

Joshua 22-24 – 26 August 2021

“Preserving A Proper Spiritual Posture”

Introduction

*The theme of the Book of Joshua could be “*Will Israel have faith and believe God?*”

*The prosperity of Israel’s future life will be directly proportional to:

*How well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*How well they act on implementing God’s ways

*All tribes have conquered & set up their God-given land; Joshua now gives his parting remarks to all

*All that’s left to do is to reinforce in them Joshua’s desire to preserve a godly legacy that will continue to bless God, bear fruit and bless for the people

*So today, the book concluded with **3 tips to preserve a proper spiritual posture**

1st tip to preserve a proper spiritual posture is: Avoid Boilerplate; Get into the details (Chap 22)

Read Chap 22:1-9

1. The 2.5 Tribes fulfilled their obligations as part of Israel & are released back home
 - a. Released w/ the command to “get into the details” of serving & loving God (see vs 5)
2. We have too much boilerplate Christianity
 - a. Don’t live by slogans & generalities instead live by detailed convictions driven by time spent w/ God & His Word
 - b. We need a generation w/ critical thinking that have Biblical convictions that aren’t negotiable

Read Chap 22:10-12

1. 2.5 Tribes are spiritually dull to make this altar even if it was only as a witness & not sacrifices
 - a. Sacrifices only allowed at Tabernacle
 - b. Everyone was already commanded to appear at Tabernacle 3 times a year at Feasts

2. They're leaving room for honest people to ask questions of them

Read Chap 22:13-20

1. Israel has real spiritual concerns
 - a. Are they intending to commit idolatry?
 - b. Israel knows they're one nation that are accountable together
2. They 1st send respected Phineas to asks questions
 - a. Notice they're not making the boilerplate decision to go to war w/o getting the details
 - b. Getting into the details involves helping those you're accountable for

Read Chap 22:21-29

1. They wanted a memorial, not an altar
2. BOTH have good intentions
3. BOTH wanted to remain in the purity of God

Read Chap 22:30-34

1. There's joy b/c BOTH are seeking God
2. All b/c they were willing to dive deep

2nd tip to preserve a proper spiritual posture is: Don't study your sin, but study God (Chap 23)

Read Chap 23:1

1. Some get stricken w/ age (Elisha, Joshua, Zachariah) while some don't (Moses, Caleb)
 - a. Doesn't mean God loves them any different
 - b. James killed but Peter spared
 - c. Doesn't mean one was more sinful than the other, but it keeps the focus on God & His plan

Read Chap 23:2

1. This is Joshua's farewell address to the leaders
2. What would you say, given one last chance?

Read Chap 23:3

1. Begins message w/ praise to God (Judah 1st)
2. Thinking on the positive (Read Phil 4:8)

Read Chap 23:4-5

1. Continue in faith & God will continue to do

Read Chap 23:6-10

1. Don't even talk about the sin, study God
2. We can trap our mind into studying our sin instead of studying God
 - a. You can't beat the darkness by dealing with it, you simply need to deal with the light.
 - b. Don't think of emptying your time from sin, think of filling your time with godly activities

Read Chap 23:11-13

1. By physically intermixing, they will spiritually contaminate them...that's the problem
2. God's not trying to keep us from marrying unbelievers
 - a. He's trying to get us to marry believers
 - b. B/c He knows unbelievers will be trouble

Read Chap 23:14-16

1. Msg to the leaders ends w/ a warning
2. In the Old Covenant, God's blessings were contingent upon obedience
3. Only a loving God would warn of sin's trouble

3rd tip to preserve a proper spiritual posture is: Intentionally choose whom you'll pursue (Chap 24)

Intro

1. Chap 24 brings us Joshua's final address to the whole nation prodding them to see God's value

Read Chap 24:1-13

1. The historical prologue is the reminder of the reality that God is good and they need Him
2. We need to be reminded often how good God has been to us

Read Chap 24:14-15

1. "Choose whom"
 - a. It's theirs to choose—God has given freewill
 - i. That's one of the greatest, most overlooked blessing from God
 - b. It's not a choice of if you'll serve but whom you'll serve
 - i. Whatever your master passion is, is your God

Read Chap 24:16-25

1. Joshua forced them into strong commitment
2. Let's be bold and clear with our convictions
3. We need to intentionally remove the evil around us and replace it with good
 - a. Good habits, good friends, etc

Read Chap 24:26-28

1. Is your choice to live for Jesus a matter of public record? Do your friends know?
2. This rock would be a constant, continual reminder
 - a. Don't center our life around a decision for Christ long ago
 - b. Center it on a daily craving to know God

Read Chap 24:29-33

1. This's respectful add-on to a great author's work
2. Vs 31 – A move of God rarely goes into the 2nd generation

Conclusion

So the challenge for all Israel as they've entered, settled & established themselves in the Promised Land, has always been:

Will they have faith to believe God's ways are best?

They've learned some great tips for how to prosper; now they just have to KEEP THE FAITH

1. Avoid boilerplate; Get into the details

- a. Don't live by slogans & generalities, but develop detailed convictions

2. Don't study your sin; Study God

- a. Don't dwell on the darkness, but learn about the light

3. Intentionally choose whom you'll pursue

- a. If I asked your best friend what the biggest pursuit of your life is, what would they say?
- b. The service to your god WILL lead to either eternal life or eternal death. Choose wisely.