

Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story
Lesson #49 - "Radical Obedience at Gilgal" - Joshua 5:2-12
• HANDOUT •

► This lesson covers the first twelve verses of Chapter 5. It focuses on God renewing the Covenant with the Second Generation of Israel, so they would be prepared in their conquest of the Land. They would begin in Jericho. Of course, they expected to engage Jericho in battle. They didn't know that God was about to give them a spectacular miracle.

However, Chapter 5 actually opens with a narrative that had nothing to do with the Covenant. Instead, it gives us an internal view into the mindset of the people who were living in the Land of Promise. What events they saw and how they felt about those events will become infamous historical landmarks in Israel's history.

► **Joshua 5:1** • Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Q: What does Chapter 5 verse 1 tell us about the arrival of Israel to the Promised Land?

Q: What was the mindset of the Amorites and the Canaanites, including their respective kings?

But before any of that can take place, there is a three-fold spiritual work that must be accomplished if Israel is to realize God's Blessing.

The First: Setting up the Memorial Stones.

The Second work: Circumcision of the Uncircumcised.

► **Joshua 5:2-3** • At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

Q: This was the "Bronze Age" when bronze was used to make the needed implements. Even the Brazen Altar was made of bronze. Why would the Lord instruct Joshua to make knives out of "flint" stone?

Q: Why now? Israel has crossed the Jordan and they are primed to start the process of conquest. They had shown their trust and faith in God by crossing the Jordan. So why is God insisting on circumcising first?

Q: Why does it say “circumcise the Israelites “again?” Were those who had been circumcised going to be circumcised a second time?”

Q: Where or what is “Gibeath Haaraloth” where the circumcisions took place?

So that no one misunderstands The LORD explains why the circumcision was necessary ...

► **Joshua 5:4-8** • Now this is why He did so: All those who came out of Egypt--all the men of military age--died in the desert on the way after leaving Egypt. All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the desert during the journey from Egypt had not. The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land that he had solemnly promised their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

So He raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.

And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

Q: In Numbers 14:32, God said "As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected." The Lord is fulfilling that promise here. What symbolism is being established with the crossing of the Jordan and the renewal of circumcision?

► **Joshua 5:9** • Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

Q: What is the “reproach of Egypt?”

Q: What is significant about this verse making the point that the place was called Gilgal?

The Third work: Israel Remembers God's Work of Redemption They Celebrate the First Passover in the Land of Promise . . .

► **Joshua 5:10-11** • On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.

The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain.

Q: What is significant about the 14th day of the month?

Q: In what way should we understand the relevancy of Circumcision and Passover to the Church today?

Circumcision:

Passover:

Q: What is important about the fact that the day after the Passover celebration, they ate some of the produce of the land?”

Q: In addition to the produce of the new land, the scripture makes a note that they ate “unleavened bread.” Why is that important?

► **Joshua 5:12** • The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

Q: Why did God stop the Manna?

Q: In what way does the giving and stopping of the Manna prefigure the miracles of Jesus?

**The next passage indicates that some amount time has passed,
but the amount of time is not disclosed.
Possibly the week following Passover week.
It opens with Joshua walking by Jericho.
Suddenly there was a man standing in front of him, holding a sword.
That is where we will pick up the story next time.**



Next Time • Lesson #50
“Before the Fall of Jericho”

