

decision

The tribes spread across their inheritances. Boundaries marked. Wells drawn. Fields turned. The sound of war has thinned into the rhythm of ordinary days. Axes strike wood. Children run paths where soldiers once marched. Smoke rises from hearths instead of battle lines.

This was promised and fought for.

Years have carved their lines into my hands. Strength does not answer as quickly as it once did. The weight of command has not lifted. It has changed. Battles once stood in front of us, clear and loud. Now the threat hides in slower places. In habits. In compromise. In forgetting.

Will the people hold the ground when no enemy stands at the gate?

I walk the ridges between tribes and hear different voices now. Not the cry for direction in battle. Not the urgency that drove us to seek the Lord at every turn. There is confidence here. There is rest. Both are gifts. Both carry danger when they drift too far.

Altars stand where they should. But will they stand tomorrow?

The nations we did not drive out still breathe along the edges. Their gods have not vanished. Their ways have not faded. They wait. They always wait.

Did we finish what was commanded, or did we grow satisfied with enough?

I remember the Jordan parting. I remember the walls falling. Not by strength. Not by strategy. By the hand of the Lord alone. That truth stands unshaken. But memory does not guard a people. Obedience does.

What happens when a generation rises who did not walk through the riverbed? When stories replace testimonies forged through experience?

The elders are aging. The men who stood with me in battle carry years in their bones. Time moves forward whether or not we prepare for it.

A leader cannot remain forever. A nation must learn to stand under the word of the Lord, not under the shadow of a man.

Will Israel cling to the Lord when the urgency fades, or will comfort loosen their grip?

It's time to speak. Not as a commander in war, but as a witness to everything the Lord has done. The people must hear it again. Clear. Undiluted. Pressed into them before I am gone.

Because what lies ahead will not be won with swords. It will be won or lost in the mediation and doing of the Word.



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definitions

Using a Bible app or the word glossary at the back of this book,
look up each Strong's number to find the definitions.

serve

STRONGS DEFINITION | H5647

sincerity

STRONGS DEFINITION | H8549

Joshua 24:14 Now
therefore fear the Lord and
SERVE him in **SINCERITY**
and in faithfulness.

PUT AWAY the gods that
your fathers served beyond
the River and in Egypt, and
serve the Lord.

put away

STRONGS DEFINITION | H5493

Joshua addresses the nation for the last time.
A commission to make a decision

decode the text

READ JOSHUA 23:1-13

This is Joshua's final leadership meeting with the elders who will guide the nation forward. What instructions, exhortations, warnings, and encouragements does Joshua highlight?

READ JOSHUA 23:14-16

What is emphasized about the certainty of the Lord fulfilling His word, and how are both blessing and discipline presented within that certainty?

READ JOSHUA 24:1-13

Imagine listening to this in the crowd. If you were to retell this account to a friend, how would you summarize it? What stands out to you?

READ JOSHUA 24:14-15

What is the force and implication of Joshua's "now therefore"? How does the choice he sets before Israel expose the impossibility of divided allegiance in a covenant relationship with the Lord?

READ JOSHUA 24:16-27

After hearing Israel's verbal commitment, what concrete, visible actions of covenant response are required, commanded, or carried out? How does action keep your words accountable?

heed

Jesus called us to "take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23) What does it mean to wholly follow the Lord with no divided heart? How does this press the same undivided allegiance demanded of every disciple?

Romans 12:1 calls believers to respond with mercy as a living sacrifice rather than passive reflection. What does Joshua 24 reveal about the Lord's expectation that remembrance of His faithfulness must lead to present obedience rather than settled familiarity?

How does 1 John 5:21's final exhortation to "keep yourselves from idols" reinforce the ongoing necessity of guarding exclusive devotion to the Lord?
