

11/16/03

The Assembly Of Faith
Josh. 18:1

Joshua has been a courageous soldier, having receives his command directly from the Lord and ordered to not fear but to be strong, courageous and obey God's word completely, making preparations for crossing Jordan. Josh. 1

So Joshua the soldier sent two men to spy out to the land and coming to Jericho, they heard from the mouth of Rahab the harlot the confirmation of the word of the Lord, that He would deliver the people to the hands of Israel. Josh. 2

Joshua was not merely a courageous soldier but he was a soldier of faith. Josh. 3-12

- a. Joshua crossed the Jordan as God divided the Jordan in flood time. Josh. 3-4
- b. Joshua was to circumcise the male at Gilgal, before the enemy, symbolizing the end of a life of the flesh. Josh. 5
- c. Joshua conquered Jericho and Ai in the central campaign, according to God's directions. Josh. 4-8
 - * By marching around it for seven days and the walls fell down and after removing the sin of Achan, they experience victory over Ai. Josh. 7

- d. Joshua defeated the confederation of Kings, in the southern campaign that came against the Gibeonites, due to the covenant they made with them. Josh 10
- f. Joshua also defeated the northern confederacy headed by King Hazor. Josh. 11:1-3
- g. The kings conquered by Moses and Joshua are listed. Josh. 12

But Joshua has also been a wise administrator as he has conquered the land and gave the tribes their portion. Josh. 10:16-21:45

1. Joshua was old and advanced in years and there yet remained land to be conquered. Josh. 13-19
2. God told Joshua to conquer it, for He had given it to them. Josh. 13:1-5
3. God again told Joshua that He would drive the people out and he was to divide the land by lot. Josh. 13:6-7
4. Then land of Trans-Jordan was divided to the two and a half tribes, Reuben, Gad and 1/2 of Manasseh. Josh. 13:8-33
5. The land was divided to the other nine and a half tribes on the west of the Jordan. Josh. 14-19
 - * Caleb was given Hebron by Joshua, just as God had promised him. Josh. 14:6-15

There was still seven tribes that had not received their inheritance, so Joshua gathered the nation to Shiloh to exhort them to go survey the land, in order to divide it to the seven tribes.

There are three significant things revealed to us at this gathering of the nation. Josh. 18:1

- I. God had chosen the place of worship for the nation. Vs. 1a
- II. God had given them the manner of worship for the nation. Vs. 1b
- III. God had conquered the land for the nation. Vs. 1c

I. God had chosen the place of worship for the nation. Vs. 1a

* Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh. Vs. 18a

A. The significance of Shiloh.

1. The entire congregation of Israel removed the tabernacle from Gilgal, and gathered to set it up in Shiloh.

a. It was to be the resting-place of the ark, which signified the presence of God and place of fellowship with God.

* The word assembly “qahal” is the Hebrew word translated by the

LXX “ekklesia”, which means church.

- b. Without any doubt this was done by the appointment and direction of God, signified to Eleazar the high priest, either by a voice, or by Urim and Thummim.
 - c. The removal to Shiloh was probably that it might be near where Joshua, the governor of Israel, resided, Ephraim being his tribe; and it would be more in the heart of the county to make it more convenient for all the people to worship. Josh. 18:1-10, Judges 18:31; 21:19; 1Sam. 1:3, 9, 21, 24, 2:14, Ps. 78:60, Jer. 7:12
 - d. This is probably about seven or eight years at most from entering the land. there the tabernacle continued.
2. Shiloh was situated on a hill in the tribe of Ephraim, though near the borders of Benjamin, about fifteen miles north of Jerusalem and north of Beth-el on the highway from Beth-el to Shechem. Jud 21:19
 3. Shiloh was the place of seat of government during the time of Joshua. Josh. 21:1, 2
 4. The prearranged place for the tribes. Josh. 22:9,12; Judges 21:12

B. The history of Shiloh.

1. At Shiloh the tabernacle abode during all the period of the judges as we will see. Judges 18:31, 21:12, 19, 21
2. Shiloh was the place where the people went up to worship and sacrifice to God in the days of Eli and Samuel. 1Sam. 1:3, 9, 24, 3:21
* Eli lived and died at Shiloh. 1Sam. 1:9; 4:12,13, 18
3. Shiloh was destroyed by the Philistines as the judgment of God on His people and the Ark fell into the hands of the Philistines. 1Sam. 4
* According to the Jewish writers three hundred sixty nine years, even unto the times of Samuel, when for the sins of the sons of Eli it was removed.
4. Five-hundred years later Jeremiah the prophet said.
 - a. “But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.” Jer. 7:12
 - b. “Therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.” Jer. 7:14

- c. The very site was forgotten and unknown from the time of St. Jerome till its re-discovery by Dr. Robinson in 1838.
4. There were a number of locations for the Ark throughout history.
 - a. At Mount Sinai by Moses. Ex 40:18,19 Num. 10:11,12
 - b. At Gilgal as they crossed the Jordan. Josh. 5:10,11
 - c. In Shiloh as Joshua was told by God. Josh. 18:1, 19:51
 - d. In the house of Abinadab after the Philistines returned the Ark and it remained there for twenty years. 1Sam. 7:1
 - e. In Nob where David went to Abimelech, as he fled from Saul. 1Sam. 21:1-6
 - f. David sought the ark from the house of Abinadab in the Philistine manner and killed Uzzah and the ark rested for three months in the house of Obed-Edom and then brought it to Jerusalem and placed it in a temporary tabernacle. 2Sam. 6:3, 11, 17
 - g. At Gibeon where God appeared to Solomon. 1Chron. 16:39 21:29
 - h. Finally at Jerusalem at the dedication of the temple. 1Kings 8

Illustration

Jesus told the woman of Samaria that there was a day coming and in fact had come, when God would seek those to worship God in Spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:24

Application

1. Though we can see that Shiloh is the place God chose as the place of worship, yet Jacob prophesied about “Shiloh”, which generally is understood as denoting the name of the Messiah, “the peaceful one,” as the word signifies. Gen. 49:10

- a. The Vulgate Version translates the word, “he who is to be sent,” in allusion to the Messiah.
 - b. The Revised Version, margin, “till he come to Shiloh”.
 - c. The LXX., “until that which is his shall come to Shiloh.”
 - d. It is most simple and natural to render the expression, as in the Authorized Version, “till Shiloh come,” interpreting it as a proper name (comp.)
2. God has also chosen the place for his people to meet during the age of grace.
- a. The place is “the church” , the word is “ekklesia”, which describes and identifies the people who were, have been and will be

called out from the world, by the Spirit of God, to hear the voice of God.

- 1) The word was used by the Greeks to describe a civil assembly of people, such as in Athens: characterized by the following.
 - 2) They were citizens with power to declare war, peace, elect generals and raise funds.
 - 3) They began with prayer and sacrifice.
 - 4) They later used the word in a wider sense, for a convened assembly of citizens as used in Acts, as being called in question as to their assembly. Acts 19:32, 39, 41
- 2) Those identified as the church are the called out, the people of God.
- 3) Those called out of the world to the church, are the community of God’s redeemed and we are not to forsake the assembling of the saint as the manner of some is. Heb 10:24-25
- b. The word church “ekklesia” appears 115 times through the various books of the New Testament.
 - 1) In Paul’s letters it is found 62 times.
 - 2) In Acts it is found 24 times.
 - 3) In Hebrews it is found 2 times.
 - 4) In James it is found 1 time.
 - 5) In 3 John it is found 3 times.
 - 6) In Revelation it is found 20 times.
 - 7) In the gospels it is found only 3 times.

- 1) I will build my church.... Matt. 16:18
- 2) For church discipline, two times. Matt. 18:17

3. The concept and idea throughout the New Testament is that the church belongs to Jesus.
- a. Our English word that relates the church as His is the Greek word Greek “kuriakos” which meaning belonging to the Lord.
 - b. The word appears two times in the New Testament.
 - 1) It is used to identify the “Lord’s Supper”. 1Cor. 11:20
 - 2) It is used to identify Sunday “The Lord’s Day”. Rev. 1:10
 - c. Paul tells us that Christ is the one who purchased the Church with his own blood, speaking to the Ephesians elders. Acts 20:28
 - 1) We do not own the church.
 - 2) We can not add people to the church, Jesus builds His church. Matt. 16:18

God had chosen the place of worship for the nation, Shiloh!

I. God had given them the manner of worship for the nation. Vs. 1b

* And set up the tabernacle of meeting there. Vs. 1b

- A.** The provisions for the Tabernacle are given to us in the book of Exodus. Ex. 25-30

1. The materials that would be needed would come from the people. Ex. 25:3-7
 - a. The source of these provisions was the request of back wages from the Egyptians by God’s favor. Ex. 3:21-22, 12:36
 - b. The attitude for giving these provisions was to be a willing heart. Ex. 25:2
 - * Moses had to restrain them from giving. Ex. 36:3-7
 2. The craftsmen, they would equally come from the people.
 - a. By call. Ex. 31:2, 6
 - b. By gifts and talents. Ex. 31:3-5
 - c. By those whose hearts were stirred. Ex. 36:2
 3. The priesthood again would come from among the people. Ex. 28
 - a. To minister unto the Lord. Ex. 28:1, 41
 - b. To represent the people to God. Ex. 28:12, 29
 - c. To represent God to the people. Ex. 28:30
- B.** The pattern for the tabernacle is also given to us in the book of Exodus. Ex. 25-30
1. From a far distance you would see a courtyard fenced off. Ex. 27:9-19

- a. The dimensions of the court were 150' on the north and south side by 75' on the east and west side by 7 1/2' high.
 - b. This emphasized a separation between the things of God and the things of the world.
 - c. One gate alone gave entrance to the court and it was 30' wide on the east.
2. Then you saw the tabernacle in the middle of the court. Ex. 26
- a. A rectangular box 15' high by 15' wide by 45' long.
 - b. It was made up of two rooms, the Holy Place 15'x30' and the Holy of Holies 15'x15'.
 - c. The Holy Place was the place of daily service but the Holy of Holies was entered only once a year at Yom Kippur. Lev. 16
 - d. There were two curtains in the Tabernacle, one at the entrance of the Holy Place and the veil between the Holy Place and Holy of Holies.
 - e. It had four coverings over the Tabernacle
 - 1) The inner curtain of linen, blue, purple and scarlet with cherubim.
 - 2) Next one of goat's hair
 - 3) Third one of ram's skin
 - 4) The last one of porpoise, badger, weather proof.

3. There were seven pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle, for service.
- a. Altar of brass for sacrifice to be able to approach God, this was the first thing one saw when entering the court. Ex. 27:1-8
 - b. Next was the brass laver between the altar and tabernacle for the priest to wash his feet and hands lest he die. Ex. 30:17-21
 - c. Then as you entered the Holy Place on the north side was the table of shewbread, twelve loaves in two stacks of six to be eaten on the Sabbath by the priest and family in communion with God. Ex. 25:23-30
 - d. On the south side was the lampstand to light the Holy Place, to see the things of God. Ex. 25:31-40
 - e. The alter of incense in front of the veil between the Holy Place and Holy of Holies representing the prayer before God. Ex. 30:1-10
 - f. Then behind the veil, stood the ark within the Holy of Holies, a box or chest with the ten commandments, pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded. Ex. 25:10-12.
 - g. The mercy seat was the lid to the Ark with two cherubim, one on each end

with their wings crossed. Ex. 25:17-22

- 1) God would meet and speak with the High Priest from above and mercy seat on the day of Atonement Lev. 16
- 2) Everything was to be according to the pattern of God, because God had something more in mind than the immediate present. Ex. 25:9, 40

C. The purpose of the Tabernacle.

1. The primary purpose of the tabernacle for the nation was that Yahweh would dwell and walk in the midst of them. Ex. 25:8, Lev. 26:11-12
 - a. God is always the initiator and seeks out man
 - b. He sought Adam. Gen. 3
 - c. He sought Noah. Gen. 6
 - d. He sought out Abraham. Gen. 12
 - e. He sought out Moses. Ex. 3
 - f. He guided them by a cloud and pillar of fire, no longer now.
 - 1) God was to be the unifying focus of the nation.
 - 2) God was to be sought out and worshipped by the nation, according to the law.

2. The procedure to maintain this purpose was sacrifice and the first seven chapters of Leviticus contain the various sacrifices and their laws for the children of Israel to approach God.
 - a. Ch.1-3 are the voluntary offerings in ongoing fellowship with God, they speak of the person of Christ, “a sweet aroma to the Lord”.
 - b. Ch.4, 6:7 are the mandatory offerings for forgiveness of sins to restore fellowship with God, they speak of the work of Christ.
 - c. Ch.6:8, 7:38 are the laws for each sacrifice regarding the person and priest.
 - d. These sacrifices are also divided into two categories; bloody and bloodless, all are bloody except for the meal or grain offering. Lev. 2
* The offerings have a specific purpose by God’s design.
 - e. The burnt offering represented a total dedication and consecration of ones life to God. Lev. 1
 - f. The grain or meal offering represented the consecration of ones life for service. Lev. 2
 - g. The peace offering represents fellowship and communion with God. Lev. 3

- h. The sin offering represents expiation of sin and The trespass offering represents willful disobedience. Lev. 4-5
 - i. Joshua and Israel had already built the alter and pronounced the blessings and curses of the Law at Mount Ebal and Gerizim, as the basis for their lives Josh. 8:30-35
3. The prophetic aspect would be in the inevitable future, for the tabernacle spoke of God walking among man but one day He would walk in their midst in a human body, as a prophetic picture of Christ, the Messiah to come.

Illustration

All of our organs and parts are basically positioned around our heart, it is the heart that pumps the life source to each member, so God was and is to be the center of our lives.

Application

1. All material needs should be met by a congregation without any financial strain on any one person.
 - a. The New Testament principle is the same, hilariously out of love, not compulsion. 2Cor. 8:12-14, 9:7-8
 - b. “On the first day of the **week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he

may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” 1Cor. 16:2

- c. Everything that goes on in Calvary Chapel Pasadena, be it radio, missions, concerts, etc, is paid for by the body, we do not burden anyone or beg, if God is guiding, He will provide!
2. The bigger a body the more people with be able to exercise their various gifts, talents and abilities to enable the body need. 1Cor. 12, 1Cor. 14
3. All people in ministry should be raised up within the body by call and gifts of God, this is always the best, though there will be exceptions. Rom. 12
4. God has taken up residence in our bodies and it is the temple of God that is to be marked by holiness, for we are not our own, Paul says. 1Cor. 6:19-20
5. We must be careful not to think that we know more or better than God and attempt any short-cut or alteration for the Church or the prescribed manner of worship of God, in Spirit and truth and still believe we can receive His blessings and benefits. 2Tim. 3:16-17

God had given them the manner of worship for the nation!

III. God had conquered the land for the nation. Vs. 1c

* And the land was subdued before them.

- A.** The land was conquered by God.
- 1.** The land was under the authority of Joshua and Israel.
 - a.** After the third and last campaign in the north with King Jabin and his confederacy, it says, “the land has rest from war”. Josh. 11:23
 - b.** Thirty-one kings are listed as being conquered. Josh. 12
 - c.** After Caleb received his inheritance, it says, “Then the land had rest from war”. Josh. 14:15
 - * The clear meaning is that the greater part of the land was taken, not that there were no disturbances but not war, the inhabitants had been conquered.
 - 2.** The land was a gift of God.
 - a.** And said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that dread of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in **fear** before you.” Josh. 2:9
 - b.** They said to Joshua, “Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands; moreover all the inhabitants of the land melt in **fear** before us.” Josh. 2:24
 - c.** “So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, and so that you may **fear**

- the LORD your God forever.” Josh. 4:24
- d.** Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not **fear** or be dismayed; take all the fighting men with you, and go up now to Ai. See, I have handed over to you the king of Ai with his people, his city, and his land.” Josh. 8:1
 - e.** They answered Joshua, “Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land before you; so we were in great **fear** for our lives because of you, and did this thing.” Josh. 9:24
 - f.** The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not **fear** them, for I have handed them over to you; not one of them shall stand before you.” Josh. 10:8
- B.** The land was secured by the people.
- 1.** The layout of the Tabernacle teaches us one simple truth, the Tabernacle was the center of national life, for moral, ethical or civil. Lev. 20-23
 - * The book of Numbers gives us the layout of Israel’s camp and duties. Num. 2-4

- a. Their national existence and survival was dependent on God. Ex. 19:4
 - b. Their national guidance and direction. Ex. 40:34-38
 - c. The Psalmist says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen as His own inheritance”. Ps. 3:12
2. The tabernacle was to be the center of religious life.
- a. It was the place where God had chosen to provide a prescribed manner of worship.
 - 1) Moses is told to come up and worship. Ex. 24:1
 - 2) The priests were to minister to Yahweh. Ex. 28:1
 - b. Worship is the awareness and understanding of God’s holiness and is demonstrated in reverence and praise from the heart, while recognizing one’s own unworthiness.
 - 1) The word “worship” comes from an anglo-Saxon word meaning “to attribute worth to something”.
 - 2) Isaiah the prophet illustrates this perfectly, “Woe is me . . . Is. 6:5
3. The Tabernacle was to be the center of military headquarters.
- a. The Lord is a man of war. Ex. 15:3a

- b. The Lord would have war against Amalek. Ex. 17:8-11, 16
- c. The strategy was to always come seeking God for what they were to do, when and how.
 - 1) Like the case of the walls of Jericho, causing them to fall.
 - 2) Like David, who was always asking the Lord.
- d. The tribes are called armies, the word means a mass of people organized for war. Num. 2
 - 1) A total of 603,550 men above 20 years of age came out of Egypt, excluding the Levites. Num. 1:46
 - 2) The people of God were the armies of God!

Illustration

When you love someone, where you dwell is not important, what is important is you dwell and share your life with the one that you love!

Application

- 1. Jesus has conquered the enemy, Satan.
 - a. He defeated Satan at the cross, destroying his authority. Col. 2:14-15
 - b. He tasted death for every man. Heb. 2:9
 - c. He destroyed Satan who had the power of death. Heb. 2:14

- d. He destroyed the power of bondage in sin in our lives and made us sons and daughters. Rom. 8:15
 - e. He has made us more than conquerors, through Him who loved us. Rom. 8:37
 - f. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing, in Christ Jesus, as we are sitting in the heavenlies. Eph. 1:3
 - g. He has done everything for us to enter into His rest. Heb. 4
2. Jesus now secured the rest of the believer by living through us.
- a. We do not trust in ourselves for anything but are ever dependent on Him. Jn. 15:5
 - b. We are not ignorant to the devices of Satan. 2Cor. 2:11
 - c. We do not make provisions for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof. Rom. 13:14
 - d. We do not fight with carnal weapons. 2Cor. 10:4-5
 - e. We live the crucified life. Gal. 2:20
 - f. We walk in the Spirit to not fulfill the lust of the flesh by being filled with the Holy Spirit continuously. Gal. 5:16-17, Eph. 5:18
 - g. We reckon the old man dead daily. Rom. 6:11
 - h. We look to the Scriptures alone for our personal, moral, ethical and civil living. 2Tim. 3:16-17
 - i. For worship in Spirit and truth, not based on location or experience. Jn. 4:24

- j. We do warfare with the armor of God and fight the good fight. Eph. 5:10-18, 1Tim. 1:18
- k. We endure hardness as good soldiers. 2Tim. 2:3
- l. We must always remember that, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay” Rom. 12:19

God had conquered the land for the nation!

Conclusion

These are the three significant things revealed to us at this gathering of the nation.

- I. God had chosen the place of worship for the nation, Shiloh, for us is the church body!
- II. God had given them the manner of worship for the nation, the tabernacle and the Law, for us it's the Grace of God, in Spirit and truth!
- III. God had conquered the land for the nation, for us, He has conquered sin and death, resting as we abide!