

Joshua 24:14-28

v14	faithfulness	(n)	the quality of continuing in the same way over a long period of time
v14	ancestors	(n)	people from your family who lived before you
v16	forsake	(v)	abandon; leave someone you were once loyal to
v17	slavery	(n)	the state of being owned by someone else and being forced to do whatever they want you to do
v19	holy	(adj)	unique; separate; pure and perfect
v19	rebellion	(n)	opposition to authority
v19	sins	(n)	disobedience against God; rebellion against God; ignoring God
v20	disaster	(n)	event with very bad consequences
v22	witnesses	(n)	people who see an event and can tell others what happened
v25	decrees	(n)	official orders made by a ruler
v26	oak	(n)	a kind of tree
v28	dismissed	(v)	gave permission to people to leave
v28	inheritance	(n)	property you receive from someone who has died

Joshua 24:14-28 (New International Reader's Version)

¹⁴“So have respect for the LORD. Serve him. Be completely faithful to him. Throw away the gods your people worshiped east of the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD. ¹⁵But suppose you don't want to serve him. Then choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. You can choose the gods your people served east of the Euphrates River. Or you can serve the gods of the Amorites. After all, you are living in their land. But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered Joshua, “We would never desert the LORD! We would never serve other gods! ¹⁷The LORD our God himself brought us and our parents up out of Egypt. He brought us out of that land where we were slaves. With our own eyes, we saw those great signs he did. He kept us safe on our entire journey. He kept us safe as we traveled through all the nations. ¹⁸He drove them out to make room for us. That included the Amorites. They also lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD. That's because he is our God.”

¹⁹Joshua said to the people, “You aren't able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won't forgive you when you disobey him. He won't forgive you when you sin against him. ²⁰Suppose you desert the LORD. Suppose you serve the gods that people in other lands serve. If you do, he will turn against you. He will bring trouble on you. He will destroy you, even though he has been good to you.”

²¹But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”

²²Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves. You have said that you have chosen to serve the LORD.”

“Yes. We are witnesses,” they replied.

²³“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the statues of the gods that are among you. People from other lands serve those gods. Give yourselves completely to the LORD. He is the God of Israel.”

²⁴Then the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God. We will obey him.”

²⁵On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people. There at Shechem he reminded them of its rules and laws. ²⁶He recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he got a large stone. He set it up in Shechem under the oak tree. It was near the place that had been set apart for the LORD.

²⁷“Look!” he said to all the people. “This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the LORD has spoken to us. Suppose you aren't faithful to your God. Then the stone will be a witness against you.”

²⁸Joshua sent the people away. He sent all of them to their own shares of land.

Judges 2:6-23

v6	dismissed	(v)	gave permission to people to leave
v7	inheritance	(n)	property you receive from someone who has died
v10	generation	(n)	people of approximately the same age who live at the same time
v11	Baals	(p.n.)	Baal was the supreme God worshipped in ancient Canaan. He was worshipped as a fertility god.
v12	forsook	(v)	abandoned; left someone when you should have stayed with them
v12	ancestors	(n)	people from your family who lived before you
v13	Ashtoreths	(p.n.)	Ashtoreth/Asherah was the chief female god worshipped in ancient Canaan, Phoenicia and Syria. Ashtoreth was worshipped as a god of war and love.
v14	raiders	(n)	people who enter a place by force in order to steal something
v14	plundered	(v)	stole things from a place, especially in a time of war
v14	resist	(v)	fight back against attack
v15	distress	(n)	a state of extreme sadness, suffering or pain
v17	prostituted	(v)	had sex with people for money. (This is being used here as a metaphor for the way Israel turned away from God.)
v18	oppressed	(v)	treated in a cruel way
v18	afflicted	(v)	caused someone to feel pain
v19	corrupt	(adj)	morally wrong
v19	evil	(adj)	against God
v19	stubborn	(adj)	unwilling to change
v20	violated	(v)	broke an agreement
v20	covenant	(n)	a solemn agreement between two parties
v20	ordained	(v)	established with authority

Judges 2:6-23 (New International Reader's Version)

⁶ Joshua sent the Israelites away. Then they went to take over the land. All of them went to their own shares of land. ⁷ The people served the LORD as long as Joshua lived. They also served him as long as the elders lived. Those were the elders who lived longer than Joshua did. They had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.

⁸ Joshua, the servant of the LORD, died. He was the son of Nun. He was 110 years old when he died. ⁹ His people buried him on his own property at Timnath Heres. It's north of Mount Gaash in the hill country of Ephraim.

¹⁰ All the people of Joshua's time joined the members of their families who had already died. Then those who were born after them grew up. They didn't know the LORD and what he had done for Israel. ¹¹ The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They served gods that were named Baal. ¹² They deserted the LORD, the God of their people. He had brought them out of Egypt. But now the Israelites served other gods and worshiped them. They served the gods of the nations that were around them. They made the LORD angry ¹³ because they deserted him. They served Baal. They also served female gods that were named Ashtoreth. ¹⁴ The LORD became angry with the Israelites. So he handed them over to robbers. The robbers stole everything from them. The LORD handed the Israelites over to their enemies all around them. Israel wasn't able to fight against them anymore and win. ¹⁵ When the Israelites went out to fight, the LORD's power was against them. He let their enemies win the battle over them. The LORD had warned them that it would happen. And now they were suffering terribly. ¹⁶ Then the LORD gave them leaders. The leaders saved them from the power of those robbers. ¹⁷ But the people wouldn't listen to their leaders. They weren't faithful to the LORD. They served other gods and worshiped them. They didn't obey the LORD's commands as their people before them had done. They quickly turned away from the path their people had taken. ¹⁸ When the LORD gave them a leader, he was with that leader. The LORD saved the people from the power of their enemies. He did it as long as the leader lived. The LORD felt very sorry for the people. They groaned because of what their enemies did to them. Their enemies treated them badly. ¹⁹ But when the leader died, the people returned to their evil ways. The things they did were even more sinful than the things their people before them had done. They served other gods and worshiped them. They refused to give up their evil practices. They wouldn't change their stubborn ways.

²⁰ So the LORD became very angry with the Israelites. He said, "This nation has broken my covenant. I made it with their people of long ago. But this nation has not listened to me. ²¹ Joshua left some nations in the land when he died. I will no longer drive out those nations to make room for Israel. ²² I will use those nations to test Israel. I will see whether Israel will live the way I, the LORD, want them to. I will see whether they will be like their people of long ago. I will see whether they will follow my path." ²³ The LORD had let those nations remain in the land. He didn't drive them out right away. He didn't hand them over to Joshua.