

Generation Oblivious!

A message from our Lord!

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by

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To set the table for where we begin today – where we left off last Thursday and Friday...

Joshua has summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials, and has made his farewell's (**Chapter 23**). Joshua summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel to Shechem, where they presented themselves before God. All those who were under 20 years old when they left Egypt, and who had now entered and taken possession of most of the Promised Land (Canaan) had assembled for Joshua to remind them to serve the Lord, as he was about to go the way of all the earth (die) (**23:14**). A few verses...

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**”

²³ “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

²⁴ **And the people said to Joshua,** “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”

And now, as we are about to head into the book of Judges, let’s take up the last 6 verses of Joshua 24.

Joshua 24:28-33

²⁸ Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

²⁹ **After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten.** ³⁰ **And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.**

³¹ Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.

³² And Joseph’s bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph’s descendants.

³³ And Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah, which had been allotted to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

PRAYER

Judges 2:1-10

¹**The angel of the Lord** went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, *“I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, ²and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? ³And I have also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.’”*

⁴When the angel of the Lord had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, ⁵and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the Lord.

⁶After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. ⁷The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

⁸**Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. ⁹And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.**

¹⁰After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, **another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.**

Wow! There is a lot to unpack here. Really; a lot!

Though we aren't going there – except for 5 words – the book of Judges starts with these 5 words, “*After the death of Joshua.*”

The last verses of Joshua (24) and the passage we just read from Judges 2, both told us a bit more about Joshua's death than those 5 words.

Joshua 24 and Judges 2 both tell us that **Joshua was 110 when he died.** It tells us that he was **buried in the land of his inheritance**, and it tells us where **that inheritance was – in Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.**

While it is interesting that both the books of Joshua AND Judges tell the story of Joshua's death; it is not surprising to me. Joshua's death was the end of an era for Israel. Under Moses, Israel had learned what it meant to be a nation following after God. Under Joshua it was the same way. Joshua had been Moses military leader, but he was a different breed of military man than we often think about. Joshua was first and foremost, a follower of God – he was anything else, second.

Today we would call it a paradigm shift.

par·a·digm shift

noun

a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions.

The old underlying assumption was that the unequivocal leader of Israel was a man of God. A man who communed with God. The approach of both Moses and Joshua was to inquire of the Lord for direction, and then to do exactly that.

The new underlying approach or assumption is found twice in the book of Judges. We will likely look at this at a later date, but for now, it explains in minute detail what those approach's and assumptions were: **Judges 17:6** - ⁶In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Judges 21:25 - ²⁵In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

You might ask: “How can this even be?” “How can a nation who followed after God, so quickly end up doing “what they saw fit?”

I think, these verses we read at the end of our **Judges 2** reading, tells the story.

¹⁰*After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.*

Church of Jesus Christ – this is what we are facing if we neglect to teach our children, and our children's children how God is on their side – how God has a plan – a journey for them, that He will accompany them on.

The whole generation that had seen the miracles of God, gave birth to a generation who “*neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.*”

We cannot be a generation who lets our children grow up without knowing what the Lord has done for us. They need to at least be able to hear our testimony of the great things He has done. Will they know? Who will tell them?

PRAYER

Are you controlling the situation, or is the situation controlling you?

Care, in the midst of crisis.