



Background

- Entering the land (1–5)
- Taking possession of the land (6–12)
- Distribution of the land (13–21)

Context

- LOVE GOD by living in covenant obedience as God's witness in the land (22–24)
 - In the last three chapters of Joshua, the book comes to a close with three assemblies.
 - Joshua 22 – an emergency meeting
 - Joshua 24 – renewal of covenant with the LORD
 - Joshua 23 – personal appeal for Israel to
 - love God and guard
 - guard from idolatry
- Brief outline of Joshua 23

A Looking Back: Joshua's Exhortation to Remember **God's Promise** (v. 2b–5)

B Looking to the LORD: **Cling/ cleave** to the LORD (vv. 6–10)

C Guard Yourself and Love the LORD (v. 11)

B' Looking to Canaan: Don't **Cling/ cleave** to Idols/ The Rest of These Nations (v. 12–13)

A' Looking Ahead: Joshua's Exhortation to Remain Faithful to **God's Promise** (vv. 14–16)

Joshua 23

Loving God by a committed obedience to Him [23:1 – 13]

- Joshua's exhortation to the congregation is set in two contexts (v.1)
 1. The LORD had given Israel rest from their enemies
 2. Joshua's old age
- The leaders were specifically mentioned (v.2)
- A throwback and thrust forward (v.3 - 5)



- Israel's appropriate response to God's faithfulness (v. 6 - 13)
 1. Keep and do God's word
 2. Love the LORD

Warning against breaking faith with a Faithful God [23:14 – 16]

- Joshua repeatedly affirmed that God is faithful to His word
 - To save (v.14)
 - To judge (v.15 - 16)
- God is a jealous God
 - Exodus 20:5 – 6
 - Exodus 34:13 – 15
 - Deuteronomy 6:14 – 15
 - Joshua 24:19 – 20
- *The jealousy of God is His holy commitment to his honor, glory, and love that manifests itself in the salvation of his people and the just condemnation of all who stand in opposition to him.*
[from The Gospel Coalition; <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-jealousy-of-god/>]



Thinking & praying through...

1. What concerns would our last speech to the next generation reflect?
2. What concerns does our current way of life reflect?
3. How do we continue to uphold the centrality of God's word in all aspects of our lives?
4. How does Christ's work of salvation help us apply the same concerns to guard our hearts and to keep God's word?