



## MESSAGE/SERIES:

**Series:** *Joshua: Strong & Courageous*

**Message:** **“PREPARING FOR A NEW SEASON”**

**DATE:** 5/22/22

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)  
**Joshua 5**, Numbers 13:29, Exodus 15:14-15, Exodus 4:25-26 (Circumcision as to marriage/covenant), Numbers 14:28-31, Genesis 34:14 (Uncircumcision a sign of disgrace), Exodus 16:35, Numbers 22:22-31 (Christophany), Acts 7:32-34 (Holy Ground)

## TEXT FOR TODAY:

**5** As soon as 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 that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted** and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

- The Lord at work causes great stress for the enemy
  - *God had parted the waters as the Jordan was at flood height (Joshua 3:15)*
  - *The Enemy must recognize God when He is at work before us*
    - They must accept the evidence that God has done the miraculous
    - They must accept that God is **for His people**
    - They must accept that God is **against them** (Amorites/Canaanites)
  - *The heart of the enemy melting represents utter fear*
    - The enemy always trembles at the work of the Lord
    - The enemy always laughs at the work of men
- The Problem today is we are not Giving God the opportunity to show His mighty works for the world to see His mighty hand

- o *Therefore, the enemy is not put on alert (we are always on the defensive instead of the offensive)*
  - (Illustration of offensive and defensive stance)

<sup>2</sup> At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and **circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.**” <sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth [*gib`at hā`ārālôt*]. <sup>4</sup> And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised.

- **God remembered** His covenant with them (even though they had not done their part)
  - o The covenant had been ignored while in the wilderness (they were far from God and His promises)
    - *Mercy of God= (Renewal/rededication) God wanted circumcision reinstated so that a fresh start may happen in the new land*
- We must be diligent to be sure that all are set apart to the Lord and there is evidence of (Sanctification)
  - o *We must approach the need to be different with those in the family of God*
  - o *We must approach the need of all to know what true conversion is (Faith & Repentance)*
    - The Fruit of the Spirit will follow true conversion

<sup>6</sup> For the people of Israel walked **forty years in the wilderness**, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD; the LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised because **they had not been circumcised on the way.**

- **Why had they not performed the act God commanded of all Israelites (Circumcision)**
  - o **Option #1-** Inconvenience/ they were busy wondering
  - o **Option #2-** Fear/ It was not safe to perform as they would have been vulnerable afterward
  - o **Option #3-** Apathy/ Sinful neglect
  - o **Option #4-** Blatant Rebellion- Knowingly rejected by God/ refused to identify with Him

- *This would more identify w/ the ones who had died in the wilderness*

<sup>8</sup>When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. <sup>9</sup>And **the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”** And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

- **Gilgal**= The name *Gilgal* derives from the root *gālal*, “**to roll, roll away**,” and Isaiah 28:28 attests a noun *gilgāl* (“wheel” [of a cart or chariot]; cf. the more common *gilgāl*, “wheel” [Is 5:28; Ezek 10:2, 6]). With two exceptions (Josh 5:9; 12:23), the place name always has the definite article prefixed (*haggilgāl*). Thus the form comprises a common noun (perhaps a “rolling” or “round” thing/place) made definite (“*the* rolling/round [place/thing]”) that through usage became the toponym *Gilgal*. Though often stated, the definition of Gilgal as “circle of stones” is problematic. Joshua 4 says nothing about how the stones were configured (see 2.1.1 below), and the other Gilgals need not share the same meaning.<sup>1</sup>
- **Joshua’s faith was** revealed in circumcising all of his youthful fighting forces as he was illustrating, he trusted God completely
  - *Leaders must lead other to overcome their fears and trust in God*
- **What reproach was Egypt was rolled away?**
  - *The reproach of our former lives has been rolled away in an eternal sense (Counted unto them as Abraham’s faith)*
  - *The reproach many times must be rolled away by God in an earthly sense that comes as we submit to the Lord to repair our reputation as a follow*
    - This term was a foreshadowing of **the forgiveness in Jesus** (all our sins/reproach rolled away)
    - This context gives us the idea of 1 John 1:9 (Cleansing from all unrighteousness in a daily repentant sense)
  - *\*The reproach of Egypt could be assailed to its slavery (today we are enslaved to sin until Jesus sets us free/rolls away)*
    - The opposite of reproach is God’s hand of blessing restored (rolled away/ also indicates something new rolling in)

<sup>10</sup>While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, **they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.** <sup>11</sup>And the day after the

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<sup>1</sup> R. L. Hubbard Jr., “Gilgal,” ed. Bill T. Arnold and H. G. M. Williamson, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005), 334.



Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes, and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> **And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land.** And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

- The Passover observed again-
  - *A reinstatement of a time of Thankfulness for deliverance from Egypt*
  - *A refreshing/reinvigorating act they would strengthen the people for the battles ahead in the land*
  
- The Manna ceased after they ate of the fruit of the promised land
  - *The ceasing of the manna marks the conclusion of a season*
    - Season of God's provisions in spite of the wilderness
    - Season of God's provisions in spite of the obedience & trust God was worthy to receive from the wandering people
  
  - *The beginning of a new season of provisions (scene change)*
    - A new season of bountiful blessing (food was plentiful)
    - A new season of variety (varied foods)
    - A new season that made them thankful for past provisions and even more thankful for the current
      - Today's society is one of entitlement (we are owed the best all the time)
      - Today's society is one of little faith in God's plan/will for you/your family/our nation
        - (Coin- "In God, we Don't Trust")

<sup>13</sup> When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand.** And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" <sup>14</sup> And he said, "**No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD.** Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" <sup>15</sup> And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "**Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.**" And Joshua did so.

- New seasons are often marked with a reminder of God's presence and power
  
- The Man with a drawn sword is a Christophany- pre-incarnate Jesus come to lead His people (one of three in which Jesus appears as an angel)



- o *Joshua recognized when He spoke it was the Lord God*
  - Joshua submitted
  - Joshua worshipped
  - Joshua revered the Lord (Presence of God is “Holy Ground”)
    - **Holy Ground** today= none other than God himself is there makes it Holy Ground and the Holy Spirit lives within us so we should therefore always be in a reverent state