

## **The Death of Joshua**

Joshua 23 – 24

Judges 2:8-9

by Don Falkos

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The years passed, and the Lord gave the people of Israel rest from all their enemies. Joshua had grown old. He called together the leaders of Israel and said, "The Lord your God has been faithful to you. Now, be faithful to the Lord. Do not intermarry with the Canaanites or worship their gods. If you do, the Lord will remove you from this good land."

Then Joshua assembled all the people of Israel at Shechem. He spoke to them about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, about Moses and Aaron, about their departure from Egypt, their crossing of the Red Sea, their wilderness wanderings, their entrance into the Promised Land, and about all that God had done for them along the way.

"So," he said, "choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the idols your ancestors worshiped? Or the gods of the Canaanites? Or will you serve the Lord who brought you out of Egypt and gave you this land? As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

The people replied, "The Lord is our God."

"The Lord is a holy and jealous God. If you turn away and worship other gods, the Lord will bring disaster on you."

"No! We will serve the Lord!"

So Joshua made a covenant that day with the people of Israel that they would devote themselves to the Lord.

Soon afterwards, Joshua died, as did Eleazar, the son of Aaron, who had served as High Priest alongside Joshua. The bones of Joseph, which had been brought along from Egypt, were buried at Shechem, fulfilling an oath sworn to him on his deathbed centuries earlier.