



Joshua Lesson 4

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Joshua 5:2 "...make flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel..."

Wait...What?!?

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Joshua 2:24 "Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands...."

Joshua 4:13 "40,000 men equipped for war, crossed for battle...to the desert plains of Jericho"

Joshua 4:24 "all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty..."

Joshua 5:1 "when all the kings of the Amorites...Canaanites...heard how the LORD had dried up the waters...their hearts melted...."

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- Ex 4:24 "Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the LORD met him and sought to put him to death."
- Ex 4:25 "Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet....So He [God] let him alone...."

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Why was circumcision so important?

- Gen 12:1 The Lord tells Abraham: "...Go... to the land..."
- Gen 12:7 "...To your descendants I will give this land..."
- Gen 13:14-15 "...all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever."
- Gen 17:8 "I will give to you and to your descendants....the land...all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession...."

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Why was circumcision so important?

- Gen 17:9-11 = tied to the land: "This is my covenant...every male among you shall be circumcised." Circumcision was THE sign of the covenant!
- Gen 17:14 "But an uncircumcised male...that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."
- Gen 17:23-27 = Abraham immediately obeyed; ALL were circumcised, including his servants! See also Ex 12:43-44,48

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"While the elements of this covenant would not be broken by God and they remained in effect throughout all generations, each generation of Israelites—indeed **each individual Israelite**—had to make its own decision whether to obey the covenant. That is the point of circumcision as the sign of the covenant (Gen 17:9-14): **an individual's failure to circumcise was tantamount to breaking the covenant**, and whoever did not do this [circumcision] was cut off from the rest of Israel (17:14). However, the covenant as a whole remained in effect for the nation; it was the rebellious **individual** or group who was cut off."

David Howard, Jr.

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Josh 5:9 “rolled away the reproach of Egypt”

- Ex 32:11-13 “Why should the Egyptians speak, saying ‘With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth?’”
- Deut 9:28 “Otherwise the land from which You brought us may say, ‘Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which He had promised them and because He hated them He has brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.’”

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Josh 5:9 “rolled away the reproach of Egypt”

- Num 11:1,4 “the rabble that went with them”
- Ex 12:38 “a mixed multitude also went up with them”
- Ps 78:40-41 “How often they **rebelled** against Him in the wilderness and **grieved** Him in the desert! Again and again, they tempted God, and **pained the Holy One of Israel.**”
- Num 14:27,29 “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are **grumbling against Me?** I have heard the **complaints** of the sons of Israel which they are making against Me....your corpses will fall in this wilderness...who have **grumbled** against Me.”

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The Captain of the Lord's Hosts:

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Joshua 5:14: How do we know this is not just an angel?

- Joshua fell on his face and bowed down; angels do not receive worship
- The response of the Captain: “...the place where you are standing is holy”
- Similar to the experience of Moses speaking to God in Exodus 3:5 (holy ground)
- The LORD Himself is the Captain of the Lord's army (“the host of the LORD”)
- Joshua 6:2 “The LORD said to Joshua....”

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“What message does my Lord have for his servant?” Joshua's attitude:

- Humble, expectant, obedient
- Recognition of the Captain's superior position
- Recognition of his subservient position; ready to serve

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Ex 23:20-23 God had promised Moses:

"Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since **My name is in him**....For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them."

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Moses [Exodus] (not in chronological order)	Joshua
God meets with His leader on "holy ground," Moses, ch 2-3	God meets with His leader "on holy ground," Joshua, 1:3-5; 5:13-15
Exodus from Egypt, ch 12-14	Entrance into the Promised Land, ch 1
Israel crosses the Red Sea, 14:13-31	Israel crosses the Jordan, ch 3-4
Circumcision, 12:44,48; Lev 12:3	Circumcision of new generation, 5:1-9
Passover celebrated, ch 11-12	Passover celebrated, 5:10
Manna provided, ch 16	Manna ceases, 5:12
Egyptians destroyed, ch 14-15	Jericho destroyed, ch 6
Affirmation of the covenant, ch 19-24	Reaffirmation of the covenant, 8:30-35

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Lessons from Joshua 5:

1. Theme of ch 5 is holiness: God is holy; we serve a holy God; therefore, we are called to be holy.
2. God's ways are not our ways. (Is 55:8-9)
3. God will provide our physical needs, for exactly the right amount of time.
4. God will go before us in our battles; what do we have to fear?
5. The question is not whether God for us, but are we for God? Where do we stand?

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