

THE JOSHUA STUDY

CHAPTER 22:1-34

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-339 JULY 4, 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“How Then Should We Be Living?” – Part 1

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong and of good courage"

SUBJECT REFERENCE:

Misunderstanding, Division, Unity

INTRODUCTION: Reviewing of Our Previous Message

After having inherited the Promises of God made to Moses and their Fathers, the children of Israel now must learn how to conduct themselves in the Promised Land. If there was a need for them to be instructed then, there must be a greater need for us to be instructed now.

Joshua's Farewell Address

From Chapters 22 to Chapter 24

The People of God are Instructed, Exhorted, in Three Primary Area's of Spiritual Living

To The Congregation in Chapter 22 He Warns of Perils to Avoid To The Leaders of the People Chapter 23 He Teaches Them Principles to Follow

And to The Individuals Themselves in Chapter 24 He Tells Them of Their Privilege to Enjoy

This Was The Settlement of a Nation, The Jewish People

To The Congregation, He Warns of Perils to Avoid

2 Peter 3:10-12

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the celestial heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the atomic elements will melt with fervent heat; both this created earth and the human works men that are in it will be burned up. **11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God (eternity) ??**

perilous times

debilitating, stressful, crushing

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **(and if that weren't enough, they're church goers)** 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

How Then Should We Be Living

this question needs to be addressed today like never before because there is so much confusion about how we should live our lives.

You Can Spend Hundreds of Dollars on Books
You Can Spend Thousands of Dollars on Seminars
You Can hire your local Psych
or you can consult your personal new age guru

But My Friend

you will never know meaning and direction in life until you come to the creator of who you are

It Has Been Said of Old

*"That Every Man Has a Christ Shaped Hole in His Heart
That Only God Can Fill Through Jesus Christ"*

In The Land of Our Christianity

How Then Should We Be Living

The Answer is

To The Fullest, With Great Joy, and With Power
All Summed Up, A Life of Enjoyment

The Christian Life is an Exciting Life

How Then Should We Live

1.) In Obedience to the Will of God

vv. 1-6

1 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, 2 and said to them: "You have **kept** all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have **obeyed** my voice in all that I commanded you. 3 "You have **not left** your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have **kept the charge** of the commandment of the LORD your God. 4 "And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, **return** and **go** to your **tents** and to the **land** of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan. 5 "But take careful **heed** to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, **to love** the LORD your God, **to walk** in all His ways, **to keep** His commandments, **to hold fast** to Him, **and to serve** Him with all your heart and with all your soul." 6 So Joshua **blessed** them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

Decide Now That You Are Going to Obey Him

(with that He will send His Holy Spirit to perform it)

a.) Obedience in All Things

vv. 1-4

1 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, 2 and said to them: "You have **kept** all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have **obeyed** my voice in all that I commanded you. 3 "You have **not left** your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have **kept the charge** of the commandment of the LORD your God. 4 "And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, **return** and **go** to your **tents** and to the **land** of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

The Commendation of Joshua

Verse 2-3

You have **kept** all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have **obeyed** my voice in all that I commanded you. 3 "You have **not left** your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have **kept the charge** of the commandment of the LORD your God.

1 Peter 1:13-14

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

Willful Obedience is Liberating

there's freedom, there's opportunity, there's advancement

b.) Obedience By Doing What's Right

vv. 5-6

5 "But take careful **heed** to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, **to love** the LORD your God, **to walk** in all His ways, **to keep** His commandments, **to hold fast** to Him, **and to serve** Him with all your heart and with all your soul." 6 So Joshua **blessed** them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

#1

take careful **heed**

#2

to love the LORD your God

#3

to walk in all His ways,

#4

to keep His commandments,

#5

to hold fast to Him,

#6

and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

So Joshua **blessed** them

Do What is Right

How Then Should We Live

2.) By Living in the Joy of the Lord vv. 7-9

7 Now to half the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half of it Joshua gave a possession among their brethren on this side of the Jordan, westward. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them, **8** and spoke to them, saying, "**Return** with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren." **9** So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Some 7 years has Passed since the crossing

John 17:13

"But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Envision the Lord, "JOYFULL"

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

a.) Return in the Strength of God's Joy vv, 7b-8

...And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them, **8** and spoke to them, saying, "**Return** with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren."

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

when ever he serve him, he is sure to bestow blessings

*one way of provoking others to His presence
is by blessing those who have been there*

like Obed and David

How Then Should We Live

3.) By Acting Out God's Love Through our Lives vv. 10-12

10 And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan-- a great, impressive altar. 11 Now the children of Israel heard someone say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan-- on the children of Israel's side." 12 And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

a.) Love - By not Judging According to Appearance v. 10

10 And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan-- a great, impressive altar.

b.) Love - By Challenging All Rumors and Gossip v.11-12

11 Now the children of Israel heard someone say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan-- on the children of Israel's side." 12 And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

Now the children of Israel heard someone say
"heard someone say,"

there are two here at great fault, a great sin

The One Who Said it and the one who Listened to it

these were believers

James 3:7-12

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.

Leviticus 19:16

'You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people;

You Can Always Tell What is News vs. What is Gossip

“News”

is when you can proclaim it

“Gossip”

is when you have to whisper it

The Absence and Silence of Joshua is Unusual and Unique

Joshua would have said

“Just Hang on a Minute and See What’s Really Happening”

How Then Should We Live

4.) Graciously

vv. 13-20

13 Then the children of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, 14 and with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel; and each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel. 15 Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying, 16 **"Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD: 'What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the LORD? 17 'Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, (the moabite affair) from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD, 18 'but that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it shall be, if you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. 19 'Nevertheless, if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD'S tabernacle stands, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the LORD, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the LORD our God. 20 'Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.'"**

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

a.) In Defense of Their Zeal for Holiness

vv. 16b

'What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel,

Verse 17

'Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us,

Numbers 25

How Then Should We Live

5.) In Full Faithfulness to God

vv. 21-29

21 Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered and said to the heads of the divisions of Israel: 22 "The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know-- if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day. 23 "If we have built

ourselves an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the LORD Himself require an account. **24** "But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, "What have you to do with the LORD God of Israel?' **25** "For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between you and us, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the LORD." So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the LORD.' **26** "Therefore we said, 'Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, **27** 'but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the LORD.'" **28** "Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.' **29** "Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle."

FAITHFULNESS

Ephesians 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and **faithful** in Christ Jesus:

a.) Faithfulness to the Holy One

vv. 22-23

22 "The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know-- if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day. **23** "If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the LORD Himself require an account.

El Elohim Yahweh

The Lord God of gods, the Lord God of gods, he knows. Or,
The God of gods, Jehovah, the God of gods, Jehovah,

b.) Faithful to Keep the Unity

vv. 24-27

24 "But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, "What have you to do with the LORD God of Israel?' **25** "For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between you and us, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the LORD." So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the LORD.' **26** "Therefore we said, 'Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, **27** 'but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the LORD.

This is a Memorial for You and us for Unity Sake
It's Proof that we were there with you at Shiloh

There Must Be Blood

the new age gospel is a bloodless gospel
powerless and comfortable and global

c.) Faithful to Pass On the Faith	28-29
-----------------------------------	-------

28 "Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.' 29 "Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle."

How Then Should We Live

6.) By Extending Forgiveness	vv. 30-31
------------------------------	-----------

30 Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them. 31 Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, "This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD."

a.) Forgiveness – hearing the Other side	vv. 30
--	--------

30 Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them.

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

31 Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, "This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD."

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

How Then Should We Live

7.) By Living Holy Before God

vv. 32-34

32 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them. **33** So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt. **34** The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

a.) Holy Living Shuts Satan Down

vv. 32-33

32 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them. **33** So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; **they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land** where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

Satan Loves Division

b.) v.34

34 The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

This Was the Motive
of the 2 1/2 tribes to begin with