

Passing on the torch

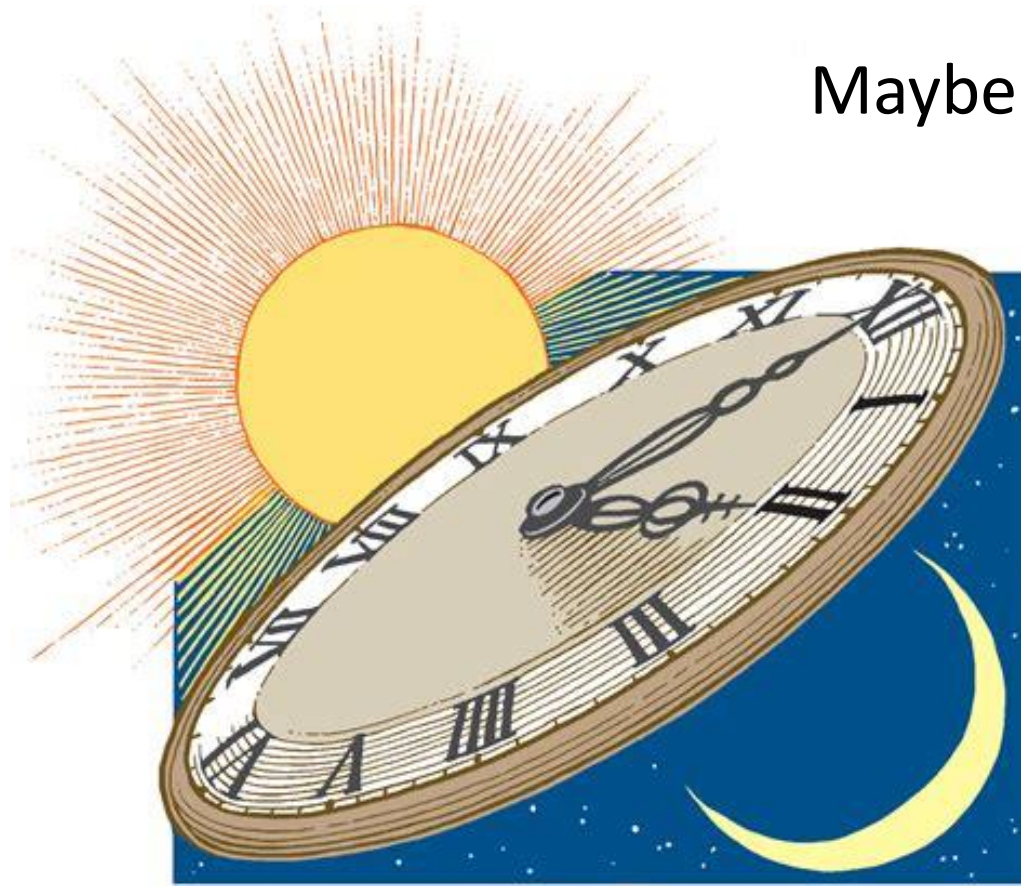


Chapter 23

Joshua's last address to the leaders of Israel

After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, v1

Maybe about 25 years later



God's blessing of good times

Joshua, by then old and well advanced in years, summoned all Israel-- their elders, leaders, judges and officials-- v2

How old? Possibly about 105 years.

Different kinds of leaders - including East and west?



National, tribal, civic authorities

He communicates to the leaders

and said to them.. "I am old and well advanced in years. v3

Facing facts about myself and you



and said to them.. "I am old and well advanced in years. You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you. v3

Facing facts about God's work
- He gets the glory



Remember how I have allotted as an inheritance for your tribes all the land of the nations that remain--the nations I conquered--between the Jordan and the Great Sea in the west. v4

Man's role in God's work

Ephesians 1:3 inheritance

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places



The LORD your God himself will drive them out of your way. He will push them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the LORD your God promised you. v5



Looking forward - It's now your role - over to you

Be very strong; v6

Sound advice for future Success
Just as it was given to Joshua from Moses



trong...

2 Timothy 2:1 You then,
my son, be strong in the
grace that is in Christ Jesus.



be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses,
without turning aside to the right or to the left. v6

Sound advice for future **S**uccess



Submit to God's instructions

Moses got them

Note: what is **written** and only them

– no additions – modifications etc. no oral law



Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; v7

Possible contamination from bad ways was still present

Bad company ... eg. Solomon's folly



Separate



1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

See 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 for the New Testament application

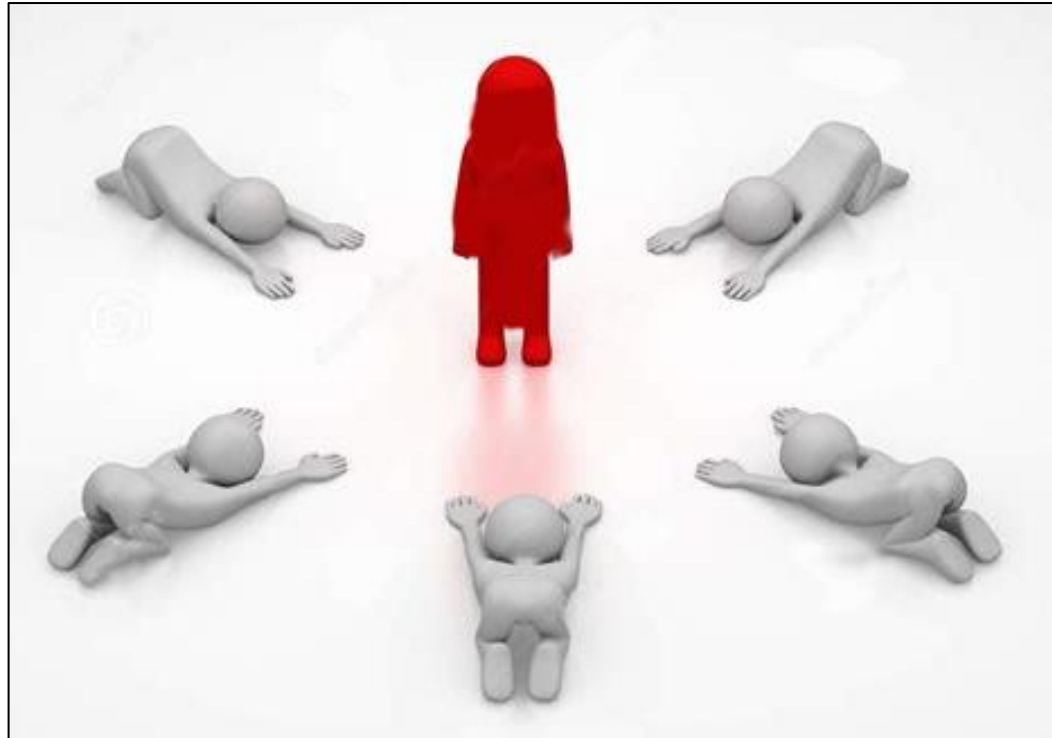
do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them.
You must not serve them or bow down to them. v7

Do NOT

Idolatry is Dangerous – what are the worlds' gods today?



serve other gods



Worship is to be reserved for God alone

But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now. v8

Keep it up! You are running a good race



stick with the Lord



We can recognise the genuine not by examining the fakes
but by a deep study of the genuine

The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you. One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised.

So be very careful to love the LORD your God. v9-11

Remember what he has done –
use the past to motivate the present
and set our sights for the future.

They experienced God- given victory
according to his faithful promise

What should our be our response?

Love him:- gratitude, commitment, affection

Love him:-

The most important part



But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. v12-13



Socialising with idolaters

Sharing in marriage with them

Serving /worshipping their idols

But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. v12-13

Human responsibility - This warning is not to simply scare them but to remind them that we have real choices with real consequences.



You can't serve 2 masters

Your response will determine how God treats you?

He may give you what you want!

Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD your God has given you. v13

Painful discipline will come.

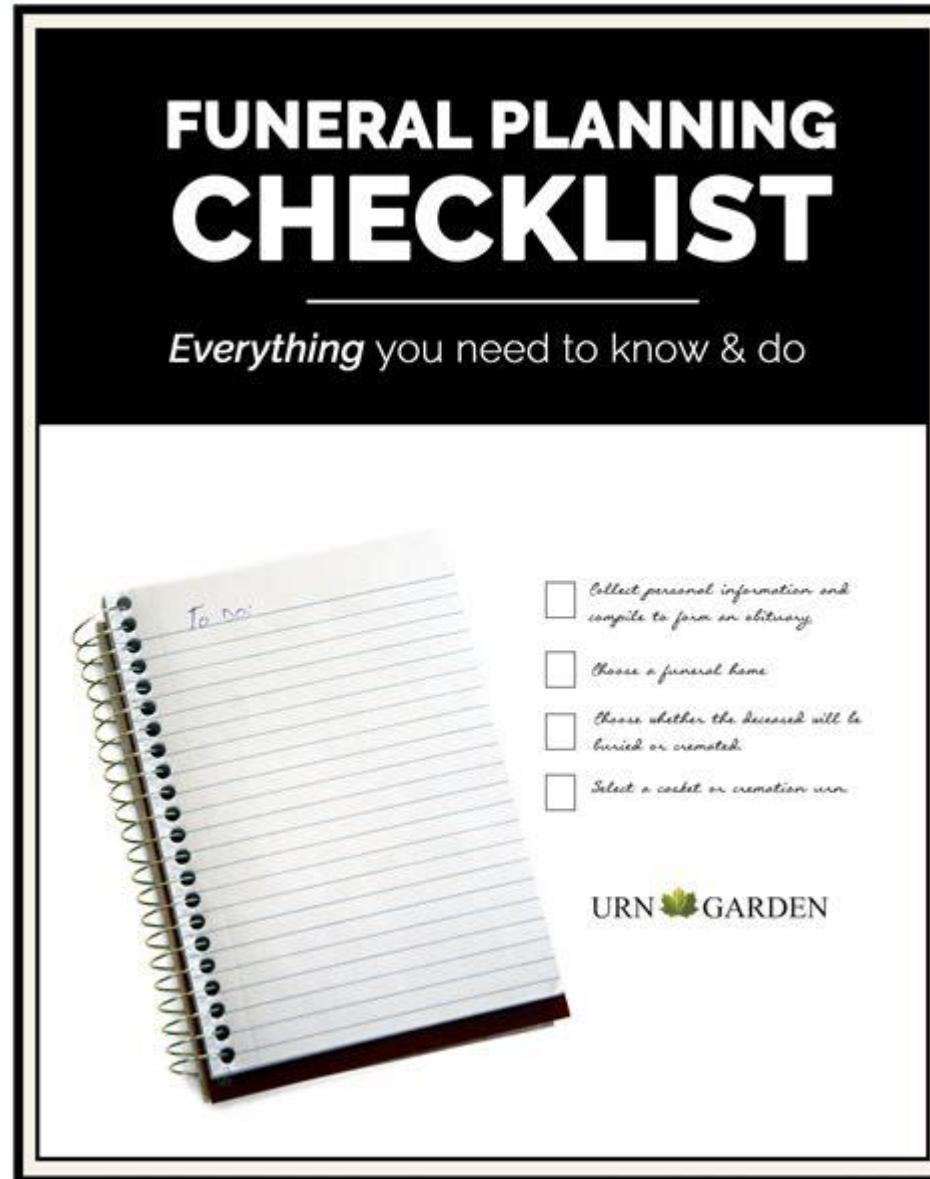
Danger comes in disguise
Little sins tolerated give
the devil a foothold

The long process of rebellion results in
ultimate loss of possession of the land
and its blessings and finally exile



Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. v14

A faithful man can face death with faith.




FUNERAL PLANNING CHECKLIST

Everything you need to know & do

To do:

- Collect personal information and compile to form an obituary.
- Choose a funeral home.
- Choose whether the deceased will be buried or cremated.
- Select a casket or cremation urn.

URN  GARDEN

The graphic features a black header with the title 'FUNERAL PLANNING CHECKLIST' in large white letters, followed by the subtitle 'Everything you need to know & do' in a smaller, italicized font. Below this is a white area containing a spiral-bound notebook with 'To do:' written on it. To the right of the notebook is a list of four checklist items, each with an empty checkbox. At the bottom right is the logo for 'URN GARDEN', which includes a small green leaf icon between the words.

You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed.
Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed. v14

YOU KNOW that God has been faithful in every particular

There is evidence of God's goodness in front of your eyes.



But just as every good promise of the LORD your God has come true, so the LORD will bring on you all the evil he has threatened, until he has destroyed you from this good land he has given you. v15



Since God keeps all his promises, his threats are not empty words either.

If you violate the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the LORD's anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you. v16

The covenant you made carries clauses that deal with violations. see Deuteronomy 28 - blessings and curses at Mt. Ebal & Mt. Gerizim

He is the LORD (his covenant relationship name)
Your God (the personal God for this people).



He gets angry at sin. And if it is not removed you will feel its consequences.

Was the flame passed on?

Judges 2:7 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.



In the New Covenant through faith in the Lord Jesus, believers are not under the curse of law but will face the discipline of the Father.

The six **S**'s still apply:-

Be Strong in the Lord

Submit to his word in the bible.

Separate yourself from sinful ways

Serve the Lord – not idols

Stick with him faithfully

