

the Jordan. But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.

Joshua's words are very clear and straightforward. He commends them for accomplishing what was formerly agreed upon and he challenges them to continue in obedience to the Word of God.

There is an important principle taught here that is worth mentioning even though it is not essential to the misunderstanding that later occurred. That is that Joshua made good what had been promised to these people. They had agreed to fight with their brothers for land that would never be their own. The land they wanted had already been secured. Joshua drives down a stake when he says, "You have obeyed me in every thing I commanded." As their leader, he made them accountable and commended them for their accomplishment. He then followed through and gave them what had been promised them. The important elements could be listed as follows:

- a. Promise given - the eastern land will be yours
- b. Duty enjoined - as a condition for receiving the promise - fight with us
- c. Accountability - Joshua was their commander; they were answerable to him
- d. Commendation - "You did every thing I commanded"
- e. Reward - they were given what was promised

Obviously, the prospect of one day possessing the land east of Jordan provided motivation for the difficult days of fighting. Also, the just and fair way that Joshua dealt with various situations gave them confidence that he would be just and fair with them. And he was.