

Christ In The Old Testament
“Captain Of The Host”
Joshua 5:10 - 6:5

Introduction:

1. Tonight:
 - As We Continue To Look For Christ:
 - In The Old Testament!
 - We Will Find Him - Through:
 - Another “Christophany” - Which Is:
 - The Personal & Visible Appearance:
 - Of Jesus Christ - As A Man:
 - Before His Virgin Birth:
 - Into This World!
 - Not Only Do These Appearances:
 - Reveal To Us The Deity Of Christ:
 - They Also Reveal:
 - His Ongoing Work:
 - In This World!
2. To Review Where We’ve Been:
 - We First Saw Christ In The Old Testament:
 - When He Walked Through The Garden Of Eden:
 - To Reach Out To:
 - Adam & Eve:
 - Even After They Rebelled & Sinned Against Him!
 - Yet - He Still Sought Them Out:
 - To Make A Way:
 - For Their Fellowship:
 - To Be Restored!
 - We Then Saw Christ:
 - Along With Two Of His Angels:
 - When He Personally Appeared To Abraham:
 - Not Only To Display:
 - His Might - As The Judge Of All The Earth!
 - But Also To Display:
 - His Mercy!
 - A Mercy That Still:
 - Invites Us & Welcomes Us:
 - To His Throne Of Grace!
 - Last Week We Saw Christ:
 - When He Wrestled With Jacob:
 - In One Of The Most Difficult Times:
 - Of Jacob’s Life!
 - But - He Didn’t Come:
 - To Hurt Jacob - But:
 - To Help Jacob - And:
 - To Prod Jacob Into:
 - A Closer Relationship With Him!
3. Well - For Tonight:
 - Lets Turn In Our Bibles To:
 - The Old Testament Book Of:
 - Joshua - Chapter 5:
 - Where - Not Long After God Led His People Across The Jordan River:
 - Into The Promised Land:
 - Under The New Leadership Of Joshua!
 - Joshua Himself:
 - Faced The First - And Seemingly:
 - Biggest Obstacle:

- In The Path Of God's Promises:
- To His People!

- The Great City:
- Of Jericho!

4. And So - Picking Up In:

- Joshua 5:10 - We Read:

- "And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho!"

- Read Through 6:5!

- What A Remarkable Scene!

- As Joshua Prepared To:

- Do His Duty:

- Which He Had Been Given By The Lord:

- Earlier In This Book:

- He Is Confronted By:

- 5:13 - "A Man!"

- Even - A Man - "With His Sword Drawn In His Hand!"

- And - The First Question That Comes Into Our Minds:

- Is Probably The Same Question:

- That Came Into The Mind:

- Of Joshua!

- Who Is This Man?

5. Well - As We Continue Through The Text:

- We Discover That This Man:

- Is Different:

- Than Any Other Man:

- Joshua Had Ever Known!

- Because - This Man:

- Moved Joshua:

- The Way No Other Man:

- Ever Had - Or Ever Could:

- Move Him!

- How Did He Move Joshua?

* First - Joshua Was Moved:

1. **By The Presence Of This Man:**

Because - In 5:13-14 - When:

- Joshua Saw Him & Confronted Him:

- And Asked Him:

- "Art Thou For Us, Or For Our Adversaries?"

- This Man's Response:

- Moved Joshua:

- To "Fall On His Face To The Earth!"

- This Is The Same Joshua:

- Who Was Told By The Lord:

- Back In 1:9 - To - "Be strong and of a good courage!"

- But - When Joshua:

- "Fell On His Face" - It Was Not:

- An Act Of Cowardice - But:

- An Act Of Profound Humility!

- Because - He Recognized That:

- The Authority Of This Man:

- Was Greater & Higher:

- Than That Of His Own!

* Second - Joshua Was Moved:

2. **By The Position Of This Man:**

- As The "Captain Of The Host Of The Lord!"

- Not Only Did Joshua:
 - “Fall On His Face” Before Him!
- We Are Also Told:
 - In 5:14 - That - He “Did Worship!”
 - This Means That - He Bestowed Honor & Glory:
 - On This Man - In A Way That Was Reserved:
 - Only For Someone Superior To Him - Even God!
- And - How Did This Man:
 - Respond To Joshua’s Worship?
- If He Was Just Another Good Man:
 - As Joshua Was!
 - He Would Have Responded The Same Way Paul & Barnabas Did:
 - In Acts 14:14-15 - When The People Of Lystra Wanted To Worship Them As Gods!
 - They “Rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, / And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God!”
- Or - If This Man Was Just Another Angel:
 - Doing The Service Of The Lord:
 - He Would Have Responded The Same Way The Angel Did:
 - In Revelation 22:8-9 - When The Apostle John Even “Fell Down To Worship Before The Feet Of The Angel!”
 - And - How Did The Angel Respond? “Then saith he unto me, See [thou do it] not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God!”
- When Joshua Worshipped This Man:
 - Instead Of Correcting Joshua:
 - The “Captain Of The Hosts Of The Lord!”
 - Received His Worship:
 - As An Appropriate Response To His Position!

* Third - Joshua Was Moved:

3. By The Place Of This Man:

- Because - After Joshua:
 - Submitted Himself To Him:
 - As His Servant - In 5:14 - By Saying:
 - “What Saith My Lord Unto His Servant?”
- The “Captain” Replied:
 - In 5:15 - “Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest [is] holy!”
 - Hopefully - These Words:
 - Are Familiar To You!
 - Because - These Words:
 - Would Most Certainly Have Been Familiar To Joshua!
 - These Are The Same Words:
 - That Were Said To Moses:
 - Back In Exodus 3 - When God Called Him Into His Service!
 - Because - In Exodus 3:1-5 - We Are Told That When:
 - “Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, [even] to Horeb. / The angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush [was] not consumed. / And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. / And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here [am] I. / And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest [is] holy ground!”
- It Is Clear From These Two Passages:
 - That God Meant For Joshua:
 - To Understand That:
 - The Mantle Of Moses:

- Had Been Given To Him - And:
 - The Torch Had Been Passed!
- But - As True As This Was:
 - The Places Where Both Moses & Joshua Stood:
 - Were Called “Holy!”
 - Though They Were Different:
 - Geographically - They Were Both:
 - Separate, Significant, And Very Special Places!
 - But - What Made Those:
 - Rather Ordinary Places:
 - In The Deserts Of Moab & Judea:
 - “Holy?”
 - It Was The Presence:
 - Of The Holy One Himself:
 - That Made Those Two Places:
 - “Holy!”
- And - What Did Joshua Do?
 - 5:15 - “Joshua Did So!”
 - He Obeyed The Command:
 - Of This Man!

* Fourth - Joshua Was Moved:

4. By The Power Of This Man:

- Because - When We Turn To The Next Chapter:
 - In 16:2 - The Same Man Who Appeared To Him:
 - Says To Him:
 - “See, I Have Given Into Thine Hand Jericho, And The King Thereof, And The Mighty Men Of Valor!”
- Now - Jericho:
 - Was One Of The Most Powerful Cities:
 - Of The Land At That Time!
 - Archaeologists Have Discovered That:
 - Jericho Didn’t Just Have One Wall, But Two Walls:
 - Surrounding It!
 - The Height Of The First Wall:
 - The Outer Wall - Was About 40 Feet High!
 - And - The Inner Wall - Was About:
 - 50 Feet High:
 - From Ground Level!
 - And - In Between Those Walls:
 - It Was Filled In With Dirt:
 - To Withstand An Assault:
 - From The Outside With Battering Rams!
 - As Far As Joshua Was Concerned:
 - Jericho Would Have Been:
 - An Impregnable Fortress!
 - But - What Does This Man Say To Him?
 - “I Have **Given** Into Thine Hand Jericho!”
 - And Then - He Proceeds To Lay Out:
 - The Most Unusual Siege Plan:
 - In The History Of Military Tactics!
 - But - Who Had The Power:
 - To Give Jericho:
 - Into Joshua & Israel’s Hand?
 - Who Possessed The Power:
 - Not - To Just Say These Things:
 - But Then:
 - To Do These Things?

- Well - According To 16:2 - This Man:
 - This “Captain Of The Hosts Of The Lord” - Was:
 - “The LORD” Himself!
 - Because - It Was:
 - “The LORD” Who “Said” These Things “Unto Joshua!”
- So - Even Though This Man:
 - Was The “LORD” - He Was Also:
 - The “Captain Of The Hosts Of The Lord!”
 - From Our Perspective - In The New Testament:
 - In His Nature - This Man:
 - Was The Same As God!
 - But - In His Person - This Man:
 - Was Distinct From God!
- This Man Was:
 - The Second Person Of The Trinity:
 - God The Son - Even:
 - Christ Himself!

* Fifth - Joshua Was Moved:

5. ***By The Preparation Of This Man!***

- Because - Why Did Christ Choose:
 - To Appear To Joshua:
 - In This Way - And:
 - At This Time?
 - I Believe It Was To:
 - Prepare & Equip Joshua:
 - To “Be Strong And Of A Good Courage!”
- Christ Came To Joshua:
 - As The Captain Of The Hosts:
 - To Fortify Him:
 - For The Fight:
 - That Was Before Him!
 - And - To Give Him Real Evidence:
 - Of The Promise He Made To Joshua:
 - Also Found In 1:9:
 - That - “The LORD Thy God Is With Thee Whithersoever Thou Goest!”
- In Other Words:
 - Wherever Joshua Went - And:
 - In Whatever Joshua Did:
 - Christ Would Be There:
 - With Him & For Him!
- And So - Christ Took This Time:
 - To Prepare Joshua:
 - To Serve Him:
 - Through The Strength & The Courage:
 - Of The Lord!
- So - He First Prepared:
 - The Heart Of Joshua!
 - Back In 5:13:
 - We Were Told That Christ Met Joshua:
 - “When Joshua Was By Jericho!”
 - Could Also Be Translated:
 - “In Jericho!”
 - This Probably Means That:
 - Joshua Took His New Role & Responsibility:
 - Seriously - And At That Point:
 - Jericho Was Consuming:
 - All His Thoughts & Energy!

- According To 16:1:
 - Jericho Was:
 - “Straitly Shut Up Because Of The Children Of Israel: None Went Out, And None Came In!”
- So - Joshua May Have Taken The Opportunity:
 - To Get As Close As He Could:
 - To Survey Those Imposing Walls:
 - And Try To Figure Out:
 - How To Get Over Them Or Through Them!
- He May Even Have Been Alone!
 - But He Was Still On His Guard!
 - After All - Before Him:
 - Was The Strong City Of His Enemies!
 - While - Behind Him:
 - Was The Weakened Camp Of His Own People! Due To The Mass Circumcision That Took Place:
 - In 5:1-9!
- But - It Was Then:
 - As He Was Lost In His Thoughts & Planning:
 - Christ Came To Him:
 - In 5:13b - And - “He lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand!”
- Though Joshua Didn’t Know It At That Moment:
 - This Man Was:
 - For Him - Not:
 - Against Him!
 - That Sword Was In His Hand:
 - To Help Him - Not:
 - To Hurt Him!
- So - Even As Joshua Was:
 - Preparing Himself:
 - For The Battle!
 - Christ Came To Him:
 - To Prepare & Encourage His Heart:
 - By Showing Him That:
 - He Was There To Fight With Him!
- But Then - Christ Also Prepared:
 - The Hands Of Joshua:
 - By Telling Him - In Chapter 6:
 - How Everything Would Go Down:
 - In The Battle:
 - If He Would Just Follow His Instructions & Commands!
 - So - Even As Joshua Was:
 - Preparing Himself:
 - For The Battle!
 - Christ Came To Him:
 - To Prepare & Encourage His Hands:
 - By Showing Him That:
 - He Was There To Fight For Him!
- And - In 16:6-27:
 - We Find Out What Happens:
 - When Christ Fights:
 - With & For His People!
 - Read Passage!

Conclusion:

1. Christ Moved Joshua:
 - In Such A Way:

- That The Battles Of Joshua:
 - Would No Longer Be His Battles:
 - Alone!
 - 2. And - The Same Is True:
 - For Us - Because - When We Turn To:
 - The New Testament:
 - In Hebrews 2:10:
 - Christ Appears To Us - Once Again:
 - As The Captain & The Commander:
 - Of Our Salvation!
 - “For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings!”
 - Not Only Was:
 - Christ - The Captain:
 - Over Joshua - He Is The Captain:
 - Of All “The Hosts Of The Lord!”
 - Including You & Me!
3. So - Let This Image Of Christ:
 - Move You - And:
 - Fortify You:
 - For The Fights & Battles:
 - That Are Still Before You!
 - Because:
 - When Christ Fights:
 - With Us & For Us:
 - Matthew Henry - “Those Cannot But Be Victorious That Have Such A Captain!”

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