

Preparing to Enter the Promised Land Joshua 5

And it happened, just like He said it would! (1)

The Kings of the Amorites and the Canaanites are afraid

They realize:

This God of Israel is powerful

This God is on the side of Israel

This God is not on their side

Note that what was promised in Joshua 4:24 is being fulfilled—but how was this to impact God’s people?

They are to learn to fear the LORD forever

God is showing His faithfulness... *now the people must respond*

Obey. Fully. (2-3)

This has always been about the hearts of the people turning toward God

Remember: God doesn’t want the offerings without the contrition

Notice how this is always about spiritual preparation and not military preparation

Joshua called upon to keep the law

The people called to obedience

A memorial set up to remind them of God’s work

Joshua hears God’s command, Joshua obeys God’s command

Consider what this command entails:

Convincing all these men that they are to undergo “surgery”

Persuading these men that though they will be incapacitated for a while,
this is still right

Cf. Genesis 34:24ff

Consider the faith that goes along with such obedience

Flashback—Why weren’t these men circumcised? Their fathers didn’t obey. And God did to them what He said He would do. (4-7)

They were born while in the wilderness

The emphasis on the disobedience of the people of Israel in the wilderness leads us to think that this too (the lack of circumcision for the children) was an aspect of their disobedience

Note that the promise is still intact, but the faithless do not receive it; *God raises up a remnant* or, in this case, *a new generation*.

What was circumcision? It had to do with the covenant relationship with Yahweh

Genesis 17:9-14

Every male must be circumcised (8 days old)

Those uncircumcised will be *cut off*

There is a contrast:

The earlier generation, had the sign (circumcision) but not the obedience

The new generation, at least for now, has the obedience, but not the sign

Obedience not military strength. (8-9)

The people obey → God's Name is honored

The reproach of Egypt—cf. Numbers 14:13-16

The wandering is over

The land they were promised is now theirs

They haven't even attacked one city yet, but the covenantal relationship ensures that it is a done deal

Remember, Worship, Provision (10-12)

Importance of Passover and keeping it

By observing the Passover, they acknowledge God as Savior

By observing the Passover, they remember the covenant and promises

(This is not some accidental or new plan, this has been Yahweh's plan from the beginning)

By observing the Passover, they worship in obedience

(They act like the people of God are supposed to act!)

Importance of manna and now the produce of the land

Eating from the land is a way of showing that they have taken over the land

Eating from the land was an ordinary provision, *but a provision nonetheless*

Providence

God seeing and providing for the needs of His people

He can provide in extraordinary ways (miracles) or ordinary ways

Seeing God (13-15)

After all the preparation... again God's promise revealed powerfully

He will be with Joshua and not forsake him (cf. Joshua 1:9); but it is not about the commander being on Joshua's side, but about Joshua being on the commander's side

Joshua understands: *Considers himself a servant*

Wants to hear God's voice in order to obey

Who is the commander of the Lord's Army?

Hints that this is a divine being (perhaps a preincarnate Christ)

Joshua falls in worship and the commander accepts it

The commander imitates the response of Yahweh to Moses regarding the holiness of His presence

“Joshua has been made aware of the presence of One greater than man whose drawn sword clearly speaks of combat readiness, and whose army is nothing less than that of the Lord himself. What more is there to know before the Conquest is to begin in earnest?”

Marten H. Woudstra

Ends, once again, with a note of obedience: *And Joshua did so.*

Mount Ararat Bible Church

All-Church Bible Study

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