

Joshua 5

Living a life of Victory

Joshua lead the Hebrews, 3 million, miraculously into promise land by way of the Jordan river at the time the banks overflowed--**impossible to cross**.

*1 Now it came about when all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel **until they had crossed**, that their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer, because of the sons of Israel.*

Gods' strategy is to put courage in those of faith & to take courage away from enemies of God. He did it w/ Gideon & Midianites-**Judges 7:9-14**....**God has given Midian & all the camp into his hand.**" Did it w/ arrogant Babylonian king **Belshazzar** into hands of Medo-Persian king **Darius** **Dan 5:6** *Then the king's face grew pale, and his thoughts alarmed him; and his hip joints went slack, and his knees began knocking together.* **Mike Tyson-looks eyes of fear**

Hearts melted (like wax)—intimidated, lose heart, to faint from fear—when? *Until they had crossed*-I'm sure they were waiting & hoping Jordan surge back over & carry away big portion of 3 mill crossing—key word until

Enemy knew about **Red sea** crossing & now **Jordan**—also defeat of Shion & Og 2 Amorite kings. **Canaanites & Amorites** not expect Israel to be able cross. But they did-seems smart for Israel to strike **while enemy in fear**. But **first** God needs to prepare the people--consecration before conquest

Lessons from the first battle are important—principles carried over into **all battles**--a template-1st lesson don't rush into battle, wait for God's strategy.

One author states: *"The events described in this chapter took at least ten days & then the people marched around Jericho for six more days. God waited over 2 weeks before giving His people their first victory in the land."*

Canaanites are mentioned over 150 times in the Bible. They were a wicked, idolatrous people who descended from Noah's grandson Canaan, a son of Ham (**Genesis 9:18**). Canaan was cursed because of his and his father's sin against Noah (**Genesis 9:20-25**). **Uncovered fathers nakedness**

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2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make for yourself **flint knives** and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time." 3 So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. 4 And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way, after they came out of Egypt. 5 For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. 6 For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, that is, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not listen to the voice of the LORD, to whom the LORD had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 And **their children** whom He raised up in their place, **Joshua circumcised**; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them along the way. 8 Now it came about when they had finished circumcising all the nation, that they remained in their places in the camp until they were **healed**. 9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

A new beginning for the people--a place of recommitment and renewal w/ covenant of circumcision, **sign** they are God's people. 40 years earlier circumcision stopped because of compromise, unbelief, whining in the wilderness—10 x's complained against God. So God gave them up--if no heart for God then--seal or sign a **mark w/o meaning**. God won't give in to gripping or cater to traitors to the faith. *Laodicea, lukewarm 'I will vomit you out of my mouth' Rev 3:16 'you make me sick' They are not all Israel who are descended from Israel Rom 9:6* But it is those who are of faith

Circumcision began w/ Abraham Gen 17 who believed God it was counted to him as righteousness. But circumcision came to Abraham later as a sign of acceptance, approval & intimate relationship. God blessed Abraham, his seed-Messiah & land-Palestine

First thing entering God's promises is cutting away of the flesh-symbol of flesh life. Painful to deny myself. Bury my pride. Not rely on self-effort, vainly imagine greatness. But to Realize I am weak, He is strong going into battle.

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1Pet 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,---**it is to deny my want to's---deny feeding my ego---& selfishness, me 1st**

They crossed over to Gilgal into God's promises is a place of pain. To the flesh-life replaced w/ new life in the spirit. **"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."**

Galatians 2:20true circumcision is that of heart by spirit. Rom 2:28,29

Not only a recommitment but also a renunciation of flesh life and restoration back to God & life he has for us.

Alan Redpath Fellow Christian, do not be afraid of the knife. It is in the hand of the lover of your soul, Jesus your Savior. Whatever be the cost, let Gilgal be for you today the place of absolute renunciation of everything that the Spirit of God reveals to you that is contrary to His will That is Christian experience which is not merely the teaching of a doctrine but the living of a life. It is not merely the understanding of truth, it is looking into the face of Jesus & asking Him to make Calvary real in your soul, no matter what it may cost you. Do you dare face that renunciation? ([Victorious Christian Living](#))

As Moses instructed the second generation of Israelites **"Circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no more."** (Dt 10:16). No external cosmetic surgery can change the inner person. Change only comes by repentance & turning to God—Only He can help & change us from the inside out which gives us the want to's to love and obey Him. [Ro 2:25-29](#)

Israel was now dead to the past & alive to what God had in future-**Baptism**

Their **reproach rolled away**—meaning scorn, disgrace, no more in a state of dishonor & shame. **Reproach** cast blame (**Moses-God**) all except self.

One report says Americans spend \$50 million a year on subliminal message tapes designed to help them do everything from improving their self-image to learning a foreign language. Unfortunately, the National Research Council has concluded that subliminal messages simply don't work. Despite all the hype to the contrary, these tapes don't deliver the life-transforming changes they promise. **Neville-new thought mystic**

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*10 While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal, they observed the **Passover** on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. 11 And on the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the **produce of the land**, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 And the **manna ceased** on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.*

Still waiting--is one of the hardest things for me. *Sliding door-ordered May 15 coming Ap 30* – Anticipation to conquer Jericho now delayed was not easy. Lord's timing not ours...those that wait upon the LORD will renew their strength, they will mount up w/ wings as eagles, they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint. Isa 40:31-

Passover began in Egypt & again at Sinai, now 40 years later at Gilgal. Feast of salvation, restoration & worship...now *reproach rolled away*.

Warren Wiersbe "Forgetting those things which are behind" (Phil. 3:13) is wise counsel for most areas of life, but there are some things we must never forget. In his farewell address to the nation, Moses repeatedly commanded the Jews to remember that they were once slaves in Egypt and that the Lord had delivered them and made them His own people (Deut. 15:15; 16:12; 24:18, 22). This great truth was embodied in their annual Passover feast. They were never to forget that they were a redeemed people, set free by the blood of the lamb.

Manna stopped & Israel now ate *produce of land*. Action of faith gets response from God. Wilderness food ceases (*it fed carnal people*) Those w/o faith often benefited by goodness of God to bring them to God.

Dr. John Witherspoon was a signer of the Declaration of Independence & president of the College of New Jersey. He lived a couple of miles away from the college at Rock Hill & drove a horse & buggy each day to his office at the college. One day a neighbor of his burst into his office, shouting 'Dr. Witherspoon, you must join me in giving thanks to God for his extraordinary providence in saving my life, for as I was driving from Rocky Hill the horse ran away & the buggy was smashed to pieces on the rocks, but I escaped unharmed!' Witherspoon replied, 'Why, I can tell you a far more remarkable providence than that. I have driven over that road hundreds of times. My horse never ran away, my buggy never was smashed, I was never hurt.'

We want miracles of manna from heaven but God speaks in the practical

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Elijah waiting on Lord... 1Ki 19:11-12 So He said, "Go forth, & stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great & strong wind tore into the mountains & breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

Danger of following miracles w/o true faith. God supplied manna from heaven (**angels food**), water out of the rock to drink, opened the earth & swallowed rivals of Gods leadership, healed bronze serpent on pole, etc. Yet that generation died in wilderness of unbelief (**40 yr funeral march**).

Be careful in thinking God is only in the earthquake or wind or fire or manna, when most often God is in the ordinary, common necessities of life.

Most of God's gifts to his people are not dazzling & gaudy but wrapped in simple brown paper. Quiet provisions of safety on the highway, health of children, picking up a paycheck, supper with the family—all in an ordinary day's work for our God.

The Azusa Street Revival began April 9, 1906 & was a historic series of revival meetings in Los Angeles, California. Led by Pastor William J. Seymour & continued until about 1915. A prophecy came 'revival will cease when Holy Spirit more prominent than **Jesus**; Praise more important than **prayer**; gifts of spirit more sought after than **fruit of spirit**' **Miracles grow grey hairs in 9 days**. Keep the main thing the main thing--**Jesus**

Jesus dealt w/ those who sought manifestations more than the manifestor (move energy into action-cults)—**Don't seek the gifts seek the giver-Sam Sasser** – 1st generation--carnal--sensory dependent, ruled by feelings not faith-Emotion not devotion (**manna--food for the immature-spoon fed-Pablum-processed food for infants**). Grain from promise land--those walking in faith.

Don't expect God to supply needs in extraordinary ways when they can be supplied in ordinary ways. He doesn't do gratuitous miracles. **Herod** Lk 23:9

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*"God did not discontinue the **manna** when Israel despised it (Num. 11:6), or even when the unbelieving generation turned away from Kadesh Barnea and wandered in the trackless wilderness. At least for the sake of their children He continued to give it, till they grew & entered the land of promise."*

13 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" 15 And the captain of the LORD's host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Promise land side--Gilgal is a place of revelation as Joshua went out walked around getting closer to Jericho get a good look at what he and the nation had to deal w/--a fortified city w/ high walls, seemingly impregnable--what are we up against—God brings us to the end of ourselves that He might bring us to the beginning of God.

Never is it for the Lord to join us but for us to join the Lord—**Christophany**-angel would refuse worship. *Captain* of God's unseen army **Heb 1:14 Angels- Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?**

2Kings6:15-17 Elisha

What a relief for Joshua— calculating Israel's armament & walls that appear impregnable--he had no battering rams, no siege machines, no catapults, no moving towers, just slings, arrows and spears. God forces us to depend upon him. **Me town-**

True nature of battles we face--world, flesh, devil is a spiritual battles & our weapons for victory **2Cor 10:4***for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. KJ for pulling down of strongholds*-Won in heaven first then here on earth.

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Joshua a great leader because he could be led—Jesus is captain of the heavens armies. To rule we must be ruled or end up a bully & dictato-- only accountable to self.

Joshua was in pagan territory but because the Lord is there it is **holy ground**. Those who obey, & the Lord w/ them are standing on holy ground no matter where they are led or find themselves.

With believers there is no secular or sacred-common or consecrate when Lord is w/ us—we and where we stand is set apart for **Him** *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”1Cor 10:31*

Hudson Taylor founder of the China Inland Mission met w/ a group of missionaries in China & said there are three ways to do God’s work. One is to make the best plans you can & carry them out to the best of your ability. Second is to carefully lay out your plans & determine to carry them thru & ask God to help you & prosper your plans. Lastly is to begin w/ God & ask Him for His plans & offer yourself to Him to carry out His purposes.

Joshua committed himself to the third method, God’s plan & he was blessed & prospered & so shall we as we follow Joshua’s example