

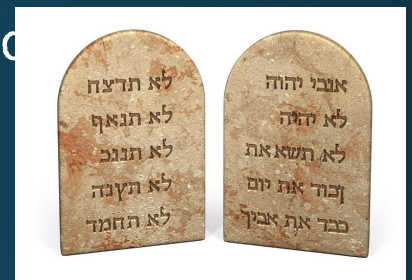
There is no mention in the Bible of Joshua being married or having a family of his own. This is yet another way that Joshua was a type of Jesus.

Joshua 23 – 24

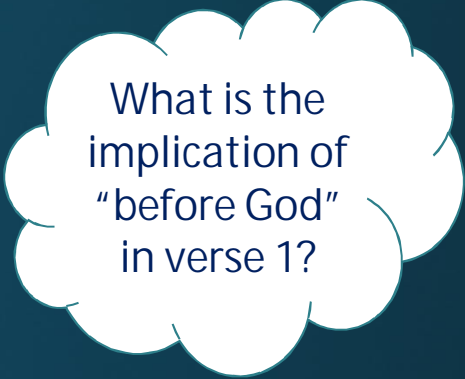
## Joshua's Farewell Addresses

# I Could Be Dead Before I Finish This Sermon (chapter 23)

- God has been fighting, and will fight, for you (v. 3-5, 9-10)
- But you must stay true to God
  - Strictly adhere to law of Moses (v. 6)
  - Do not associate with pagan nations that remain (v. 7, 12)
  - Love and cling to God (v. 8, 11)
- Otherwise God will not fight for you (v. 13)
- God's promises are true – both the good and the bad
  - God has delivered 100% on His promises (v. 14)
  - He also promises to destroy you if you will not serve Him (v. 15-16)



# Thus Says the Lord (24:1-13)

A white thought bubble with a black outline, containing text. It is connected to the main text by three small white circles of increasing size.

What is the implication of "before God" in verse 1?

- Joshua uses first-person ("I") on God's behalf
- Review of Israel's history from Abraham until Moses (v. 1-5)
  - Abraham's family served other gods; I separated him
- Captivity and deliverance from Egypt (v. 5-7)
  - I sent plagues, parted Red Sea; YOU did time in wilderness
- Success in trans-Jordan territory (v. 8-10)
  - I defeated Amorite kings, and intervened with Balaam / Balak
- Success in promised land (v. 11-13)
  - I defeated many nations; I gave you these ready-made cities, fields

# Decision Time (24:14-15)

- Why does Joshua say, “put away your gods”?
  - They must have still had some, somewhere
- What are some modern parallels?
  - Movies, music, books, clothes that are contrary to God
  - Old friends, hobbies who pull you away from God
  - Past religious practices
- You’ve got to serve somebody
  - a. The gods your ancestors worshipped beyond River or in Egypt
  - b. The gods of the people in this land (which God just defeated)
  - c. The Lord (Jehovah)

# Serving God is Evil? (24:15)

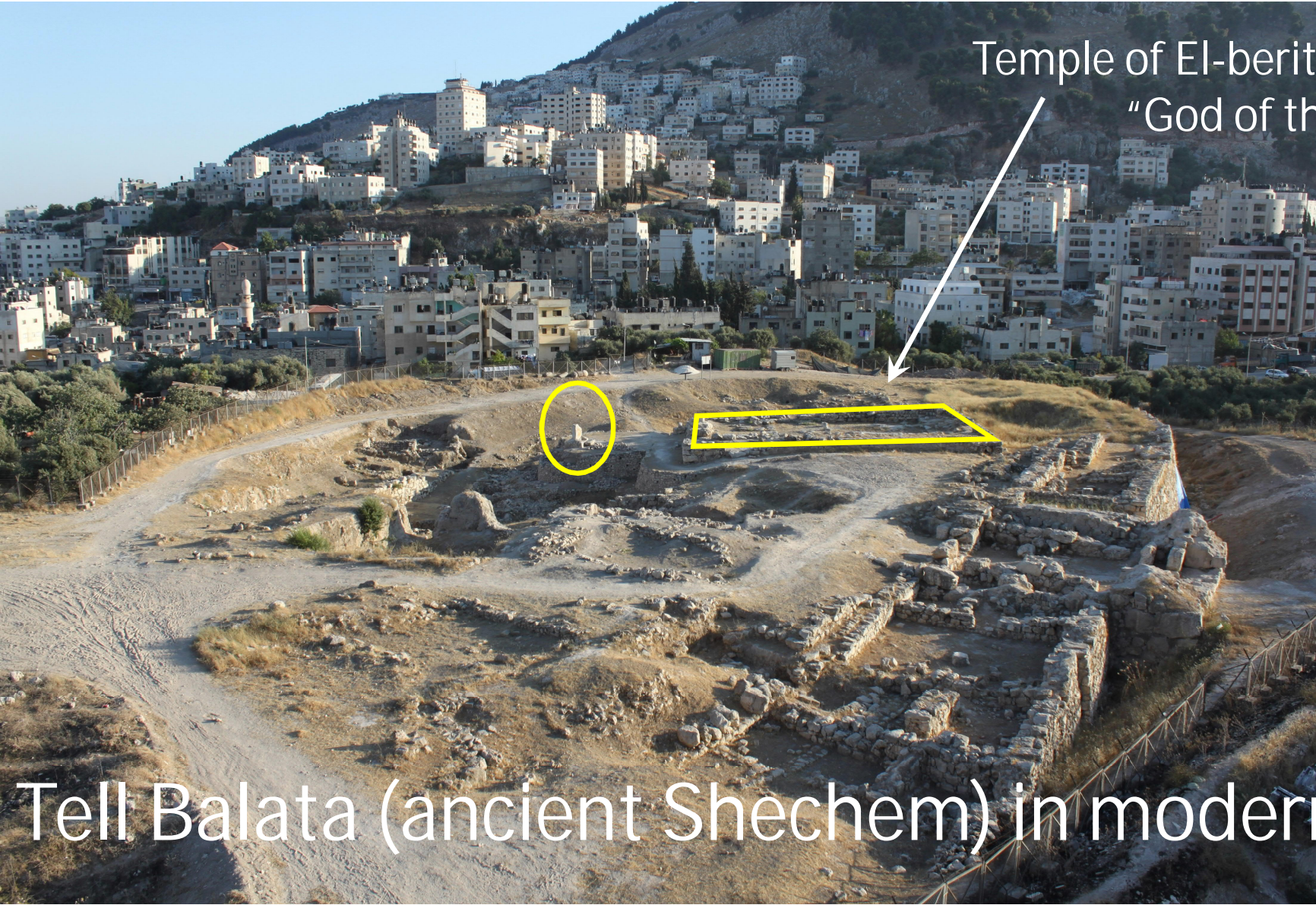
- How do people today find it “evil” in their eyes to serve God?
- Other translations: disagreeable (NASV); undesirable (NIV); if you are not willing (Today’s English); if you refuse (New Living)
  - Unbelief in supernatural
  - Don’t believe Bible is inspired
  - Reject idea of Hell
  - Satisfied with their life
  - Too many morality rules
  - Disillusioned by hypocrites
  - Would rather serve self

# Is That Your Final Answer? (24:16-24)

- People initially choose Jehovah, but why?
  - a. Joshua would kill them if they didn't
  - b. Afraid to go against Joshua
  - c. Emotional high
  - d. Rational decision based on evidence
- Joshua warns of God's holiness and wrath
  - Is he trying to change their minds?
  - They need to understand the commitment
  - Again, "put away the foreign gods which are in your midst"

# Joshua Renews Covenant (24:25-28)

- People have chosen Jehovah – three times (v. 16-18, 21, 24)
- “You are witnesses against yourselves” (v. 22)
- This agreement constituted acceptance of a covenant
- Documented by writing in the book of the law of God
- Memorialized by means of a large stone of witness



Temple of El-berith (Jud. 9:46)  
"God of the covenant"

Tell Balata (ancient Shechem) in modern Nablus



not Joshua



Large Stone of Joshua 24:26)



# Ancient Suzerainty Treaties

- 2 • Identification of the great king and author of covenant
- 2-13 • Enumeration of the gracious acts of the King, obligating the vassal to loyalty
- 14, 23 • Covenant obligations of the vassal, typically demanding absolute loyalty and expressly prohibiting relationships with foreign powers
- 25-26 • Instructions for depositing the document in the sanctuary for regular public reading
- 22 • Deities of covenanting parties invoked as witnesses
- 20 • Blessings accompanying fidelity; curses resulting from violation

# Epilogue (24:29-33)

- Presumably written by a later author (Samuel?)
- Joshua died at age 110; buried in his inherited territory
- “the servant of Jehovah”: used of Moses 15x in Joshua
  - Used of Joshua only this once. Why?
  - Joshua may not class himself with Moses. This writer does.
- Israel faithful during his lifetime (and somewhat beyond)
- Joseph’s bones buried in Shechem (Gen. 50:25)
- Death of priest Eleazar recorded
  - Genesis & Deuteronomy also ended with death of God’s servants