

Joshua 8:30-35

Renewing the Covenant

The recap: Joshua so far....

Chapter 1 – Moses has died, and the commission passes to Joshua. *“...take the people over the river Jordan to the land which I am going to give you”*.

Chapter 2 – Rahab hides the spies

Chapter 3 – Israel crosses the Jordan

Chapter 4 – The 12 memorial stones set up after the crossing

Chapter 5 – The circumcision of the second generation of the people

Chapter 6 – The destruction of Jericho / marching around the Walls of Jericho

Chapter 7 – A defeat at Ai, and Achan’s sin, and his death

Chapter 8 – The fall of Ai.

Last time around *(Joshua 8:1-29)*

- 1. *A window into God's nature.***
- 2. *The fullness of God's forgiveness***
- 3. *The folly of covetousness***
- 4. *In all your ways acknowledge God***
- 5. *Keep on until the work is done***
- 6. *A public reminder of God's judgment***

The setting: *Shechem, Mount Ebal and Gerizim*



Shechem, Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim



1. God Worshipped

V30-31. An altar is built.

The area of Shechem has historic significance for the people

- Genesis 12 – Abraham builds an altar there
- Genesis 33 – Jacob builds an altar there

After the battle of Ai, the people journey about 30 miles to do what God has asked.

Joshua builds it as he was told to do (*Exodus 20:25 – smooth stones, not worked on by any iron tool*).

God sets out how this worship was to be done.

Acts 4:12: “Neither is there salvation in any other....”

Matt 21:42 “The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone”

2. God's Word - written

V 32-33 God's word is written out... on whitewashed stones.

Kings would celebrate their achievements by writing /drawing them out for all to see.

But Joshua writes out God's law. This is what the people must value.

Israel's strength is not in their leader, their tactics, their army.... It is in their obedience to God and His Word.

Moses asks (Deut 4:8) *“what great nation is there that has such statutes, and such righteous judgements, as are in all this law, which I set before you this day?”*

Think of the value of God's written Word, for us, for others, for those who have never yet heard of Him. Pray that the Word of God will accomplish much, by the Spirit's power.

3. God's Word Heard

V 33-35 : The Law is read out in the hearing of all the people

6 tribes to stand on the slopes of Mount Ebal, 6 tribes to stand on Mount Gerizim. An impressive sight!

The law was read – the blessings, and the curses. Each side would be called to respond “Amen”!

The law was just read. Not added to, or taken away.

It was read to everyone. It was read in full.

And the people were charged to **respond**. ***What is our response to what God has done?***

Eph 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

Joshua 24:15 – “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.”