



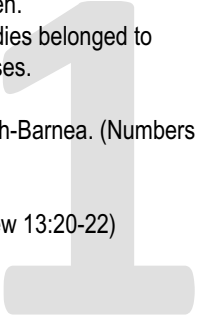
Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 11 (Part 5)

Passage: Joshua - Survey

Faith Must Be Tested (Joshua 5:1-2)

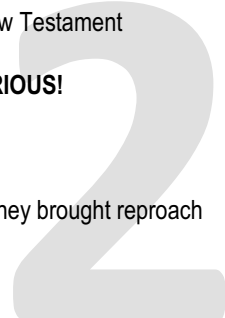
- AT GILGAL
- **GOD** brings HIS fear upon the Amorites and the Canaanites. Just as He promised! – Deuteronomy 2:25; 11:25; 28:10; Exodus 15:14-16; 23:27.
- “hearts melted” and “no spirit in them” – **absolute fear!**
“At that time . . .” (v. 2)
 - ① When God had shown Himself strong on their behalf.
 - ② When they had “passed through” the waters of the Jordan River which was a symbol of death and judgment.
 - ③ When they had just set foot into the Promised Land.
 - ④ Four days before the Passover. Circumcision was a requirement for anyone who would celebrate this feast. (Exodus 13:43-49)
 - ⑤ When they just began to take real possession of their possession and destroying anyone or anything that would prevent them from enjoying the same.
- Circumcision Required (vv. 2-5)
 - Circumcision: The **sign** of the Covenant! (Read Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27)
 - A Jew became a “marked” person identifying him as one of Yahweh’s special people.
 - That relationship demanded **obedience** to Yahweh.
 - The “mark” was a constant reminder that their bodies belonged to Yahweh and was not be used for sinful purposes.
 - **FAITH MUST BE TESTED!**
 - The “**first**” generation was **tested** and failed at Kadesh-Barnea. (Numbers 13-14)
 - Now the “**second**” generation must be tested!
 - Those who “**accepted**” Christ must be tested! (Matthew 13:20-22)
- **REMEMBER:** Joshua 1:7-9



- **COMMON (WORLD) SENSE:** Circumcising all the **men** would put the entire population at risk! Every **soldier** would be **disabled!** (See Genesis 34:25). **MEDITATE: PROVERBS 3:5-7**
- Circumcision was meant to be a **symbol** of what had happened in the **heart!**
 - Deuteronomy 10:16
- BUT physical surgery **cannot** change the inner person! This why **GOD** is the One, and only One, who can **truly** circumcise a person.
 - Deuteronomy 30:6 – **notice the reason why God circumcises the heart!**
 - ★ The “cutting away of flesh” was a reminder that our “flesh” was crucified with Christ. (Galatians 2:20)
 - ★ The “cutting away” was a reminder that we are to “put off the old man” and “put on the new” man. (Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:24)
 - New Testament circumcision: Romans 2:28-29; Colossians 2:11; Philippians 3:3.
 - “One must be circumcised in order to be numbered among God’s people – even today!” – Spiritual circumcision!
- The Jews began to “find security” in the **physical operation** while ignoring the **spiritual meaning!** **People today do the same thing by putting their trust in their baptism, confirmation, and/or the Lord’s Supper.**
- Another **important** aspect of circumcision was that it was to be a **reminder** that man was not to put confidence in the flesh, but only trust God. Here is the **test** at Gilgal. Would the people **trust** God or not? Consider Exodus 34:23-24.

God Swore! (Joshua 5:6-9)

- God swore that the “**first**” generation would **never** enter the Promised Land **because** they did not **obey!** (Numbers 14:32-34, 23).
- David wrote Psalm 95 with this disobedience in mind **as a warning** to his generation.
- The writer of Hebrews quotes David **as a warning** to New Testament “believers.” (Hebrews 3:7-18)
- **GOD IS SERIOUS! AND HE EXPECTS US TO BE SERIOUS!**
- THEN (SO)! (vv. 7-8)
 - Joshua **obeyed!**
- The Reproach of Egypt (v. 9)
 - When the Jews disobeyed God at Kadesh Barnea they brought reproach upon themselves by their enemies!



- **NOW that reproach is gone!** They are now in the Promise Land and are ready to **fight** and be **victorious!**
- Gilgal (“to roll away”) will be a reminder of circumcision and what it meant!

Passover (Joshua 5:10-12)

- ★ Meditate: Joshua 5:11 and Psalm 23:5
- ★ The manna ceased! (v. 12)

A “Man” Appears (Joshua 5:13-15)

- “And **it** came to pass” – this little word “and” or “then” **links** us to what has just preceded us!
- Joshua had **obeyed** God in circumcising this ‘second’ generation and had **celebrated** the Passover and Feast of Unleaven Bread in **strict accordance** with the Law of Moses!
- **As a results**, Christ manifested Himself to Joshua! **See John 14:21.**
- **MEDITATE** on our first goal for 2022! - A deeper relationship with God.
- “by or near Jericho” – probably making a “recon” to determine the best plan to attach Jericho. **NOTE:** Joshua was doing his duty!
 - Though God promised to show Himself strong Joshua still knew that he had to discharge his duty.
 - We are NOT to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-7) and rely on our own strength – but we are to exercise both. It was in the line of duty that God appeared to Joshua.
- God tests Joshua’s courage and faith.
 - He had commanded Joshua, “Do not be afraid . . .” (1:6-9).
 - Joshua boldly approaches the “Man” who has a drawn sword.
 - Joshua asked, “Are you for us or against us?” – to Joshua there was no other place!! There was **no place for compromise!** See Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23.
 - **LESSON:** As long as we are in or on the path of duty we have no need to fear!!

The “Man’s” Response (vv. 14-15)

- This is one of many “preincarnation” appearances of Christ in the Old Testament.
- Immediately, Joshua knew that he was **not** in command – but he was **second** in command!
- Christ promised, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.” (Joshua 1:5) – **And here He is!!!**

- Joshua, immediately, falls on his face and worships Christ. **THIS IS EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS CHRIST AND NOT AN ANGEL! AN ANGEL WOULD HAVE STOPPED JOSHUA FROM WORSHIPPING HIM (Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9). The “Man” accepts Joshua’s worship!**
- Joshua’s second response: “What does **my Lord** say to **His servant?**”
- (v. 15) The LORD’s **first order**, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy!” **AGAIN THIS IS PROOF THAT JOSHUA IS SPEAKING TO DIVINITY. See Exodus 3:5-6.**
- This command links the two incidents together – Moses at the burning bush and Joshua before the Captain of the LORD’s armies.
- **LESSON:** Circumcision, the celebration of the Passover and Unleavened Bread, and the appearance of the Captain of the LORD’s armies reminds Joshua that he is to put no confidence in the flesh but wholly trust in the Lord.

Before the Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-2)

- Jericho is **securely shut up.** (Hebrews: “did shut up and was shut up” – a statement that gives emphasis.)
- None of the citizens of Jericho went out and none came in.
- **Why?** Be care how you read this verse!
 - ★ Deuteronomy 2:25; 7:23; 11:25; 32:30; Exodus 23:27.
 - ☛ Some can read this verse and see **MAN.**
 - ☛ Other read the Bible and see **GOD.**
 - ☛ The people of Jericho **heard** what God had done for and through His people and that is why they are shut up in their city. (Joshua 2:9-11)
- They shut themselves in against the One who:
 - Opens prison doors (Acts 5:19; 12:10; 16:26)
 - Revelation 3:7-8; Isaiah 22:22; Job 11:10; 12:14.
- ★ ★ ★ Unless the Lord watches over a city, the watchman watches in vain! (Psalm 127:1)
- **BUT** Jericho was a **walled** city and one of the cities that caused the spies in Numbers 13-14 to fear saying, “Nevertheless, the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large . . .”
- **THE WALLS OF JERICO IS WHAT THE ISRAELITES SAW!**
- **SEE!** (v. 2)
 - The LORD gives Joshua a **promise:** “See! I **have given** Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.”
 - The **verb** is important – it was **already** done!
 - “**SEE!**” – (it is a command!)
 - When Joshua and the Israelites **looked** with their physical eyes they **saw** a great walled city!

→ **BUT** the Lord is emphatically commanding Joshua to see **beyond** what they see with their physical eyes and “see” with faith. “Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.”

★ Faith has a **foundation** and that foundation is the **WORD of GOD**. In this example, if the LORD says He has done something it is a **certainty!**

- This promise also shows us God’s sovereignty over **kingdoms, nations, people, war, peace, life and death**. (Psalm 103:19)

- In Biblical numerology the number **seven** represents **completeness** or **perfection**.

★ **The number speaks of God’s ability to finish what He starts.**

- **WHY?** If God has already **promised** Jericho to His people why all this **seemingly** unneeded preparations and execution of “uncommon” sense plans!

★ **LESSON:** Though God has predestined everything, though God has promised to preserve us to the end, though God has revealed to us that salvation is by grace and grace alone – this does not exclude our **obedience** to His commands.

★ **LESSON:** Divine promises do not render human responsibility needless.

★ **LESSON:** If we trust God’s promises **and** obey what He tells us to do, we **will** have victory. Those who obey trust. Those who trust obey. Those who argue do not trust and obey.

- **God promises us SALVATION but all through the New Testament we are commanded to be busy doing and without the “doing” there is no guarantee of salvation!** (James 1:22; Matt 7:21-23, 24-29; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)

The ORDER (Joshua 6:3-5)

• The Order:

- All the men of war were to **march** around the city for six days.
- **Seven** priests with **seven** rams’ horns will march before the Ark of the Covenant.
- On the **seventh** day you shall march around the city **seven** times.
- After the **seventh** time the priest shall blow the trumpets.
- All the people shall shout!

• The Promise: The walls of the city will fall flat!

• Notice the SEVENS:

- The number **seven** was written into the life of Israel (by God):
 - **Seven** days of creation (Genesis 1-2)
 - The Sabbath was on the **seventh** day. (Genesis 2:3)
 - **Seven** feasts of the Lord. (Leviticus 23)
 - Pentecost was celebrated **seven** weeks from Passover.
 - Three of these feasts were in the **seventh** month. (Leviticus 23)
 - The Sabbatical year was every **seven** years.
 - The Year of Jubilee was every forty-nine (**7 x 7**) years.
 - **Seven** pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle.
 - **Seven** lamps on the Lampstand.
 - Daniel’s “**seventy week**” prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27).
- The Book of Revelation is full of the number **seven**:
 - **Seven** stars. (Revelation 1:20)
 - **Seven** lampstands.
 - **Seven** angels.
 - **Seven** churches.
 - **Seven** seals of judgment.
 - **Seven** trumpets of judgment.
 - **Seven** bowls of wrath.
 - **Seven** thunders.

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