

1 ☐ **Studies in Joshua**

“Devotion to God ... The First Priority” Joshua 5:1-15

2 ☐

● ***“ ‘... my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”***

Isaiah 55:8-9

3 ☐

● ***“... 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 they had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.”***

Joshua 1:1

4 ☐

● ***“Americans are always anxious to rush ahead with some program, ... We need to learn that this is not always God’s way. What we do is important but what we are is more important still. It is more important that God have our hearts and minds than our swords.”***

James M. Boice

5 ☐

● ***Chapter 5 is a call to renewed commitment
[Reconsecration]!***

6 ☐ **Circumcision: Restoring lost identity!**

● **Before Israel could begin the conquest of the land, the Lord commanded them to submit to the painful rite of circumcision.**

● **This was to remind them of who they were and of the covenant God had made with Abraham in connection with the promise of the land! [Genesis 17:8-11]**

7 ☐ **Even in Old Testament times, thoughtful believers recognized**

there is a deeper spiritual significance of this outward rite of circumcision

- The Israelites of Joshua's day had heard Moses speak of the circumcision of the heart on more than one occasion
Deut. 10:16; 30:6

8 ☐

- **Other key passages in the O. T. also refer to the circumcision of the heart [Jer. 4:4 & 32:39; Ezk. 11:19 & 36:26].**

9 ☐

Even more important and significant for us is the fact that circumcision itself and this circumcision which took place at Gilgal has important spiritual meaning and application in our own lives today

- I Cor. 10:11 *"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come."*

10 ☐

- Romans 2:28-29 [concerning circumcision] *"A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code..."*
- Phil. 3:3 *"For it is we [i.e. Christians] who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh ..."*

11 ☐

The Israelites must have recognized at least some of the spiritual significance of the rite of circumcision at this particular point in their history

- Perhaps they saw in this event how the flesh must be set aside if they were going to prevail over the Canaanite nations.

12 ☐

- In this act of circumcision, God could be teaching them the vanity of trusting in their own numbers, or their military prowess, or their cleverness.
- Their strength was nothing to God! The land was not to be won by their might, but received from God's hand as a gift!
- Therefore, self and the energy of the flesh must be set aside, in order that the glory of the coming victories might be assigned to God and not to man!

13 ☐

The Parallel and The application:
We Christians must also have our Gilgal experiences!

- *Colossians 3:5, 7*

- *Ephesians 4:29-32*
- *Romans 8:13*
- *Romans 6:11-14*
- ******The underlying truth is that we cannot hope to go forth and accomplish great conquests in our spiritual lives until we first practice this spiritual circumcision in our personal lives.***

14 **A second significance of this circumcision which took place on this occasion comes from God's words in verse 9**

- *"And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. 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."*
Joshua 5:8-9

15 **The Parallel and The Application**

- Today's Christian occupies a position of privilege and favor before God in Christ which stands in sharp contrast with his previous position of servitude to sin.
- cf. II Cor 5:17 - *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."*

16

- cf. also I John 5:19 *"We know that we are the children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."*
- Our identification with Christ has 'rolled away' our former humiliation as bond servants to the power and condemnation of sin!

17 **The Passover - Feeding on the Lamb!**

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

18 **We are plainly told in the New Testament that the spiritual significance of the Passover is fulfilled in Christ**

- I Cor. 5:7 refers to *"Christ, our Passover lamb"*

19

● **I Peter 1:19** *“For you know it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

● **John 1:29** *“Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”*

20 ☐ **The Parallel and the Application**

● Like the work of Christ on the cross, the Passover could never be repeated!

● *“But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”*

Heb. 10:12-14

21 ☐ **Even though the Passover itself could never be repeated, the feast of the Passover was destined to be a perpetual repetition**

● F. B. Meyer says of the Passover meal: *“... it was a family meal at which the people reviewed the past with thankfulness, and talked together of that mercy which had been so remarkably displayed in their national history. On reaching the land of promise, the thoughts of the people were guided back to the great fact of redemption by blood that lay at the basis of their existence.”*

22 ☐

● ***Similarly, there can never be a moment in the existence of the Christian when he can be forgetful of the broken body and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is our Passover Lamb!***

23 ☐ **Two other specifics from the Passover experience in the O. T. which have spiritual fulfillment in the experience of the N. T. Christian**

● The Christian must also, like the ancient Hebrews, always have the mind of a pilgrim [Heb. 11:9]. We are to travel lightly in this world, realizing we are only passing through, and ready to pass on to our real home!

● We are always to be gathering together with the family of God to feed on the Lamb!

24 ☐ **A final observation regarding ‘circumcision’ and the ‘Passover’**

- **No uncircumcised person could partake of the Passover.**
- **There must be a Gilgal with its circumcision [the salvation and sanctification of Christ] before there can be a feeding on the Passover lamb!**
- **The practice of feeding on the Passover Lamb must be in place before we can go forth as conquerors! It is the place of shelter, protection, and spiritual nourishment and strength for the soul!**