

Joshua 24 Farewell & Covenant Renewal

Chief message:

- Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness

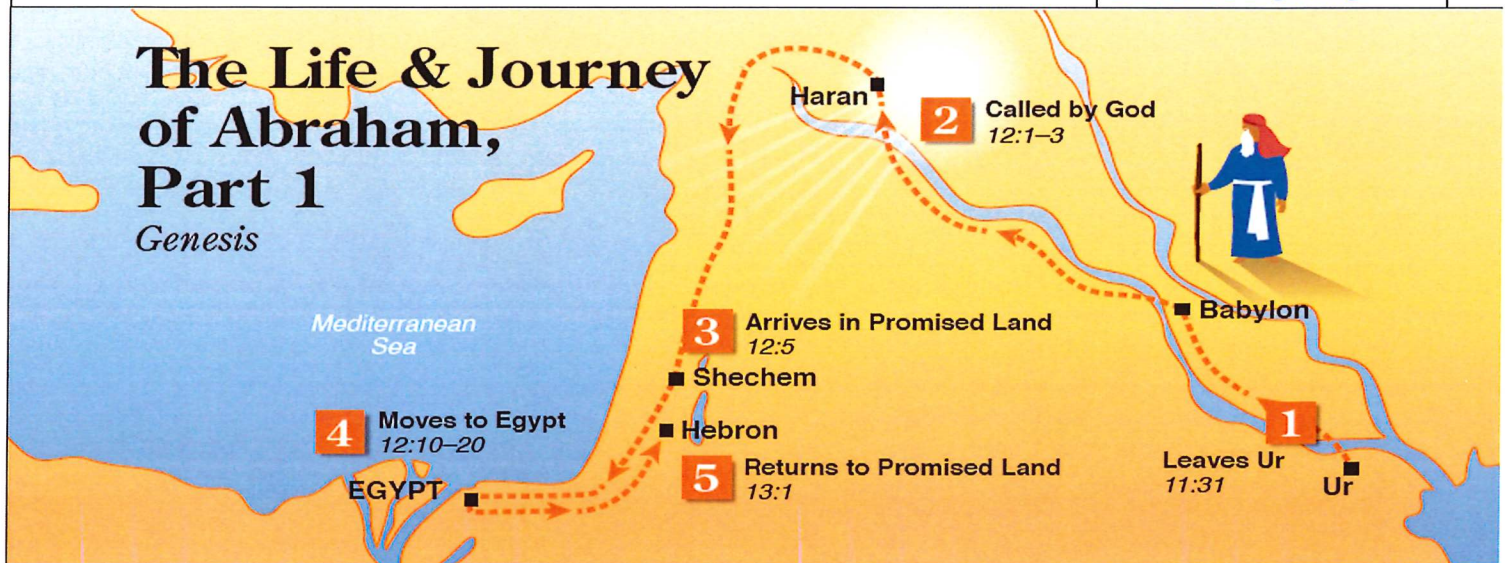
How?

1. Remember:
 - Who we are
 - From where & how our God has brought us
2. Therefore:
 - Throw out the gods your forefathers worshipped
 - Decide on Whom you will serve (false gods or Yahweh)

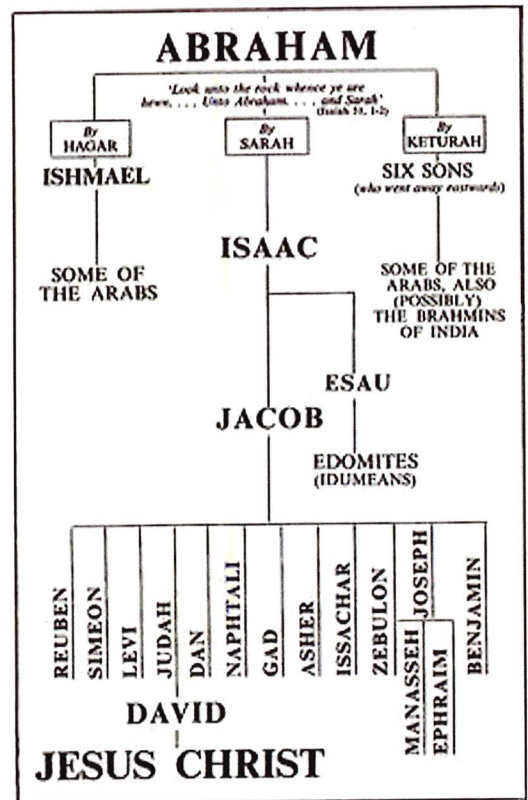
The Covenant Renewal at Shechem

24 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.

VERSES (2b-3a)	GOD'S WAY
<p>"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan,</p>	<p>- Gives grace to a pagan - Chosen only by the mere pleasure of God Likes small beginnings</p>



VERSE (3b)	GOD'S WAY
...and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.	<p>Multiplied Abram's seed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impossibly - Gradually - Massively <p>Confounds expectations</p> <p>Teaches & builds faith</p>

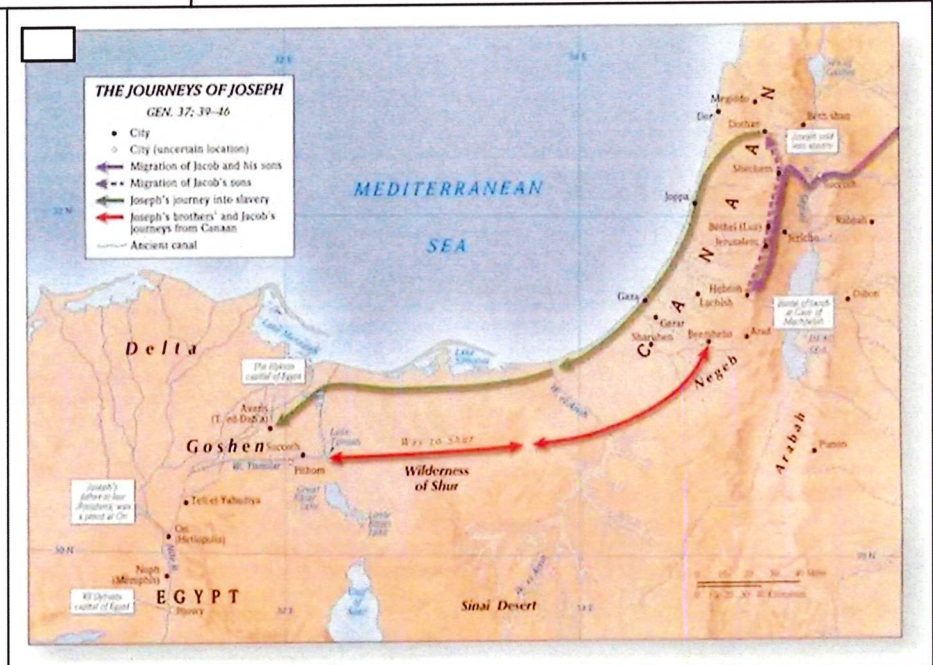


Remember the promise God gave to Abraham?

Genesis 17: 4-5

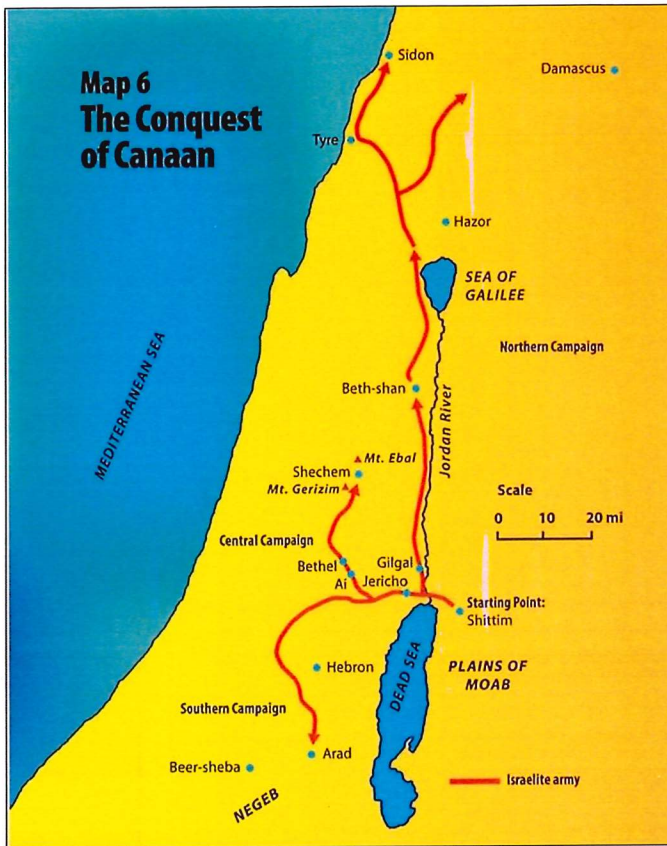
And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

VERSE	GOD'S WAY
⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.	<p>Mystifying.....</p> <p>Unbelievers often enjoy nice circumstances</p> <p>Chosen ones often experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affliction, hard wait for blessings <p>There is still great purpose in the suffering</p>



VERSES (5-12)	GOD'S WAY
<p>⁵And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out.</p> <p>⁶“Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. ⁷And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time. ⁸Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. ⁹Then <u>Balak</u> the son of <u>Zippor</u>, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of <u>Beor</u> to curse you, ¹⁰but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. <u>So</u> I delivered you out of his hand. ¹¹And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the <u>Girgashites</u>, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand. ¹²And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow.</p>	<p>Showing His unmistakable power to protect His people</p> <p>Showing His deep love for His people</p> <p>God's <u>purpose in power</u> is not to demean us, but to transform us into children who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident of help -vs- Manipulators of events • Glad confessors of His strength • Distrustful of self effort to win • Slow to feel abandoned by pain & ambiguity





VERSE (13)	GOD'S WAY
<p>13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'</p>	<p>The Lord knows what we need. Both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessity & • Abundance <p>As a great provider, He's way ahead. Connecting the dots keeps us grateful</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

Choose Whom You Will Serve

14 "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." 21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord." 22 Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel." 24 And the people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and his

voice we will obey.”²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem.²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.”²⁸ So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

JOSHUA	PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
DEMAND (14-15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear the Lord; serve Him w/ faithfulness • Put away foreign gods 	DECISION (16-18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will serve the Lord • The Lord got us here
CAUTION (19-20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are not able to serve Him; He is holy & jealous 	INSISTENCE (21) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, but we will serve the Lord
QUERY (22a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are witnesses against yourselves. Are you sure? 	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (22b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yep; we are witnesses
DEMAND (23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Then put away foreign gods • Then incline your heart to the Lord of Israel 	RE-AFFIRMATION (24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will serve the Lord our God • We will obey His voice

Joshua's Death and Burial

²⁹ After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old.³⁰ And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

³¹ Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

³³ And Eleazar the son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of Phinehas his son, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.