

Joshua: Prophet of Conquest

Joshua 5:13-6:5, 15-16, 20

Introduction

Joshua 3–4 records how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land, much as the previous generation had crossed the Red Sea on dry land under Moses' leadership.

Introduction

Joshua 5:1 When the Amorite kings and Canaanite kings heard how the LORD had dried up the water of the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their heart melted

- Melting hearts are a great thing if they melt unto repentance.
- When our spiritual enemies see that we are trusting in God and are willing to step out in obedient faith – even when it seems crazy – they lose confidence in their battle against us.

Introduction

Joshua 5:3 Joshua circumcised their sons

Circumcision was always a powerful act of consecration to God.

It was stepping out in faithful obedience and identifying as one of the LORD's people.

It was renouncing the flesh and the world. It was dying to self and living to God.

Introduction

Joshua 5:8 Joshua circumcised their sons; They stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed:

From a military standpoint, this definitely WAS NOT the thing to do..

Genesis 34:24-25

²⁴ And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.

²⁵ And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

- This could have been the fate of Israel here in Joshua 5.

Introduction

Joshua 5:10 The Passover is celebrated

They remembered that they were a people delivered and remembered God's work of deliverance.

In the same way, we are to be in constant remembrance of our redemption at Calvary and live our lives in the shadow of the cross.

Joshua 5:12 God stops the manna.

God will provide

Introduction

In today's text Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, received a message from his "commander in chief," regarding the conquest of the promised land.

Outline

- I. Messenger of the Plan
Joshua 5:13-15
- II. The Plan to Conquer Jericho
Joshua 6:1-5
- III. Joshua Obeys the Plan
Joshua 6:15-16, 20

Messenger of the Plan

Joshua 5:13-15

- Joshua had an encounter very similar to Moses' encounter at the burning bush.
 - Behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand

A Messenger of the Plan

Joshua 5:13-15

- Captain of the host of the LORD
- Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith **my LORD** unto his servant

Joshua's total submission shows that he knows who is really in charge.

A Messenger of the Plan

Joshua 5:13-15

Revelation 22:8-9

⁸ And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

⁹ 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.

A Messenger of the Plan

Joshua 5:13-15

- Captain of the host of the LORD of the army of the LORD

Exodus 3:4-5

⁴ 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.

⁵ And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

The Plan to Conquer Jericho

Joshua 6:1-5

- Jericho's Status
 - Anticipated an attack; barred their gates
 - Closed to all incoming and outgoing traffic
 - Residents were afraid of Israel's might
- The Lord's Strategy
 - And the Lord said unto Joshua, **See I have given into thine hand** Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.
 - You shall march around the city once for six days.
 - On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

The Plan to Conquer Jericho

Joshua 6:1-5

- The Lord's Strategy
 - Required total dependence on God
 - Required great faith from Joshua because he had to explain and lead the nation in this plan.
 - Required great faith from the elders and the nation, because they had to follow Joshua in this plan.

Joshua Obeys the Plan

Joshua 6:15-16, 20

- Surrounded the City
- Seizing the City

Follow Directions

- Consider the faith required to trust and obey God's directions for conquering the city of Jericho (Hebrews 11:30).
- When first hearing the plan, many Israelites may have thought *What kind of strategy is this? Who conquers a city with such a battle plan?*

Follow Directions

Receiving the promised land could only be accomplished on God's terms.

The people were not to compromise, ignore, or tweak the terms in any way. Even though the commands of God were unconventional, those commands were to be obeyed.

Follow Directions

Though Christians may disagree about some particulars, we know from Jesus that our first command is to love the Lord (Mark 12:30)

³⁰ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Loving Him involves obedience (John 14:15).

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.