

Challenging the Leaders **Joshua 23**

I. Gathering the Leaders – 23:1-2

1. Discerning the time – 1
They had been in Canaan a long time
God had given rest from their enemies
Joshua was now old & now feeling his age
It was time to turn over leadership
2. He called the leaders to come – 2
Elders, Heads of tribes, judges, officers
Made them aware of need for change

II. God's Faithfulness – 3-5

1. God's faithfulness in the past - 3
He has fought for you as He promised
He has defeated all your enemies
2. God's provision in the present – 4
He has given you the land as promised
Joshua was involved in dividing the land
Each tribe received their portion from God
From the Jordan River to the Mediterranean
3. God's promise for the future - 5
He will expel those people who remain
In time God will them into all the land

III. Joshua's Challenge – 6-11

1. Renew Your Commitment to God - 6
Courageous in your obedience
To the Law of God given by Moses
Do not deviate in your obedience
2. Set apart from paganism - 7
Don't become a part of world around you
Don't identify with their gods
Don't swear allegiance to them
Don't serve them or worship them
3. Cleave to Jehovah, your God - 8-10
Remember all God has done for you - 9
He has given victory over great nations
No enemy is able to stand before you
God's power is promised to you – 10
He will fight for you
Even when you are outnumbered
Continue to love the Lord your God - 11

IV. A Solemn Warning – 12-16

1. Failure to deal with paganism – 12-13
Will lead to involvement with them
Intermarriage will lead to adopting their ways
God will not drive out the pagans - 13
They will be snares for you until you perish
2. God's blessings will cease - 14
Joshua can testify to God's goodness
No good thing God promised failed to materialize
3. God will bring evil on you – 15

Just as surely as good has come
You can expect evil to come
If you turn from the Lord He will destroy you
You will be driven from this good land

4. Consequences of forsaking God - 16
Transgressing His Covenant you perish
Bowling down to other gods brings God's anger
He will expel you from His land
Consider the history of Israel
God deals in judgment with their rebellion
But in grace He faithfully keeps His promises