

## **Joshua 23-24**

*Mike Treneer*

### Introduction.

A. Psalm 117 is the shortest psalm in the Bible relating two truths.

1. Praise the Lord all nations.
  - a. God is interested in all nations.
  - b. He is saving people in every nation.
2. Great is God's love toward us.
  - a. God always loves.
  - b. History is really the story of God's faithfulness.
  - c. God means what he says and does what he says.

B. We need to read Joshua in light of God's interest in the nations.

1. Even though God used Joshua to destroy some nations he is interested in saving them ultimately.
2. Israel's purpose was to be a kingdom of priests to the nations.

I. Joshua challenges the people of Israel.

A. He calls them to remember who they are.

1. Remember where we've come from and what God has done for us.
2. Remember what God has promised them.
  - a. The Lord will drive out the nations.
  - b. He has promised to bless Israel.
  - c. Likewise we need to remember what God has promised us.
    1. God has promised to raise us from the grave. (Romans 6:8-11)
    2. We need to offer ourselves to God as redeemed souls.
    3. We have been given a victory over sin that none of us has fully appropriated yet.

4. We can overcome sin and live as worthy representatives of God in this world.

B. Joshua calls Israel to understand how they can possess their inheritance.

1. There is the danger of compromise that would defeat them. (Joshua 23:12)
2. We are to reach out to the nations, being aware that compromise can defeat us too.
3. Jesus prayed that his disciples are in the world but not of the world. (John 17)
4. Where is the evident impact of the saints?
5. Joshua gives two pieces of advice against compromise.
  - a. Be careful to obey all that is written in the book of Moses.
    1. Unfortunately Israel failed to obey God.
    2. Joshua would give the same advice to us today.
    3. Kenya needs to get into the Bible.
    4. People don't know the Bible because they aren't studying it.
    5. We need to understand how its parts relate to each other.
    6. How many have thoughtfully read the Bible through beginning to end?
    7. God help us to know this book and to live by it.
  - b. Be careful to love the Lord your God.
    1. Is anything or anybody holding first place in our affections above the Lord?
    2. Having a daily quiet time for Bible reading and prayer is best way to assure I am following Joshua's advice.
    3. Remember who we are and what we've been given.

C. Joshua calls Israel to be confident in the Lord.

1. God keeps his promises.
2. We don't always understand everything about God but we are sure that he keeps his promises.
  - a. Do you really believe that every promise of God is reliable?
  - b. Joshua ends with the burial of Joseph who remained unburied for 400 years.

c. Maria in the Sound of Music tried to whip up confidence in order to face the children she was teaching, but our confidence is not in self but in the promises of God.

3. We also need to remind ourselves that God is faithful to punish us if we disobey him.

a. God always acts according to his character.

b. Both the promises and the warnings of God are sure.

c. Will we live in confidence of his promises or in the shadow of his warnings?

d. Joshua challenges Israel to choose who we will serve.

e. We need to choose who to serve, self or God.