Oct 04, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Barry Hosford

Class Leaders:

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Our salvation is secure because God does the holding

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
He will never fail us, He will not forsake; His eternal covenant He will never break. Onward then, and fear not, children of the day; For His Word shall never, never pass away. — Havergal

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates
(Gen 15:17-18 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 09, 2014)

Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

UNIT 2: From Settled People to Judges

NEXT WEEK
A Faithless Generation (Judges 2:6-15)

A Renewed Covenant
Josh 24:18-27

Lesson Background and Introduction

By the time of the events in today's lesson, the Israelites had defeated various coalitions of Canaanite kings (Joshua 10:28-12:24). However, some parts of the land remained unconquered (13:1-5). Despite this fact, the Lord instructed Joshua to divide the land among the tribes of Israel (13:8-19:51). By allocating the land at this point in time, Joshua demonstrated his trust that God would continue to drive out the other nations and be faithful to his promises to the Israelites (see 23:4-5). The latter half of the book of Joshua depicts his having become elderly (Joshua 13:1; 23:1). We estimate that Joshua was near the age of 85 (14:10). The land and the people were in a season of peace. The elderly leader gathered the leaders of Israel for what some see as a final address. It may not have been all that "final" since Joshua lives to be age 110 (24:29)! In any case, this speech took place at Shechem in the central hill country of Palestine, situated between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim (compare Deuteronomy 27:11-13; Joshua 8:30). In this address, Joshua recounted the history of God's provision, the Lord's faithfulness, their deliverance from Egypt, and, ultimately, their victories in Canaan (Joshua 24:1-13). This history lesson had a point: it encouraged the Israelites to revere God as their only Lord (24:14). The address culminated in a covenant renewal ceremony, referring to the covenant established at Sinai (Exodus 19-24; Deuteronomy 5-6).

Notably, the names Joshua and Jesus come from the same Hebrew verb, meaning "to save." Joshua brought the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan. Jesus, the "pioneer of [our] salvation" (Hebrews 2:10), leads us toward our promised land of eternal life with God. And as one ponders Joshua's words and the commitment to the Lord that he called for, it is not difficult to recognize similarities to Jesus' teaching about what is required to be His disciple (Luke 14:25-33). For us to express commitment to serving God means we will honor Jesus as Lord and demonstrate that commitment by serving him faithfully. Like Joshua's audience, we too must reject the "gods" that threaten to undermine that commitment. Those gods to us are not likely to be statues or images of pagan deities but rather devotion to pursuits - status, wealth, prestige, and comfort - that undermine our commitment to the Lord. We are all guilty of that at times. How do we recognize those times?

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Requirements of the Covenant (Josh 24:18-24)

Separation of the people (18)

Separation from unrighteousness and lawlessness (2 Cor 6:14-17)
Separation from the world (John 15:19)
Separation from the perverse generations (Acts 2:40)
Separation from works of darkness (Eph 5:11)
Separation from sinful brothers so that they will return restored (2 Thess 3:6)

Commitment to the covenant (19-22)

Committed to the covenant because it is with God (Deut 7:9)
Committed to the covenant because of God's compassion (Isa 54:10)
Committed to the covenant because of God's faithfulness (Isa 61:8)
Committed to the covenant because God's love is forever (Ps 89:28)

Serve God (23-24)

Serve God as part of fearing Him (Deut 6:13)
Serve God with all the heart and soul (Deut 10:12-13)
Serve God regardless of the pressure to do otherwise (Dan 3:16-18)
Serve God because it is commanded (Matt 4:10)
Serve God because no one can serve two masters (Matt 6:24)

Witness of the Covenant (Josh 24:25-28)

Witness of obedience (25)

Obedience to show faith (Gen 22:9-12)
Obedience to witness (Acts 8:26-31)
Obedience regardless of prejudice (Acts 10:19-23)
Obedience to follow Jesus (Matt 9:9)

Witness written down (26)

Written to be song and taught (Deut 31:19)
Written as a witness against them (Deut 31:26)
Written on an altar as a witness (Josh 22:34)
Written for a future generation (Ps 102:18)
Written as a remembrance (Mal 3:16)

Witness of accountability (27)

Accountable because the whole world is accountable to God (Rom 3:19)
Accountable at work (Eph 6:9)
Accountable because there are always higher human officials (Eccl 5:8)
Accountable to leaders (Heb 13:17)
Accountable for how we treat others (Matt 18:32-34)