

יְהוֹשׁוּעַ YEHOSHUA

Chapters 22-24

& Acharei Mot/Kedoshim

We are now at the end of our journey through the book of Yehoshua (Joshua). Two of the three sections of this book are now complete—conquering the land and dividing the land—and the last section remains—an exhortation of Israel as they begin their life there. While there is a lot to unpack in each of these three chapters, here's what I think we should focus on this week: In chapter 22 we see how far Israel has come in its understanding of community. In chapter 23 we are reminded of the necessity to stay in the Torah in order to continue resisting the parts within ourselves that would rather worship other gods. And finally, in chapter 24, we are faced with the final instruction—choose which god you will serve.

Joshua Discussion Questions:

1. For what do you think you will be praised by God? For what do you think you will be praised by the world?
2. What are the enemies that remain in you for you to conquer (be specific, but share with each other only what you are comfortable sharing)?
3. Are you conquering this territory God's given you to inherit? Or are you just finding a way to live peacefully with the enemies within you?
4. What are the gods you tend to serve when you aren't serving the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
5. How can you help each other serve Him alone?

Torah Discussion Questions:

6. Describe how the following ideas outline a progression: (1) metzorah, (2) Yom Kippur, (3) kedoshim ("holy ones").
7. Scan through the double portion (Lev. 16-20) and see if you can find allusions to each of the ten commandments.
8. What can we practically do to incorporate life and joy into our observance of mitzvot and in each area of our lives especially during this Counting of the Omer period?

