Joshua 24:14-15

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## 4. Clear Follow Through

- off to their inheritance

- a) that generation followed through vs.31

  - saw, committed – stayed the course

- b) Next generation – failure to follow through

  - Judges 2:6-15

  - seemed each generation needed to recognize and respond





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## So What

### 1. We Have a Clear Record

- problem of sin – separation from God
- clear about God's Holiness, Justice
- God did for us – motivated by Love
  - chosen, rescued, defended from, delivered to
- clear we did not deserve, earn, are worthy of
- have personal stories of God calling, showing and drawing us

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## 2. We Face a Clear Choice

- who will we serve?
- cannot live with a foot in both worlds
- choice will mean change – very clear
- has impact on generations to come
- \*covenant choice a big deal – clear consequences for breaking covenant
- declared and visible publicly

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## 3. Choice Requires Action and Evidence

- put away your idols
- incline you heart towards God
- baptism a big deal – identifying publicly
- Jesus – if you love me – obey my commands
- die to self – alive in Christ

## 4. Choice Needs to Be Clear

- mark it and make clear what it means
- recognize importance for legacy

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James 2:14-17