

**JOSHUA:** *presence, courage, action.*

The Way of All the Earth - Joshua 23:1-16

May 28, 2017

And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. - **Joshua 23:14**

## I. GOD, HISTORY, SPACE AND TIME

- The working of God among the Israelites could be quantified, demonstrated, remembered, and tested (vss. 1-13; Josh. 24:1-13; Deut. 5:6; 8:14; Ezek. 20:34; Dan. 9:15; Acts 7:36; Heb. 8:9; Jude 1:5).
- History matters. Our faith is rooted in space and time events. Christ-followers must be realists (John 2:11; 2:23; 7:31; 12:37; 20:30-31).
- The call to Israel is not to build defensive fortifications or expand their military - the call is to faithfulness (Josh. 23:6-11).

## II. NOW, BEFORE I DIE...

- God has done his part, will you do yours? (Josh 23:9-10)
- Many of God's covenant promises were "if...then" clauses. Joshua calls the people to do their part (Josh. 23:14-16).
- Chapters 23-24 are Joshua's final wishes and exhortations. He wants to ensure that the people know the facts (John 16:1-4; 2 Tim. 4:1-8).

## III. A FULFILLED PROPHECY

- All that Joshua warned against came to pass, and quickly, for Israel. It didn't have to, and it doesn't have to for you (Gal. 5:9-10; Rev. 2:9-11).

**KNOW:** Death follows life, and spiritual death follows apostasy. But apostasy does not have to happen.

**DO:** Remain faithful to God.

### Recommended Reading:

*The Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges (LifePoint Library #248.4 BRI)  
*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Petersen

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Joshua 23:1-16

1. What is the setting for Joshua's speech to Israel? Why does he feel compelled to address them?
2. What seems to be the content of his message to Israel?
3. Why all the warnings against turning their backs on God? What happens to Israel if they do turn away?
4. Why, do you think, does Joshua stress so strongly that God has delivered on all his promises?
5. Why is obedience over the long haul so difficult for us as human beings? What can we do to change that tendency?
6. What are some of your personal take-aways from Sunday's message?