

Joshua 23:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.

Analysis

The command—"But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day"—calls for continued covenant faithfulness. The word 'cleave' (Hebrew *dabaq*) denotes permanent, intimate attachment (used of marriage, Genesis 2:24). The phrase 'as ye have done unto this day' commends past faithfulness while urging future perseverance. This teaches that spiritual victory requires ongoing commitment, not merely initial obedience. Maintaining devotion through changing seasons demands continual choice.

Historical Context

This farewell address came near Joshua's death (verse 1, "...after many days"), reviewing conquest blessings and warning against future compromise. The next generation would face temptation to intermarry with remaining Canaanites and adopt their gods. Joshua's warning proved prophetic—Judges documents exactly this pattern of compromise and apostasy. The call to cleave emphasized that covenant relationship requires active maintenance, not passive possession.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain spiritual devotion through changing life seasons and new temptations?
2. What does 'cleaving' to God look like practically in your daily choices and relationships?

Interlinear Text

כָּאֵשׁ	רְ	תְּדַבֵּר	לֹא	אֱלֹהִיכָּם	בְּיַהְוֹה	הִ	אָמֵן	כִּי
H3588	H518	unto the LORD	H3068	your God	H430	But cleave	H1692	H834
								as ye have done
								H6213
עַד	עַ	זַהֲהָה	זַהֲהָה	זַהֲהָה	זַהֲהָה	זַהֲהָה	זַהֲהָה	זַהֲהָה
H5704	unto this day	H2088	H3117					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:20 (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

Joshua 22:5 (References God): But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Acts 11:23 (References God): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Deuteronomy 13:4 (References God): Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Deuteronomy 11:22 (References God): For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

Deuteronomy 4:4 (References God): But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.

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