

Joshua Lesson #6, Chapter 5

Prepare your heart by seeking the Lord before you read Chapter 5 and begin this lesson.

1. What did the kings of the land hear (verse 1)? What effect did it have upon their morale?
2. How was the response of the kings in Joshua 5:1 a fulfillment of the promise made in 4:24 that *all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty*?
3. Verses 2-12 record two things that the Israelites were to do as part of their entering the land. What were they?
4. While the enemy sits by completely demoralized, the Lord commands Joshua to circumcise the sons of Israel. Verses 4-7 give the reason for needing to do this rite. What is it?
5. Read Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27; Ex. 4:24-26; Lev. 26:41; Deut. 10:16; and 30:6 to see what the Israelites would have understood about circumcision at that time. Record your findings.
6. Now look up the following verses to gain a completed view of circumcision. Record your findings. Had the meaning of circumcision changed at all by New Testament times? See Jer. 4:4; 9:25-26; Ezek. 44:6-7, 9; Acts 7:51; 15:1-21; Rom. 2:25-29; 4:9-12; 1 Cor. 7:18-19; Phil. 3:2-3; Col. 2:11.

7. By renewing the rite of circumcision, which was the *sign* of the covenant, Israel would be reminded of the covenant itself. What was the covenant (Gen. 13:14-17; 15:18-21)?

8. Circumcision was a token reminder that God would keep His promises, just as a ring is a token reminder of a couple's pledge of love and faithfulness to each other. Why are symbols like that helpful? Do you have any mementos that remind you of God's faithfulness?

9. Circumcision refers to the spiritual state of the heart as well as a physical sign. An uncircumcised heart is hard, stubborn, and disobedient toward God while a circumcised heart is yielding, obedient, and seeking God. How would God view your heart *today*? Do you need to make any changes?

10. Eager Beaver: We see that Israel was to observe Passover and accomplish circumcision upon entering the land. What other things was Israel to do when they entered the land?
 - a. Lev. 19:23; 23:10

 - b. Num. 15:2-3, 18-19

 - c. Deut. 4:5-6; 7:1-2; 11:29-32; 18:9; 26:1-10; 27:2-3

11. There is some speculation about the meaning of verse 9 and the meaning of *the reproach of Egypt*, but the best interpretation can be determined from Ex. 32:12; Num. 14:13-16; Deut. 9:28. Record your findings.

- a. Now examine the context surrounding verse 9, especially verse 6. What do the two rites symbolize? How could accomplishing these two rites remove the reproach of Egypt?
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12. Why was it important that the circumcision take place before the Passover (Ex. 12:43-44, 48)?

 13. This is only the 3rd *recorded* time Israel has observed the Passover since God instituted it in Exodus 12. Give a brief summary of the first two Passovers in Ex. 12:1-14 and Num. 9:1-5. What does Passover commemorate? What are its stipulations?

 14. How did the celebration of Passover, with all it symbolized, encourage and strengthen the Israelites to trust God for what lay ahead?

 15. Why was it so momentous to mention that the people ate the produce of the land in verses 11-12? What had they been eating up to this time (Num. 11:7-9)? For how long (Ex. 16:35)?

 16. Eager Beaver: Why had the Lord originally given the manna? What were the attitudes of the people in the wilderness? Read Ex. 16 and Deut. 8.

17. How would the testing and training of the desert prepare the people for the Promised Land? What warnings did God give the people?

18. We often don't recognize the "manna" on our plates and view it more like "lima beans." Make a list of the ways God has provided, protected, and cared for you. As you review that list stop and praise and thank Him for all He's done.

19. God has spiritually prepared the people for battle by reinstating circumcision, Passover, and partaking of the fruit of the land. The final element before taking the land is the spiritual preparation of Joshua. In verse 13 what does Joshua see? What question does Joshua ask?

20. What reply is given to Joshua? Based on Joshua's response in verse 14 what can you assume that Joshua understood?

21. How is Joshua's encounter (verses 13-15) similar to the one recorded in Ex. 3:1-10?

22. This is none other than a *theophany*, a visible manifestation of God. (It would be more precise, in this case, to say *Christophany*, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ). How do we know that the Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Christ? Look up the following verses and note their common activity or attribute.

Reference to the Angel of the Lord	Common Activity or Attribute	Reference to Christ
Gen. 16:7, 13		Jn. 20:28
Gen. 48:15-16		Heb. 1:8
Ex. 3:2, 5-6, 14		Jn. 8:58
Judg. 13:15, 18		Is. 9:6
Ex. 23:20		Jn. 5:30; 6:38
Ex. 14:19		Matt. 28:20
Is. 63:9		Eph. 5:25
Josh. 5:13-15		Rev. 19:11-14

Chart from Pastor Jack Hughes' Deity of Christ study.

23. What is a possible reason why the commander of the army of the Lord replies no to Joshua's inquiry, *Are you for us or for our adversaries?*

24. How does this meeting with the Captain of the Lord's host prepare Joshua for battle?

25. God intends for us to meet with Him so that we will be strengthened and prepared for the battles we face each day. Have you met with the Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords, the King of kings, your God and King today? Have you humbly submitted to His leadership? Are you heeding the plans He has revealed in His word?