

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

JOSHUA 23

Joshua 23

Joshua twenty-three is the story of Joshua's farewell address to the nation he has led, as Moses before him. Approximately three decades had passed since they entered the land by the miraculous hand of God. Successes and failures had marked their journey. But God had been faithful to His promises and had granted the seed of Abraham victory after victory over peoples that were, in many cases, stronger than they. Joshua had established the capital of the nation in the tribe of Ephraim, of which he was a member. One of Joseph's sons, along with Manasseh had been given some of the best land in all of that which was promised. Half of the tribe of Manasseh had the best of the land of Gilead and all the land of the fertile pastureland of the Bashan, the Golan Heights of modern-day Israel. Manasseh had also been given a huge swath of land in the forest land of the western side near his brother Ephraim. Joshua's tribe of Ephraim had at its heart the city of Shiloh, where Joshua set up the great worship center of Israel. Shiloh remained the capital of the nation for three hundred and sixty-nine

years. Joshua set up the Tent of Meeting, the Tabernacle, into a more permanent structure. The very words are changed to show that the tabernacle had a more permanent base and set of doors, since it would no longer be moved from place to place; the people were home. Shiloh is where all Israel came to worship in the geographical center of the country. Shiloh can be visited today and is an amazing site, as archaeological work is still going on with new discoveries coming at a rapid pace each season.

Joshua in his farewell address reminded the people to never forget the miraculous work of God that had gotten them to the point of where they were, and that they could lose it all through disobedience and a failure to pass the instruction of God on to the next generation. The reality is that every generation must teach the next generation if the blessing of God is to continue.

Prayer and Action Steps

Joshua told the people, "I am going the way of all the earth..." (23:14). So will you. It is appointed unto man to die once..." (Hebrews 9:27). Dear God, help me to live in light of eternity.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
