**Week of December 9, 2018**

**Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24**

1 And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. 3 And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. 13 And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and olive yards which ye planted not do ye eat. 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 Egypt; 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 Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. 21 And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD. 22 And Joshua 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 Israel. 24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today scripture we meet Joshua. He was Moses' assistant and became the leader of the Israelite tribes after the death of Moses. His name was Hoshea the son of Nun, of the tribe of Ephraim, but Moses called him Joshua, the name by which he is commonly known. Joshua had strong faith and belief in God. He had experienced the mighty work of God first hand. Joshua had been in battles where the odds were against him, but God pulled him through. Joshua challenged the people to make a conscious choice on whether they would follow and obey the Lord or go in a different direction. He gathered all the Leaders of Israel together with the people. Joshua declared his loyalty and devotion to God regardless of what the others decided. He made a commitment to God and he did not waver. As a leader himself he wanted to lead by example. Because of his boldness he was able to have an influence on the people of Israel. The people claimed that they would not forsake the Lord. However, Joshua had heard that before and he was really looking for a true commitment out of the people. Joshua asked thee to take a vow of to the commitment that they were making. He warned them that their failure to keep their promise would cause God to turn against them and destroy them even though he had been good to them. Joshua told them that must turn away from the false gods and idols that their fathers in the past had followed. The people agreed to what Joshua had said. Joshua was a true leader who obeyed and followed God’s word. Each of us are leaders. A true leader is one who is trustworthy, caring, honest, and committed to doing the right thing. As a Christian leadership starts with God and our belief and following his son Jesus Christ whom he sent to down to us that we may be saved.