

- I) V1 INTRO: So it was when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan
 - a) Chapter 5 contains insights into the conquest of the Promised Land

- II) WE WILL SEE: Some very basic things related to Joshua's establishment as leader over Israel
 - a) ALSO: We will see what the Lord would require of His people if they are to enter into His promises
 - 1) The people will need to be consecrated: which will be revealed through circumcision
 - 2) The people will celebrate Passover, which will remind them of God's works in the recent past
 - 3) THEN: Joshua will receive his commissioning, when he speaks to the Commander

- III) AS WE BEGIN: Word of Israel's entrance into the promised land had traveled fast, from east to west
 - a) The kings of the Amorites who were by the Jordan had heard, and news had traveled 70 miles west to the Canaanites who lived by the Mediterranean Sea

- IV) V1 WHEN THEY: Heard news that the Jordan River had dried up, they were petrified
 - a) This was an obvious miracle and sign to them that God was in the midst of Israel
 - 1) The Jordan was at flood stage (3:15): they may have thought they had time to prepare for war

- V) THE FACT: That God had dried up the Jordan in such a miraculous way produced terror in them
 - a) The hand of the Lord is mighty (4:24)
 - 1) Ex 9:16 (God said to Moses) But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may *show My power in you*, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

- VI) V2-6 AT THAT TIME: The Lord said to Joshua Make flint knives for yourself and circumcise the sons
 - a) The Jewish men were aware that the people in the land were in terror, as Rahab had said
 - 1) Josh 3:9 I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you

- VII) KEY: Military strategists would more than likely believe it wise to invade while the people were afraid
 - a) Instead of going in, God orders them to perform circumcisions on those uncircumcised
 - 1) WHY: Because before the campaign comes consecration

- VIII) REMEMBER: Circumcision was the emblem of the covenant God had made with Abraham
 - a) This was the covenant that gave the promised land to Israel
 - 1) Gen 17:9-11 And God said to Abraham: As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This *is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.*

- IX) THE NEW GENERATION: Had neglected the rite of circumcision during those years of wandering
 - a) The men of war had died in the wilderness, and the boys born during that time were uncircumcised
 - 1) Circumcision represented their relationship to God, but they had not obeyed the voice of the Lord

- X) KEY: Circumcision was never simply the cutting away of the flesh but spoke of consecration
 - a) It was to represent their relationship to God, which was from the heart
 - 1) Dt 10:16 Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.
 - 2) Phil 3:3 or we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort (NLT)

- I) V7-8 SO JOSHUA: Circumcised their sons whom He raise up in their place for they were uncircumcised

- a) Before Israel faced their enemies, they needed to prepare their hearts
 - 1) Conquest would follow consecration

II) KEY: If you expect to be used by God, then consecrate yourselves to Him
 a) Ro 12:1-2 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- 1) These are the ones who now receive circumcision

III) V9 THEN: The Lord said to Joshua This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you
 a) In their latter years in Egypt, they had become slaves and were held in disdain, and were ashamed
 1) Now they were standing in the Promised Land, freed by God

IV) WHEN WE ARE SAVED: We are freed from bondage and are established in Jesus, as free in Him
 a) Ro 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were *slaves of sin*, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness

V) THIS NEW POSITION: Makes it possible for you to wage spiritual warfare, and be victorious
 a) Ro 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

VI) V8 SO IT WAS: When they had finished circumcising all the people that they stayed in their places

a) Sometimes consecration is accompanied by pain

When God wants to drill a man, and thrill a man,

and skill a man

When God wants to mold a man

to play the noblest part;

When He yearns with all His heart to create so great and bold a man

That all the world should be amazed,

Watch His methods, watch His ways:

How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects;

How He hammers him and hurts him,

And with mighty blows conveys

into shapes and forms of clay

which only God can unders

While man's tortured heart is crying and he lifts beseeching hands;

Yet God bends but never breaks when man's good He undertakes;

How He uses whom He chooses,

And with mighty power infuses him

With every act induces him to try His splendor out.

God knows what He's about.

VII) ABRAHAM: Gave up Isaac, Jacob wrestled with the angel, God sought to slay Moses, Elijah was pursued by Jezebel, David hid in caves, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all suffered, Daniel was in a lion's den

a) Ten of the original twelve apostles were martyred, and after suffering for years Paul was beheaded

- 1) Sometimes consecration includes pain

VIII) V10 SO: The children of Israel camped in Gilgal and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day

a) CELEBRATION: Once again, an act of devotion and remembrance is performed

- 1) They partake in Passover, which reminds them of their deliverance from bondage

I) IF WE: Are going to be used by God we need to return to the first things

- a) We need to take strength and hope in what God has done in the past

- 1) It reminds us of His goodness and His power to move and work in our lives
 - 2) Ex 12:24-25 And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.
 - 3) Jer 6:16 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way *is*, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk *in it*.'
- II) V11-12 AND: They ate the produce of the land on the day after the Passover unleavened bread and parched
- a) God now ceases providing the manna and they begin to live off of the produce of the land
- III) V13-15 AND: It came to pass when Joshua was by Jericho that he lifted his eyes and looked and behold
- a) This is the commissioning of Joshua
 - 1) Even as Moses had spoken to the Lord when he was called, Joshua now receives his call
- IV) JOSHUA: Sees someone with a drawn sword, and as a general steps up to confront him
- a) Soldiers are trained, when encountering a potential enemy, to ask them to identify themselves
 - 1) FACT: This is called General Orders
 - 2) The 11th General Order: challenge all persons on or near my post, and do not allow any to pass
 - 3) You say things like: Halt, who goes there? Advance to be recognized.
 - 4) If you are not satisfied with their identification, you detain them and call the person in charge
- V) KEY: This what Joshua is doing: Are You for *us*, or for our *adversaries*: Whose side are you on?
- a) NOTICE: No! I am not on your side, you are supposed to be on My side
- VI) JOSHUA: Is not challenging a man, but is challenging Someone greater than a man
- a) It God in human form, prior to the incarnation which occurs many times in the OT
- VII) FIRST: In Gen 18:1-33 Abraham has a conversation with a man who is God
- a) Jesus shows up, spends time with Abraham, and discusses details about the fate of Sodom.
- SECOND: Gen 32:22-32 Jacob has a wrestling match with the Angel of the Lord
- a) The angel touches his hip, and Jacob ends up realizing he had wrestled with God
 - 1) Gen 32:30 For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered
- THIRD: In Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Veggie Tales-Rack, Shack, and Benny) refuse to worship the golden image. They are thrown in the fiery furnace, but a fourth man appears
- a) Dan 3:25 says His appearance is like a son of the gods
- FOURTH: Is 6 records Isaiah seeing Jesus
- a) After seeing the vision of the Lord, high and lifted up he exclaims "For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts"!
 - 1) Jn 12:41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him
- VIII) JESUS IS THE COMMANDER: And is powerful, majestic, awe inspiring, and intimidating
- a) V14-15 HIS RESPONSE: He fell down on his face to worship
 - 1) If He were not Jesus, then Joshua's response is worthy of being judged
 - 2) Worship is reserved for God alone
 - 3) Peter and Cornelius (Ac 10:25-26), John and the angel (Rev 19:10; 22:9)
- I) V15 THEN: The Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua Take your sandal off your foot
- a) THOUGHT: Remove from yourself your love for the world and its pollutions on your soul
 - 1) He is now formally commissioned

2) If you will be victorious, be called, consecrated, established, and ready