

Joshua Renewing the Covenant With Israel

Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 10, 1907
Specially Prepared for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Joshua 24:14-28. Memory verses 22-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Choose you this day whom ye will serve."—Joshua 24:15.

TIME.—Near the close of Joshua's life. According to our Bible margins, B. C. 1472, 25 years after crossing the Jordan, and 18 after our last lesson. Prof. Beecher thinks that the time since the crossing of Jordan was much briefer.

PLACE.—The religious capital was at Shiloh (Josh. 18:1). The great assembly for renewing the covenant was at Shechem, between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim.

JOSHUA was nearly 110 years old, living at Timnath Serah, not far from Shechem.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

The conquest of the country took several years, not of uninterrupted warfare, but of wars intermingled with cultivating the fields and making homes and becoming citizens. Although the Canaanites were not wholly exterminated (Josh. 23:12; Judg. 2:2, 3), yet the war was practically ended, and the people gave themselves to the positive work of settling down as prosperous citizens of the Promised Land (Josh. 21:43-45).

Joshua was drawing near to the close of a long and useful life of 110 years. He had been watching the tendencies of the times, and knew well the character of his people and the peculiar dangers to which they would be exposed. Therefore he determined to make, before he died, one more appeal to them, under the most solemn circumstances possible.

It is uncertain whether the last two chapters of Joshua are two different addresses or two reports of the same address. The only importance of the question is its bearing on the structure of the book.

The Polychrome Bible, the Expositor's Bible, and others regard them as two trustworthy reports of the Shechem address, given separately as the editor received them, and not interwoven according to the plan usually adopted.

Others regard them as two similar addresses on the same great occasion to different audiences, the first to a mass meeting of the people, and the second to the officers and judges of all the tribes assembled at Shechem, probably on the sloping sides of Mts. Ebal and Gerizim, where they had gathered 25 years before, on the first entrance into the Promised Land, and made the most solemn promises to God.

Vs. 1-13. No circumstances could be more impressive, as, amid these hallowed associations and memories, the white-haired, beloved leader, saintly in character and touched with the light of a near eternity, arose and made his dying appeal, somewhat as the Apostle John, when very old, went feebly among the disciples, saying continually: "Little children, love one another." In this place all the assembled multitudes could see and hear him. For the air is so clear that a "single voice can be heard by many thousands." The longest recorded distance at which a man's voice has been heard is 18 miles in the Grand Canyon of Colorado. Dr. Young records that at Gibraltar the human voice has been heard at a distance of ten miles.

Joshua first proclaims what God has done in the past, as a motive for trusting and obeying him in the present. Gratitude and love are awakened by his wonderful goodness to them. Faith in him and reverence and awe are inspired by the manifestations of his divine power (vs. 1-13).

Joshua's Conference with the People.—Vs. 14-24. Urges the people to choose you this day whom ye will serve, vs. 14, 15. V. 14. "Now therefore," in view of these facts, "fear the LORD." Not be in terror before him, nor driven from him by fright, but hold him in reverential awe and respect, realize his power to help and to punish, so as to devote yourselves to him in perfect trust. There can be no trifling. "Serve him in sincerity and in Truth." Not in outward forms merely, but also in the heart and the life (John 4:23, 24). The idea, says Prof. Beecher, is rather of wholeness, integrity, than sincerity.

The Double Witness.—Vs. 25-28. First. The Covenant.—V. 25. "Made a covenant with the people that day," i. e., "he solemnly ratified and renewed the covenant of Sinai (Ex. 19:20), as Moses had done before him in the plains of Moab (Deut. 29:1)."—Cook. "Set them a statute." He determined and established "what in matters of religion should be with Israel law and right."

V. 26. "And Joshua wrote." As Moses at Sinai wrote all the words that Jehovah had spoken in a book, probably a papyrus-roll (Ex. 24:4), so Joshua now inscribed "minutes" of the transactions connected with the renewal of the covenant at Shechem. "In the book of the law of God." This protocol he placed inside the roll of the Law of Moses.—Cambridge Bible.

TESTED BY TIME.

A Cure That Has Held Good for Four Years.

Mrs. Mary Crumlish of 1130 West Third Street, Wilmington, Del., says: "Some years ago I began to feel weak and miserable and one day awoke from a nap with a piercing pain in my back that made me scream. For two days I could not move and after that I had backache and dizzy spells all the time. My ankles swelled and I ran down dreadfully. I was nervous and had awful headaches. I wonder that any medicine could do what Doan's Kidney Pills have done for me. They cured me four years ago and I have been well ever since." Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.



Mansfield's Rebuke.

A group of theatrical men were talking in New York about the late Richard Mansfield.

"Mr. Mansfield," said one, was a delightful humorist, a splendid raconteur in society, but at the same time he had a certain proper and becoming sense of his own dignity, and it never paid to be unduly familiar with him.

"He was, as we all know, rather bald. He resented, from barbers, or friends, any allusion to his baldness. 'Well, one night at a party, a man came up behind this great artist, staggered him with a violent slap on the back, and exclaimed in a loud, jovial, familiar voice:

'Hello, Dick. How are you? Every time I see you, you get balder and balder.'

Mansfield drew himself up. He sneered at the other.

'Hello,' he said, 'I don't know who you are, but every time I see you you get ruder and ruder.'

She Did Not Fear Death.

An old lady on her seventy-third birthday once said, "I do not mind getting old, and I do not fear death, but I live in constant fear of paralysis."

"For some time I have been wanting to tell you of the great good your wonderful Sloan's Liniment is doing here," writes Mr. James F. Abernethy, of Rutherford College, N. C. "In fact, all your remedies are doing noble work, but your Liniment beats all. In my eight years' experience with medicine I find none to go ahead of it, having tried it in very many cases. I know of one young man, a brick-mason, who suffered from a partial, yes, almost complete, paralysis of one arm. I got him to use your Liniment, and now he can do as much work as ever, and he sings your praise every day. I get all to use it I possibly can and know there is great virtue in it. I have helped the sale of your noble remedies about here greatly, and expect to cause many more to buy them, as I know they can't be beat."

So Impolite.

"Oh!" gasped Caesar, as he felt the thrust of Brutus' dagger. "How rude of you to cut an old friend!"

Hides, Pelts and Wool.

To get full value, ship to the old reliable N. W. Hide & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

It's difficult to generate Philosophy on an empty stomach.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c. You pay 10c for cigars not so good. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

There is no harmony in any song in which the heart does not sing.

JUST WHAT HE WANTED.

Surely Here Were Musical Tastes Enough to Suit Anybody.

A gentleman of the most cultivated musical tastes, wishing to change his residence, advertised for rooms in a private family "fond of music." The next mail brought him the following reply:

"Dear Sir: I think we could accommodate you with rooms, and as for music one of my daughters plays the parlor organ and gitter; another one plays the accordeon and banjo; I play the cornet and fiddle; by wife plays the harmonica and my son the flute. We all sing and if you are good at tenner singing you would fit right in when we get to singing gospel hims evenings, for none of us sings tenner. Or if you plays the base vial we have one right here in the house. If you want music as well as rooms and board we could accommodate you and there would be no extra charge for it. Lippincott's.

FAMILY'S SKIN TROUBLES.

Eczema, Heat Rash, and Scalp Affections Afflict Different Members, But Cuticura Cures Them.

"My wife had eczema for five or six years. It was on her face and would come and go. We thought we would give the Cuticura Remedies a trial. We did so and she has never had a sign of eczema for four years. I myself used Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment some time ago for falling hair. I now have a very heavy head of hair. We used Cuticura Remedies for our baby, who was nearly bald when young. She has very nice hair now. She is very fleshy, and we had so much trouble with heat that we would bathe her with Cuticura Soap and then apply Cuticura Ointment, it would dry the heat up so much quicker than anything else. Mr. H. B. Springmire, 323 So. Capital Street, Iowa City, Ia., July 16, 1905, and Sept. 16, 1906."

Strong Indications.

"Do you think the intentions of young Gotrox are serious?" asked the anxious mother.

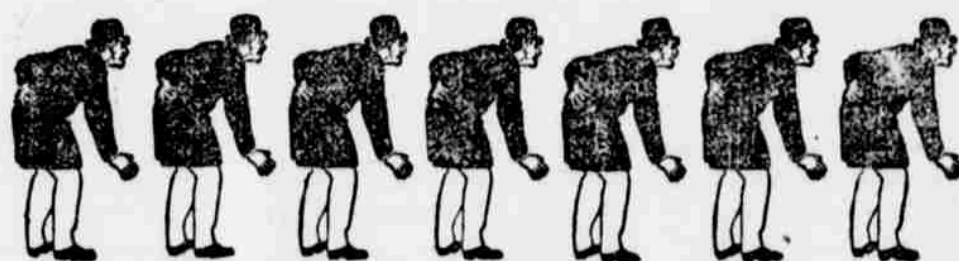
"I'm sure they are, mamma," replied the pretty daughter. "Why, only last night he laughed heartily at one of papa's alleged jokes."

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There's no advantage in making men weary with a sermon inviting them to rest.



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Inflammation or irritation caused by some feminine derangement may spread to some extent to the Kidneys and affect them. The cause can be so far removed by using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound that the trouble will disappear.

When a woman is troubled with pain or weight in loins, backache, swelling of the limbs or feet, swelling under the eyes, an uneasy, tired feeling in the region of the kidneys, she should lose no time in commencing treatment with

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

It may be the means of saving her life. Read what this medicine did for Kate A. Hearn, 520 West 47th Street, New York, who writes:—

"Dear Mrs. Pinkham:—'I owe a debt of gratitude to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for it has saved my life. I suffered with Kidney trouble, irregularities and painful periods, and my blood was fast turning to water. I used your medicine for some time and it has made me strong and well.'

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound made from native roots and herbs cures Female Complaints, such as Falling and Displacements, and Organic Diseases. Dissolves and expels Tumors at an early stage. It strengthens and tones the Stomach. Cures Headache, General Debility and invigorates the whole system. For derangement of the Kidneys in either sex Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is excellent.

Mrs. Pinkham's Invitation to Women

Women suffering from any form of female illness are invited to write Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass., for advice. It is free.



MISS KATE A. HEARN

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"Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-West Provinces, excepting 2 and 25, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person the sole head of a family, or male over 18 years of age, to the extent of four-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less."

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E. L. WOLLOTT, Wollott Building, New York.

W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 45, 1907.

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before I began, and am able to do my work." Try it. FREE BOOK FOR LADIES

female trouble, experienced deathly pains, every month. I had doctors from different places, but none of them did me any good, and I ran down to 97 pounds.

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