

## Stone of Witness

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Intro\_

Read [Joshua 24:1-28](#).

### A Line in the Sand

Joshua draws a figurative line in the sand in this account. It is put plainly before the Israelites; choose what side you are on. This is not the only account where we see this. In [Ex 32:26-27](#) Moses asks, “*Who is on the LORD’S side? let him come unto me.*” Here at mount Sinai Israel sinned a great sin of idolatry. Moses’ wrath reflects the Lord’s and he prompts for the children of Israel to choose a side. The Master draws this same figurative line in the sand in [Matthew 12:25, 30](#).

We must all choose for ourselves on which side of the line we are going to stand. Will we stand with the Lord or will we be against Him? We cannot be one foot in and one foot out in the field of faith. [Matthew 6:24](#) “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*” We cannot serve God and our own will.

[James 4:17](#). If we have heard the gospel message preached in its complete truth from this very pulpit and have come to understand what it is to do good (meaning, we know what is truth and what it means to worship God according to His commandments), then the line in the sand has been drawn before us.

### The Urgency

When we decide whether to become Christians, it is the greatest decision we will ever make, and it requires complete commitment. [Luke 14:28-30](#). It requires us to weigh in our own heart asking, are we committed to the Lord from now until our death or not?

Make no mistake however, that this is not a commitment that we should delay for a time that is convenient for us; there is an urgency! Can we justify ourselves before God with “*when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee*”? No. Once a person knows and believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; understands that without giving themselves over to Christ there is no salvation, and once they know they have sin and need forgiveness from that sin and finally that only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from this sin, then the time is now! Choose to do what is right or don’t. Luke is telling us, that it is important for the individual to weigh what must be done and to get it done.

We also cannot, nor will not forget [Lamentations 3:27](#) which reads “*It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*” To all who have chosen to give themselves over to Christ from a young age, it is a good thing; it is praiseworthy. You have believed and took urgent action in order to make Christ your own. Praise the Lord that His name is remembered in our children!

### A Kingdom Divided

A kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. In [1Corinthians 11:13](#) we see this same line drawn in the sand when it says, “*judge in yourselves*”. This is the line drawn from the beginning that prompts every believer to choose who is on the Lord’s side; are you with Christ or against Him; will you serve the Lord? We are called to

witness against ourselves. Our own oath, before the *legendary* stone under the oak tree, witnesses against us saying, “will you choose to uphold the commandment and fulfill your vow to follow the Lord wherever He leads bearing the cross”?

The Lord’s church was faced with this very conflict, and they continued to allow the His house to be divided against itself. Yet one, like unto Moses and Joshua (according to [Deuteronomy 18:15](#)) would rise up and stand on the Lord’s side. The Lord’s Elect Servant chose to uphold the commandment for the woman to cover as truth and drew the sword to condemn all who would not stand on the Lord’s side. The former house was brought to desolation. And God has established Himself in a new house, which is the House of the Elect Lady according to [2Jn 1:10](#).

We have in our favor the stone of witness. This stone represents our sacred vow to uphold the truth and our public commitment *to continue to walk in love*. And it witnesses to us that the Lord is among us, that he has established his covenant and His throne here within His people forever. [Ps 89:34-37](#).

#### Conclusion\_

To those who have committed themselves to Christ [Joshua 24:22](#) reads “*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.*” Let us never forget the confession we made and our vow to serve Him. And as they, let us say within our hearts, “we are witnesses.”

And to those who are considering giving themselves over to Christ [Joshua 24:23](#) reads “*Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.*” Will you today choose to be on the Lord’s Side?