

EPISODE NO. 102

Joshua 24:2a,3-7,13-28

Joshua's Farewell Speech

2 Then Joshua said to all the people, "This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says:

3 **I** took Abraham, your ancestor, from beyond the Euphrates River, and I caused him to travel throughout all the land of Canaan. I multiplied his descendants. I gave Isaac to him. 4 And, I gave Jacob and Esau to Isaac. I gave the Mount Seir region to Esau to possess, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. 5 I sent Moses and Aaron, when I brought plagues upon Egypt. I was involved there. And, later, I got you people out. 6 I brought your parents out of Egypt. You went into the Red Sea, and the Egyptians chased after your parents with chariots and horsemen into the Red Sea. 7 The people cried out to Me for help, and I put thick darkness between you and the Egyptians. I caused the sea to drown the Egyptians. Your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt. Then you lived in the desert for many years. 13 I have given you a land that you did not work hard for!"

14 "So now, you people need to revere Yahweh, and serve Him with sincerity and truth! Turn away from the gods which your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve Yahweh! 15 But, if it seems wrong to you people to serve Yahweh, then you must make a choice today as to whom you **WILL** serve — (1) either the gods whom your ancestors who lived beyond the Euphrates River served; (2) or, the gods of the Amorites who used to live where you now live. However, as for me and my family, we will serve **YAHWEH!**"

16 Then the people of Israel answered, "We will **NEVER** abandon Yahweh to serve other gods, 17 because Yahweh is our God! He is the One who brought us and our parents north, out of the land of Egypt, out of that house of slavery. Before our very eyes, He performed those great miracles. He has guarded us wherever we have gone, and among all the ethnic groups with whom we have come in contact. 18 Yahweh has driven out all the ethnic groups that faced us, especially the Amorites who live in the land. Yes, we will serve Yahweh, because **HE** is our God!"

19 Then Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve Yahweh, because **HE** is a holy God! **HE** is a jealous God! He will not forgive your rebellions or your sins, 20 **IF** you abandon Yahweh and serve unauthorized gods. No, He will turn away from you and do harm to you. He will terminate you . . . after all the good He has done for you!"

21 But the people said to Joshua, “No! We WILL serve Yahweh!”

22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen Yahweh for yourselves — to serve Him.”

And they said, “Yes, that’s what we are testifying!”

23 Joshua said, “Then you must now turn away from unauthorized gods which are still among you. Give your hearts over to Yahweh, the God of Israel!”

24 The people said to Joshua, “We will serve our God, Yahweh! We will obey HIM!”

25 That day Joshua made a covenant with the people of Israel. At Shechem Joshua drew up for them decrees and laws. 26 And, Joshua recorded these words in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up under the oak tree that was next to the shrine of Yahweh.

27 Then Joshua said to all the people, “Listen, this stone could be a witness against us. It has heard all the sayings of Yahweh that He spoke to us. It will give testimony against you IF you tell a lie against your God!”

28 Then Joshua sent the people away. Each one went to the land-inheritance which God had given to him.