

An Old Soldier Speaks

In Joshua 23, an old soldier, Joshua, made his farewell address to Israel before his death (vss. 1-2). His address included four important reminders.

First, a reminder of past victories (vs. 3). Joshua pointed out that God "*hath fought for you.*" He had defeated several Canaanite nations so that the Israelites could have peace in their land. How many times do you believe God has been in the background fighting for you? Second, a reminder of future conquests (vss. 4-5). God would continue to help them clear the land from their enemies. Now, God does not just "throw us to the wolves." Those who are righteous will be cared for by God (Matthew 6:7-8).

Third, a reminder of current responsibilities (vss. 6-11). He told them that obedience, separation, and devotion were all necessary to faithfulness. Positively, they were to remember and follow God's law; negatively, they were to not mix with the nations and worship their gods. Fourth, a reminder of God's judgments (vss. 12-16). If they turned away from God, He would no longer drive out the nations. If we turn away from God, we have only "*a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries*" (Hebrews 10:27).

Remember these reminders! In vs. 11, Joshua said, "*Take good heed therefore unto yourselves.*" You should never forget that God has helped in the past and will help in the future. His help depends on your fulfillment of responsibilities and on your living in view of the future judgment. If you would like to know more, please contact us.

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