



## FINISHING WELL



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# SERVE THE LORD

Joshua 24:15





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What does this look like?







Serving God together – Conducting prayer retreat for Intercessors from Malaysia Churches (2013)



- 1. Dying man last word i.e. WWW.
- 2. Reminder of the goodness of the Lord.
- 3. How to finish well ie Choose well.

#### JOSHUA'S FAREWELL ADDRESS TO ALL ISRAEL (24:1–33)

#### A. The details (24:1–28) – of God's faithfulness and response of the faithful

- 1. Summary of God's faithfulness and goodness towards Israel (24:1–24):
  - a. What the Lord has done (24:1–13): From Abraham to Moses to Joshua
  - b. What Israel must do (24:14–24):
- 2. Symbol of Israel's promise (24:25–28):

#### B. The deaths (24:29–31, 33)

- 1. Joshua (24:29–31)
- 2. Eleazar (24:33)

#### C. The displacement (24:32):

Joseph's bones, carried to Canaan from Egypt, buried at Shechem.

Adapted from Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Jos 24:1–32). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

#### 1. Summary of God's faithfulness and goodness towards Israel (24:1–24):

a. What the Lord has done (24:1–13): From Abraham to Moses to Joshua

#### In the days of Abraham

3 Then I <u>took your father</u> Abraham from beyond the River, <u>and led him through</u> all the land of Canaan, and <u>multiplied his descendants</u> and gave him Isaac. 4 <u>To Isaac I gave</u> Jacob and Esau, and <u>to Esau I gave</u> Mount Seir to possess it; but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.

#### In the days of Moses

5 Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt by what I did in its midst; and afterward I brought you out. 6 I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea, and Egypt pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 But when they cried out to the Lord, He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them and covered them; and your own eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness for a long time. 8 Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan, and they fought with you; and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land when I destroyed them before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel, and he sent and summoned Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. 10 But I was not willing to listen to Balaam. So he had to bless you, and I delivered you from his hand.

#### In the days of Joshua

11 You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus **I gave them** into your hand. 12 **Then I sent the hornet** before you and it drove out the two kings of the Amorites from before you, but not by your sword or your bow. 13 **I gave you a land** on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

#### 1. Summary of God's faithfulness and goodness towards Israel (24:1-24):

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#### In the days of Abraham

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14 "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 If it is disagreeable in your sight to wil serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

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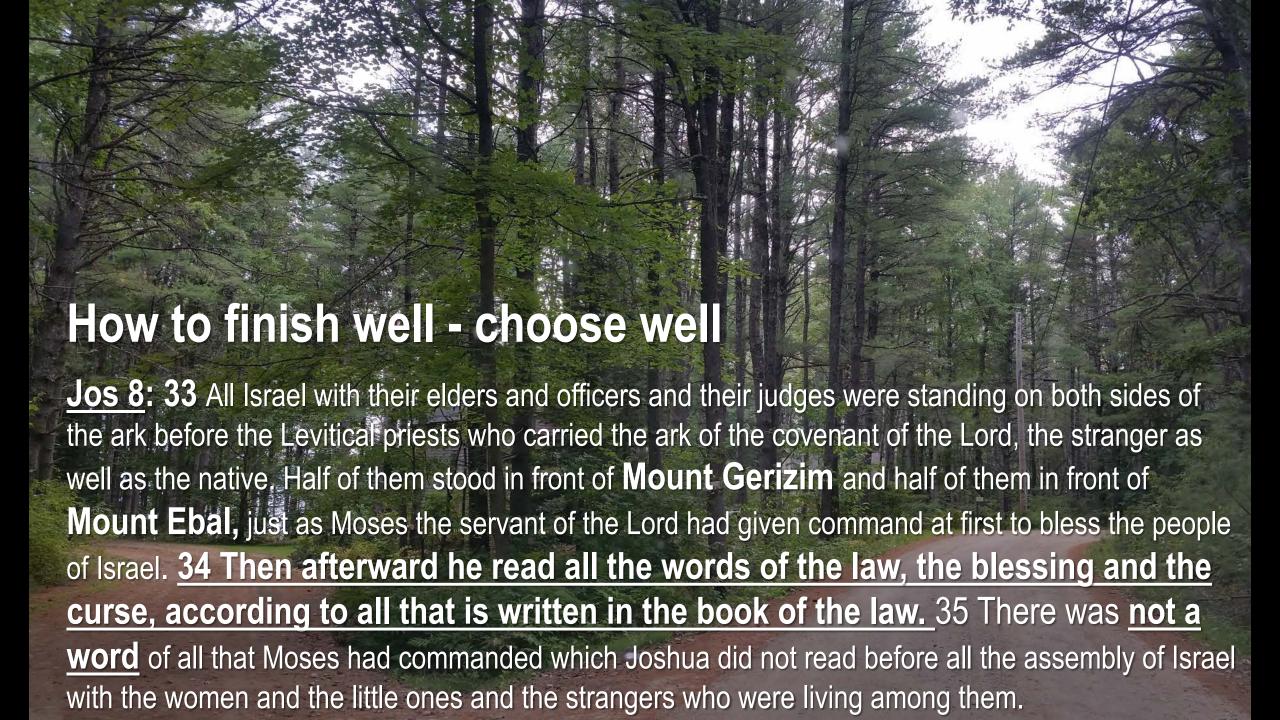




## Choose Life = Love God + Obey God + Hold Fast to God

## How to finish well - choose well

Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So <u>choose life</u> in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 <u>by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His</u> <u>voice, and by holding fast to Him</u>; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."



But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will

# SERVE THE LORD

Joshua 24:15







- 1. Choice must be complete
- 2. Choice must be consistent
- 3. Choice must be carried out



1. Choice must be complete

in sincerity and truth; and **put away** the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."



1. Choice must be complete

Complete means:

- Fear the Lord
- Serve Him in sincerity and truth
- Put away the gods





- 1. Choice must be complete
- 2. Choice must be consistent
- 3. Choice must be carried out



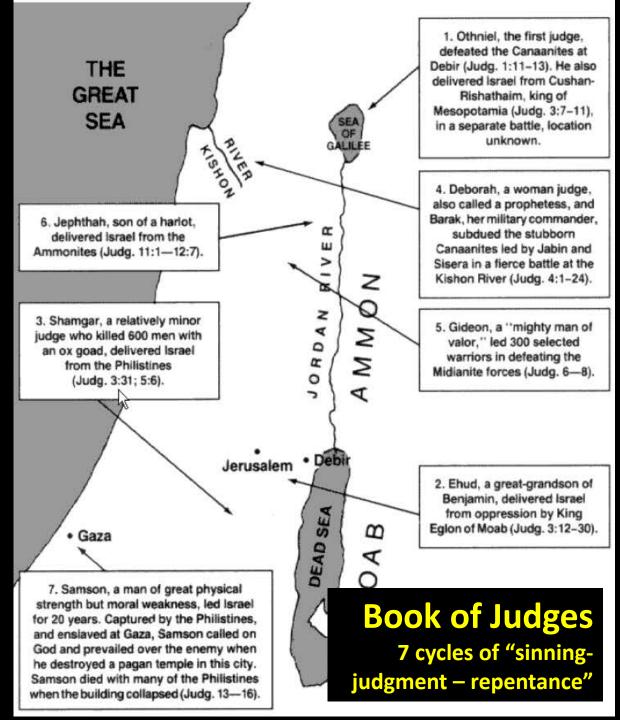
2. Choice must be consistent

19 Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression 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 He has done good to you."



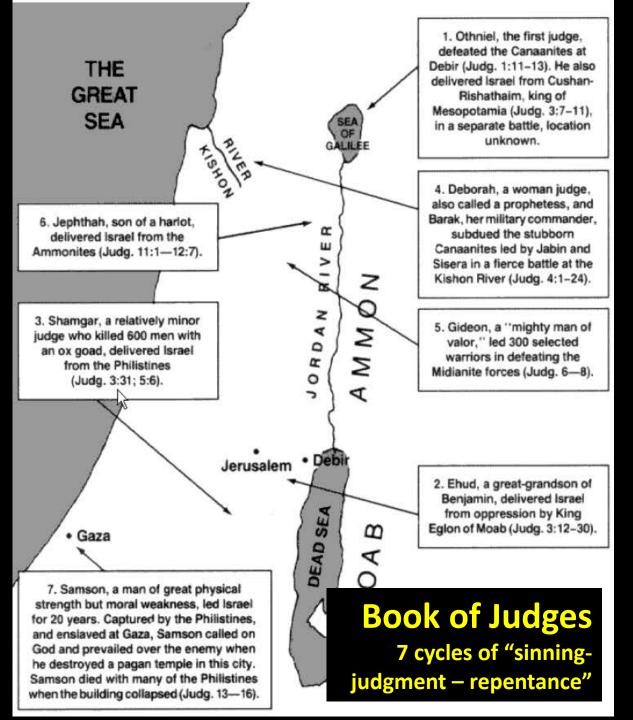
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Judg2:8 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred and ten.... 10 All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.

11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, 12 and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they **provoked the Lord to** anger.



7 x Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.

17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

## WHAT HEZEKIAH DID

He removed all the high places, sacred stones, and cut down Asherah poles.

He also broke the bronze serpent the Israelites had been worshipping

He did right in the eyes of the Lord.

He was able to take back the territory and kingdom that his father had lost.

He restored the Passover...

He was a good king when he was younger.

## WHAT HEZEKIAH DID

Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts, 6 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the Lord. 7 'And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon." 8 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "For there will be peace and truth in my days."

**Context** = visit by Babylonian representatives at Jerusalem to wish Hezekiah well. And he showed them the treasuries of Judah.







- 1. Choice must be complete
- 2. Choice must be consistent
- 3. Choice must be carried out



3. Choice must be carried out

22 Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the Lord, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

14 "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods ... CHOOSE COMPLETELY (2<sup>ND</sup> speech)

19 Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, ... CHOOSE CONSISTENTLY (3<sup>rd</sup> speech)

23 "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

CHOOSE TO CARRY OUT (4th speech)

16 The people answered and ...We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God."

21 The people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord."

24 The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice."



3. Choice must be carried out

25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in 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 oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.

27 Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, so that you do not deny your God." 28 Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance.



#### 3. Choice must be carried out

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Gen 12:6 Abram met God, promise given

Gen 33:17-20 Jacob built an altar

Jos 8:33 Joshua gathered the people for reminder of the Law of God

Shechem = Place of Encounter & Reminder

#### Shechem

= Place of Encounter & Reminder

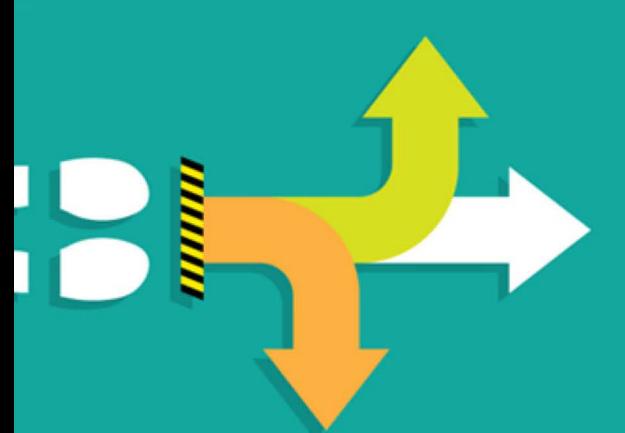
Our "New Shechem"

- = Place of Encounter & Reminder
- = Wallpaper

Download the Joshua 24:15 Wallpaper by scanning the QR Code below



## Choice must be carried out:



- 1. Pray for Family & Cell
- 2. Share the Gospel & lead someone to the Lord
- 3. Bring someone to BBTC



## How to finish well - choose well

- 1. Choice must be complete
- 2. Choice must be consistent
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29 It came about after these things that <u>Joshua the son of Nun</u>, the servant of the Lord, <u>died</u>, being one hundred and ten years old. (<u>Leader of Israel</u>)

32 Now they **buried the bones of Joseph**, which the sons of Israel brought up from Egypt, at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of money; and they became the inheritance of Joseph's sons.

(National Leader of the previous generation)

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

(Priest of Israel)



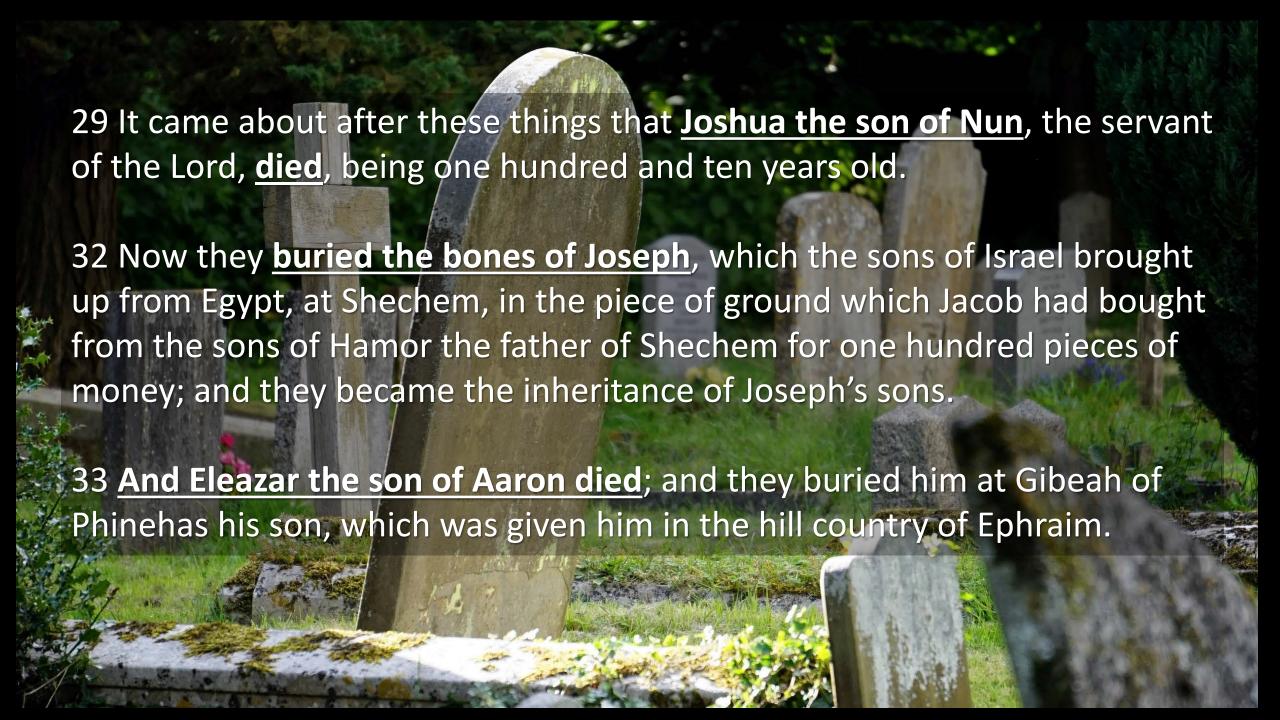
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- He removed all the high places, sacred stones, and cut down Asherah poles.
- He also broke the bronze serpent the israelites had been worshiping.
- Hezekiah did right in the eyes of the lord.
- He was able to take back the territory and kingdoms his father had lost.
- Hezekiah then restores the passover and invites every tribe.

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