

## **Some Fathers Do Know Best**

### **Joshua 24:15**

15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Many of you will remember the tv show back in the 50s, yes I said the 50s called Father Knows Best.

If someone today would suggest such a title of a show they would be drummed out of the business.

Imagine a series that was centered around a wise and caring father that provided for his family and gave needed advice and council. Seldom was he ever wrong but he was always supportive.

It was a heart warming, cheerful and delightful series. Each week would present a situation that would need the strong fatherly presence that the actor provided. The wife respected her husband and the husband loved his wife. The children, although normal children were loved and trained to become responsible adults.

Boy it is a good thing that we finally broke away from those dangerous and demeaning stereotypes.

In my lifetime our nation has been led to make many new choices. Most of which our society suffers for every day.

As we will see, as it was in Joshua's day so it is in our day people are called upon to make choices between differing value systems. And we either are blessed or cursed because of the choices we make as a society.

Joshua has had a long career among the children of Israel. The first time we see him is in Exodus 17 where Moses calls on him to gather a fighting force to battle against Amalek. He was probably about 40 years younger than Moses.

He becomes a vital part of Moses' administration and is the only man allowed to go part way up Mount Sinai when Moses received the law from God.

He along with Caleb are the only two of Israel over 20 at the time of the exodus to enter the land of Canaan.

He has become Moses' successor and has led the children of Israel to victory over the inhabitants of Canaan.

He is about 110 years old now and soon will die but he challenges Israel to remain true to their God. Which they did all the days of Joshua and all the days of the men who had known and fought along side of Joshua.

But Joshua understood the depravity of mankind. He knew that the children of Israel would turn

away from God and they eventually did.

Before he give them this challenge he gives them a word from God.

Joshua 24:1-15 (NKJV) 1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. 4 'To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 'Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagues Egypt, according to what I did among them. Afterward I brought you out. 6 'Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 'So they cried out to the LORD; and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, brought the sea upon them, and covered them. And your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. Then you dwelt in the wilderness a long time. 8 'And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you. 9 'Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you. 10 'But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. So I delivered you out of his hand. 11 'Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you--also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand. 12 'I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow. 13 'I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' 14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

- I. Joshua gives them a history lesson.
  - A. He reminds them of the call of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
  - B. He reminds them of their slavery in Egypt which some would remember.
  - C. He reminds them of their miraculous deliverance and ascribes all this to the LORD.
  - D. He reminds them of the more recent past concerning Balak and Balaam.
  - E. He reminds them of the taking of the land and how God delivered their enemies into their hands.

- II. He charges them in V-14
  - A. "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!
- III. He gives them a choice.
  - A. V-15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.
  - B. That is the problem, there are so many choices we can make.
    - 1. But most of them are wrong.
    - 2. Most of them will lead away from the God of the Bible.
  - C. Israel never completely forsook the worship of God.
    - 1. But what they did is that they added other gods who were of course opposed to the true God.
    - 2. It is like a man who does not divorce his wife but adds more and more women to his love life.
    - 3. So is it any wonder that God rejected them?
    - 4. Their devotion and love for Him was fake and contrived.
    - 5. They "played the harlot" as God continually says in the prophets.
- IV. He plainly declares his mind in the matter.
  - A. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
    - 1. Joshua was not ashamed of the God that he served.
    - 2. He had seen the results of forsaking God.
    - 3. He had seen the best and the worst of men.
  - B. We need father's today that will declare that they will stand with Joshua.
    - 1. Come what may they will serve the LORD.
    - 2. Come what may they will not compromise, they will not yield to the pressure to be like the world.
    - 3. And they will do all that is within their power to bring their families with them.