

Service

“We Will Serve the Lord”

Foundation

Bible passage : Joshua 24:14-26

The Book of Joshua narrates how the twelve tribes of Israel entered the land that the Lord had promised to give them. It records how this was partly God’s judgment on centuries of evil done by the people who had lived there from long before the time of Abraham (v1). By the end of the book the conquest had been completed and Joshua gathered the people.

Verses 14 and 15 the words “serve” and “served” occur 7 times, and a further 7 times in the next 9 verses. Joshua challenged the people telling them, “*choose this day whom you will serve*” and concluding with his on famous affirmation; “*as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*”.

“choose this day whom
you will serve” Josh 24:15

There was then a lively conversation between the various leaders of the people of Israel (see v1) and Joshua about what they would do in response. This ended with the leaders declaring that they would serve the Lord and obey His voice. Therefore, Joshua made a covenant with the people, recorded it in the Book of the Law, and set up a stone as a witness.

Not long after this, Joshua, “*the servant of the Lord*”, died (v29). He had led the people for forty years and it was eighty years since Moses had led them out of slavery in Egypt. Joshua had witnessed several times when people had not served the Lord “*in sincerity and faithfulness*”.

In the centuries ahead there would be a pattern of the Israelites serving the Lord for a time, then being attracted by the worship of others

nations and serving others gods, God sending warnings through prophets, and sending troubles on them, before showing mercy and the people turning back to Him.

However, after eight and a half centuries the entire land God had given to them was ruled by others and relatively small number of Israelites who survived had fled or been taken into exile,

At their best the Israelites had served the Lord faithfully. The good and the bad that they did and that followed are examples referred to in the New Testament and by Christians today, they are things we can learn from.

On one occasion Jesus said that you cannot serve both God and wealth (Lk 16:14) a warning that to serve the Lord means making sure other things do not become more important to us.

The words from all of Joshua 14 verse 15 are regularly referred many with have a poster, tapestry or picture displayed containing the words “*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*”



Serving the Lord faithfully means making sure we don't let other don't take His place and become more important to us.