

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

May 22, 2022

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Titus 3:1-8 *Tracey South*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *The Anniversary of a Church* (II Kings 22:1-17)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Announcements

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our spring cleanup day! We had a good turnout, and “the people had a mind to work!” (Nehemiah 4:6).

This morning’s message is the one Pastor Kurth will give at the 14th anniversary service of the *Grace Bible Church* in Appling, Georgia. Please give Pastor any and all feedback, and be praying for that speaking engagement.

Our Spring Picnic date: Sunday, June 5.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today’s cross reference sheet & silence your phone.

Joshua 24:1-33 *Joshua Gives A History Lesson*

Joshua began to rehearse Israel’s *history* in Shechem, for that’s where the nation got *started*. It’s the spot where the *fa-ther* of Israel first entered Canaan (Gen.12:1-5). So this history lesson marked *a fresh start*, a chance to begin again after all their rebellion against God, and this time *get it right*.

Abraham’s kindred worshipped other gods (Josh.24:2), so God called him *away* from them (v.3cf.Gen.12:1,2). God chose *him* to make this fresh start after the tower of Babel (Gen.11) because he had *a faithful heart* (Neh.9:7,8), a heart like David’s (Acts 13:21,22), that *never messed with idols*. No wonder God called Abraham to make this fresh start! And now, 500 years later, God was making *another* fresh start with *Abraham’s seed* in Shechem, the place where Abraham got *his* fresh start. God gave him Isaac (Josh.24:4), but Isaac let his wife worship idols (Gen.31:19). Then they went to Egypt (Gen.24:4) and were *surrounded* by idols.

After “a long season” (Josh.24:6,7) of 40 years in the wilder-ness, you’d think they’d *forsake* idolatry, but no (Ex.32:3,4). God wanted to kill them all for this and make *another* fresh start *with Moses* (Ex.32:10). He was testing Moses to see if he remembered that He’d promised to make a fresh start with Abraham, and Moses passed. So Israel remained God’s people, and He fought for them (Josh.24:8-10). When Bal-aam couldn’t curse Israel, he taught Balak how to curse them by enticing Jewish men to worship his pagan women, and Jews were soon worshipping their gods. God slew 24,000 of them because of it, and only Phinehas stopped Him from killing them all (Num.25:1-10). God *continued* to fight for Israel when they got to the Promised Land (Josh.24:11-13).

Once in the land, you'd think they'd finally be free of idola-try, but Joshua wouldn't have had to tell them to forsake their idols if they had (Josh.24:14). And there was no better place to bury their idols and make a fresh start than in Shechem, where Isaac buried his wife's idols & all others (Gen.35:4).

The Jews swore they could serve God (Josh.24:15-18), but Joshua kept telling them they *couldn't* (v.19), because to serve God you had to *keep His commandments* (Josh.22:5; IKi.9:6,7) *perfectly* (James 2:10,11) or be cursed (Gal.3:10).

When Moses *gave* the law, the Jews said they could keep it (Ex.24:3). God let them try—and they failed! Joshua tried to get *his* Jews to admit they couldn't serve God by keeping it by pointing out they couldn't get past the very *first* commandment (Josh. 24:20 cf. Ex.20;2,3). They ignored their history and so were doomed to repeat it. It didn't take long (Judges 2:11,13). Even after 70 years in captivity, we know the Jews *still* thought they could keep the law, for they were “cursed” when they agreed to it again (Neh.10:29). Here in Joshua 24, they *insisted* they could keep it (24:21-23).

The law was a *covenant*, a *contract* that required “witnesses” (24:22), like Moses had when he *gave* the law (Deut. 31:12-26). God told them to incline their heart to Him (Josh. 24:23), knowing they didn't have a heart in them that could (Deut.5:27-29). God later told them to *make* themselves a new heart (Ezek.18:31), knowing He'd have to do it for them in the kingdom (36:26,27). *That's* the fresh start that'll stick!

Moses gave the law in the beginning of his rule to see if they could keep it, then again at the end of it after they proved they couldn't. Joshua gave it in Joshua 8 to see if they could keep it, then here after they proved they

couldn't. God gave it in the Old Testament to see if they could keep it, and will give it again in the kingdom *with the power to do it*.

Joshua ends by talking about Joseph (Josh.24:32) because Joshua and Joseph were types of Christ. Both died at 110 (Josh.24:29 cf. Gen.50:26). Joshua was Israel's savior, Joseph was *the world's* savior. Eleazar (Josh.24:33) was to Joshua what Aaron was to Moses. Moses and Joshua were lawgivers, Aaron & Eleazar saved them from the law's curse

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

May 22, 2022

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

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