

JOSHUA 24:14-18 STUDY NOTES (5/29/22)

Joshua's Big Theme: The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

Today's Context: Joshua closes with the Israelites reaffirming their covenant relationship with God. Will the people follow the gods of the surrounding cultures, or fully commit themselves to the one true God?

Additional Study Notes:

- Joshua calls the Israelites to abandon their foreign and false gods. All throughout Israel's time following YHWH, they are continually led astray by foreign idols. The most famous example may be the golden calf in Exodus 32, but they regularly and continually worshiped "gods" like the Ashtoreths and Baal (Judges 2). They would typically worship these gods alongside YHWH. However, God demands exclusive worship of Himself, and is a jealous God, wanting their full attention.

For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request

Discussion Questions

CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 11? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

TODAY'S TEXT

KNOWING God

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: What is your plan for staying consistent in your Bible reading going into the summer? How can you find accountability?

GROWING Together

- (6)* *If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (7) How do we come to identify the false idols buried in our heart which are often hard to recognize at a glance? Why is confessing them not just something God commands but also necessary for our (and our "household's") own wellbeing?
- (8) What does it practically look like to "choose God", every single day? Why is this beneficial for us *and* our households? How would you like to grow in this area?
- (9) How do we keep God out of the realm of abstraction, concepts, and rules, and continually view Him as a personal God, intertwined in our story?
- (10) What have been some of your take-aways from our time in Joshua?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

SHOWING God to Others

- (12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (13) For next week, spend some time reading Psalm 20. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (14) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) Although we don't follow specific gods we do have false idols that fill the role of God. What are some that you have in your life? When are times that you can stop yourself from turning to these idols and instead fill it with time with God?
- (16) In this text the Israelite are given the choice of who they would like to serve. Who do you serve and why? If you serve our Lord, how can you share this with the people around you who don't know Him?