

Joshua 24 : 14-25—Memory Verses, 14, 15.

**Golden Text**—Choose ye this day whom ye will serve.—Josh. 24 : 15.

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity, and in truth : and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in E'gypt ; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve ; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Am'orites, in whose land ye dwell : but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods ;

17 For the LORD our God, he *it is* that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of E'gypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed :

18 And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Am'orites which dwelt in the land : *therefore* will we also

serve the LORD ; for he *is* our God.

19 And Josh'ua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD : for he *is* an holy God ; he *is* a jealous God ; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

20 If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

21 And the people said unto Josh'ua, Nay ; but we will serve the LORD.

22 And Josh'ua said unto the people, Ye *are* witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, *We are* witnesses.

23 Now therefore put away, *said he*, the strange gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Is'rael.

24 And the people said unto Josh'ua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

25 So Josh'ua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shech'em.

#### THE LESSON RETOLD

After the Israelites had conquered the people of Canaan and divided the land, the work of Joshua as a soldier and general was finished. When he knew that the time must soon come for him to die, he called a great meeting of the Israelites at Shechem and there made them his farewell address.

And Joshua said, "I have lived among you a long time and have seen all that the Lord your God has done for you as a people, how He led your fathers out of Egypt and across the Red Sea and the Jordan, and how He conquered your enemies before you by the way, until He brought you into this good

land. But now that everything is going well, there is this danger, that you may forget the commandments of the Lord which He gave you in the wilderness and learn to love other gods such as the heathen about you worship. Let the matter be settled now once and for all. If it seem evil for you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve. If you wish to become like the heathen whom you meet in this land, then worship their gods. But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

Then all the people answered, "God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to serve