

God Over All

Joshua 23:1-16

A long time afterward, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them, “I am now old and well advanced in years. And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these

nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you. Behold, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off, from the Jordan to the Great Sea in the west. The LORD your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall

possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you. Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them,

but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day. For the LORD has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day. One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the LORD your God who fights for you, just as he promised you. Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God.

For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground

that the LORD your God has given you. “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you,

so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you, if you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them.

Then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you.”

**A long time afterward, when the LORD
had given rest to Israel from all their
surrounding enemies, and Joshua was
old and well advanced in years**

...And now I am about to go the way of
all the earth

It was one thing to stay up for a five year conquest; it is another to maintain the vigor and vision over the long haul in order to complete the conquest and preserve its results.

– Dale Ralph Davis



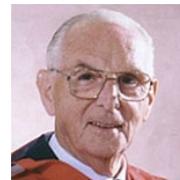
Joshua summoned all Israel, its **elders** and
heads, its **judges** and **officers**

Joshua 24:1

Joshua gathered **all the tribes** of Israel

Leadership training cannot be done on a mass scale. It requires patient, careful instruction and prayerful, personal guidance over a considerable time. Disciples are not manufactured wholesale. They are produced only one by one, because someone has taken the pains to disciple, to instruct and enlighten, to nurture and train one that is younger.

– J. Oswald Sanders



“I am now old and well advanced in
years.

(But?) **you** have seen all that the LORD
your God has done

And you have seen **all that the LORD your God has done to these nations for your sake**, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you.

Psalm 103:2

Bless the L O R D , O my soul, and **forget
not** all his benefits.

And you have seen all that the LORD
your God has done to these nations for
your sake, **for it is the LORD your God
who has fought for you.**

Exodus 14:14

The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.

Psalms 44:3

for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.

The LORD your God **will** push them
back before you and drive them out of
your sight.

Therefore, **be very strong** to keep and to do all that is written in the **Book of the Law** of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or **make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them,**

For God to fail or refuse to value Himself preeminently would implicate Him in the sin of idolatry. Idolatry is honoring anyone or anything as god, instead of God. If God were ever to act in such a way that He did not seek His own glory, He would be saying that something more valuable than Himself exists, and that is a lie. Worse still, it is idolatrous.

– Sam Storms



but **you shall cling to the LORD** your
God just as you have done to this day.

Deuteronomy 11:22

For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and **holding fast to him**

Psalm 44:3

You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice; you shall serve him and **hold fast to him.**

So often we try to develop Christian character and conduct without taking the time to develop God-centered devotion. We try to please God without taking the time to walk with Him and develop a relationship with Him. This is impossible to do.

– Jerry Bridges



For if you turn back and **cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you** and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know for certain that the **LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you,**

Psalm 115:4-8

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. **Those who make them become like them;** so do all who trust in them.

For those who ask life from things which are lifeless, do they not endeavor to the utmost of their power to extinguish all the light of reason? In a word, were they possessed of a particle of common sense, they would not attribute the properties of deity to the works of their own hands, to which they could impart no sensation or motion.

– John Calvin



not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you...But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you...so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has **destroyed you from off this good land**... if you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and **serve other gods and bow down to them.**

1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from
idols.

The only way to free ourselves from the destructive influence of counterfeit gods is to turn back to the true one. The living God, who revealed himself both at Mount Sinai and on the Cross, is the only Lord who, if you find him, can truly fulfill you, and, if you fail him, can truly forgive you.

– Tim Keller

