

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**THE LORD OUR GOD WILL WE SERVE,**

**AND HIS VOICE WILL WE OBEY**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 17, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **JOSHUA 24:20-24**

**Joshua 24:20-24, If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. 21: And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD. 22: And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. 23: Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. 24: And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.**

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Joshua is a book that speaks of Israel in conflict and conquest.
- b. Joshua is the author of this book; however, some of the elders who outlived Joshua added portions to the book after his death. This is found in **Joshua 24:31, And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the Lord, that he had done for Israel.**
- c. It is widely believed among Bible scholars that Joshua's son, Phinehas, finished the last five verses of this book.
- d. Joshua was written between 1410 and 1350 B.C. It was written primarily to the Israelites, but there is also application for the Church.
- e. The **Book of Joshua** completes the redemption of Israel that began in the **Book of Exodus**.
- f. **Exodus** is the book of redemption out of Egypt. **Joshua** is the book of redemption into the Promised Land.
- g. A key word in the **Book of Joshua** is possession.
- h. God had given the land to Israel as an unconditional covenant. He said to Abraham in **Genesis 17:8, And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**
- i. The land was given unconditionally, but the possession of the land was conditional. **Leviticus 20:24, But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey; I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people. Deuteronomy 7:7-8, The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**
- j. There was conflict and conquest in Israel's fight to lay hold of their possession of the land that God had given them.
- k. Joshua reminds us of something very key in his final message before his death. This key was their obedience to the word of God would determine their continued possession of the Promised Land. This gives us some insight into the reason why there are so many problems in Israel today.
- l. Joshua was the successor to Moses. His commission was given to him by God in **Joshua 1:1-7** and it says, **Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2: Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go**

over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3: Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4: From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. 5: There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6: Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. 7: Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest. With this charge, Joshua became a great General.

- m. Joshua's background shows he was born a slave in Egypt. He was about forty years old at the time of the Exodus from Egypt.
- n. He was eighty when he received the commission as Moses' successor. He was one hundred ten years old at his death.
- o. Joshua had gained prominence during the wilderness wandering. He was one of two spies sent to check out the land that was promised to Israel. It was Joshua and Caleb who came back with a positive report. **Numbers 13:27, And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Numbers 13:30, And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.**
- p. As a result of their positive report, they were the only two who were allowed to enter the Promised Land. The rest of that generation passed away before they could see the Promised Land.
- q. Joshua was "a type" of the Lord Jesus Christ. His name means "Jehovah Saves." He was a man of courage. His dependence was upon God. His faith, leadership, enthusiasm, and fidelity emanated from the very Throne of God.
- r. Joshua shows us that a man of average ability can become a great leader for God. **1 Corinthians 1:26, For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:**
- s. He also shows us that age is no barrier. As we get older, we should have more wisdom to do things in a more practical way. Retirement is not a part of God's program. **Psalms 92:14, They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;**
- t. Since we hear so much about the Promised Land, I want to give you a few facts.
  1. The Promised Land cannot be a type of Heaven since Heaven is not a place of conflict and conquest.
  2. Heaven is received as a gift by the grace of God. **Romans 3:22, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**
  3. Our Promise Land represents the place to which believers are brought into this world after salvation. **Psalms 23:1-6, The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**
- u. The **Book of Joshua** corresponds to the **Epistle to the Ephesians** in the New Testament where the believer is blessed with spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 1:3, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**
- v. **A complete yielded life will minimize conflict and conquest.** When we have a complete yielded life to the Holy Spirit and not attempt to do things in the flesh, God will provide a positive Promised Land experience for every believer today. **Romans 8:8, So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**
- w. Some key themes in the **Book of Joshua** are:
  1. Our greatest asset is not our physical ability or cleverness; it is our faith in God's ability to overcome on our behalf.

2. Victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His Word.
  3. **Sin must be dealt with at once, because it brings severe consequences.**
  4. God is always true to His promises.
  5. All things are possible if we have faith in God who made all things.
  6. It is our responsibility to be obedient and faithful to the covenant of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
  7. God punishes sinful nations as well as sinful individuals.
- x. With this Background, let's see what God wants to teach us from the **Book of Joshua**.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the July 17, 2022 Morning Message for the Introduction.

## 3. ONE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

### d. The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

1. **Joshua 24:20-24, If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. 21: And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD. 22: And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. 23: Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. 24: And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.**
2. Carnal Christians cannot effectively serve the Lord. **1 Corinthians 3:1, And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. Hebrews 5:13, For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.**
3. Several Sunday's ago, I gave you evidence for the assurance of your salvation as taught from God's Preserved Word.
4. **There is nothing a person can do to lose their salvation if they are anchored by the Word of God which reflects a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.**
5. Fellowship means we are continually filled with the Spirit of God and we are in a right relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are in the center of His will, doing the work He has called us to do.
6. **Carnal Christians are in despair with lost hope, lack of direction, taking things of the world and allowing them to become a part of their life. Hebrews 5:11-14, Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12: For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13: For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14: But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. 2 Peter 1:4-9, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5: And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**
7. It reminds me of a passage of Scripture in **Romans 7:24, O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of death?**
8. Although a person is truly saved and born again, they are confused, proud, discouraged, self-righteous and can be a deadly person to God's program. Joshua says that because of your ways, you cannot serve the Lord because He is Holy. **Proverbs 16:18, Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**
9. The Scripture says in **Galatians 3:22, But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus might be given to them that believe.**
10. When we are saved and born again, we have two natures - the nature of God and the nature

of the flesh. It depends on which of these natures we feed whether we will serve the Lord with gladness. **1John 3:9, Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

11. **Psalms 100:45, Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5: For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- a. I have given you some nuggets from the Word of God today.
- b. I have tried to teach you some things people have propagated that are not correct according to the Preserved Word of God.
- c. I challenge you with a verse from the Preserved Word of God in **Acts 16:31, And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**
- d. Jesus is ready to save you today.
- e. Unconverted person, if you do not know Christ as your personal saviour, come forward when the invitation is given and we will show you what God's Word has to say about salvation.
- f. Carnal Christian, if you are outside the will of God and holding resentment in your heart or have hate, bitterness, evil, speaking gossip, or any of those wrathful things, you need to come to the altar and confess your sin, and restore a proper fellowship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- g. For the church member today who is sitting in the pew and has a spiritual gift that God has given you, you need to exercise that spiritual gift.
- h. All believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. The reward or lack thereof, will be based on how effectively you have exercised your spiritual gift in the local church.
- i. Are you building on the foundation gold, silver and precious stone or wood, hay and stubble? **2 Corinthians 5:10** tells us, **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**
- j. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- k. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- l. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- m. Please stand.

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