

## 6 – JOSHUA’S DEATH (JOSHUA 22:1-24:33)

### I. Conflict with the Eastern Tribes (22:1-34)

#### A. Joshua’s Encouragement (22:1-8)

- Joshua commended the eastern tribes for fulfilling their obligation to the other tribes.
- Joshua told them to follow the Law, love the Lord and walk in his ways before blessing them.
- The eastern tribes were returning to their homes with much spoils from the conquest.

#### B. The Symbolic Altar (22:9-11)

- As the eastern tribes were returning home, they built a large impressive altar by the Jordan.
- The report of the altar went out and reached the ears of the western tribes.

#### C. The Reaction of the Western Tribes (22:12-20)

- The western tribes gathered at Shiloh in preparation for war with the eastern tribes.
- The western tribes sent a delegation to the eastern tribes.
- The western tribes confronted the eastern tribes about the possible sin with the altar.

#### D. The Eastern Tribes’ Defense (22:21-29)

- The eastern tribes stated that the altar was a memorial that they had a claim to the Lord’s altar.
- It was not for sacrifice or burnt offerings, but it was simply a reminder to all.

#### E. The Reconciliation of Israel (22:30-34)

- The western tribes accepted their explanation and preparations for war ceased.

### II. Joshua’s Final Words (23:1-24:33)

#### A. Joshua’s Challenge to the Leaders (23:1-16)

##### 1. The Timing (23:1)

- It is now years after the Lord had given Israel the land and the people lived in peace.

##### 2. The Challenge (23:2-16)

- Joshua reminded the leaders that their enemies were defeated because Lord fought for them.

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- The remaining peoples of Canaan will be driven out by the Lord.
- They are encouraged to be courageous in doing all that the Lord had commanded in his law.
- They were told not to associate with and embrace the gods of the peoples around them.
- Again, he reminds them that Lord has fought for them and no one can stand against them.
- If they embrace the gods of these nations, the Lord will not fight for them.
- These nations will become a trap for Israel until they perish from the land.
- Stating that he is dying, he points out that the Lord is faithful to his promises.
- But, if they are disobedient to the Lord, they will be punished and perish from the land.

## B. Joshua's Challenge to Israel (24:1-28)

### 1. The Blessings (24:1-13)

- The Lord recounts the blessings upon Israel from Abraham to that point.

### 2. The Responsibilities (24:14-24)

- Israel was to choose between serving God and gods of Ur and Canaan.
- The people affirmed their loyalty to the Lord, but Joshua challenged that loyalty.
- Again, they affirmed their loyalty and Joshua called them to put away the foreign gods.

### 3. The Pledge (24:25-28)

- Joshua renewed the covenant of the Lord and wrote down their pledge to him.

## C. Joshua's Death (24:29-33)

- Joshua died at the age of 110 years old.
- Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and the elders who outlived him.
- Joseph's bones were buried in the land Jacob bought in Shechem.
- Eleazar the High Priest died and was buried in the hills of Ephraim.