Joshua Renews the Covenant

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Context

- Exodus 21-40: unpacking the covenantal relationship between God and the Israelites
  - Themes: law, God's presence, obedience
  - ch.21-24: laws and instructions, covenantal meal
  - ch.25-40: God's presence, mobile sanctuary

Context

- Leviticus:
  - Holiness manual, "how to be holy"
  - ch.1-7: ritual sacrifices, atonement
  - ch.8-15: role of priests
  - ch.16-27: more rules, call to live differently

Context

- Numbers:
  - Two censuses (numberings): ch.1-4 and ch.26
  - Wilderness - Grumbling, rebellion, revolts
  - Moses is not allowed to enter the Promised Land
  - Joshua chosen as the next leader

Context

- Deuteronomy:
  - Series of speeches by Moses; people about to enter the Promised Land
  - 10 Commandments; Shema
  - Covenant renewal

Context

- Joshua:
  - Military conquests; enter the Promised Land; conquer the Canaanites
  - Territory divided up between the 12 tribes of Israel
  - ch.23: Joshua's farewell speech to the leaders
    - Remain faithful to God

Joshua 24

- v.1: Joshua assembles the nation of Israel
- vv.2-13: lengthy speech from God, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says…" (v.2)

Joshua 24

- vv.2-5: from Abraham to Jacob/Israel (Genesis)
- vv.5-7: Moses and the Exodus
- vv.8-10: Amorites & Moabites, Balaam & Balak (Numbers 22-24)
- vv.11-13: Jericho and the Conquest (Joshua)

Joshua 24

- God is the primary agent: “I took your father Abraham…” (v.2), “I gave him Isaac” (v.4); “I sent… I afflicted…. I did… I brought…” (v.5)
  - “‘…You did not do it with your own sword and bow. So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.’” (vv.12b-13)

Joshua 24

- v.14: “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord…”
- v.15: “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.”
- v.15b: “…But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24

- vv.16-18: “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

Joshua 24

- vv.19-20: “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”
  - “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God, am a jealous God” (Exodus 20:5)

Joshua 24

Micah 7:18-19 NLT: Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?
You will not stay angry with your people forever,
because you delight in showing unfailing love.
Once again you will have compassion on us.
You will trample our sins under your feet
and throw them into the depths of the ocean!
You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love as you promised to our ancestors Abraham and Jacob long ago.

Joshua 24

- v.21: "No! We will serve the LORD!"
- v.22: Joshua makes sure, calls them witnesses; they say "yes!"
- Joshua and Israel renew their covenant with God (vv.25-28)

Takeaways

- Importance of recommitment
  - God will forgive when we are unfaithful
- The richness of intergenerational faith and how important it is to share our faith stories to the next generation
  - v.15: "as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD"