

10/19/03

Joshua 5-6

We come to the last chapter of the first division of the book of Joshua, chapter six.

A. The entering of the land. Josh. 1-5

1. The charge to Joshua and the preparation to cross the Jordan. Josh. 1
2. The charge to the spies sent out to Jericho. Josh. 2
3. The charge for the crossing of the Jordan. Josh. 3
4. The charge to erect a memorial at the crossing of Jordan. Josh. 4
5. The charge to die to the flesh life at Gilgal. Josh. 5

B. The defeating of the people of the land. Josh. 6-12

1. The conquest of Jericho. Josh. 6
2. The defeat at Ai due to Achan. Josh. 7
3. The victory at Ai. Josh. 8
4. The deceit of the Gibeons. Josh. 9
5. The conquered kings. Josh. 10-12

5:1-9 The circumcising of all the males.

5:1 The impact on the people of the land by the crossing the Jordan.

- 1) A better division would be verse one of chapter five to be the last verses of chapter four!
- 2) At that time, when God had stuck the enemy with fear in their hearts as God had said. Deut. 2:25
* Yahweh was the God of heaven and earth. Josh. 2:11, 3:11, 13
- 3) The hearts of all these kings melted as a result and there was no spirit any longer in them. Vs. 1
* The word melted “macac” means to dissolve or waste away.

5:2-3 The command to circumcise the men.

- 1) God chose the perfect time, as He kept at bay the enemy who was stuck with fear. Vs. 2a
- 2) The command to Joshua was, “make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.” Vs. 2b-c
* The second time indicated, that the first time was in Egypt!
3. The command is obeyed by Joshua, at the hill of foreskins, marking their commitment to the cutting off of the flesh life of the wilderness. Vs. 3
* Another monument to remind their children of their history.

5:4-6 The reason for the command to circumcise the men.

- 1) The first generation dies off in the wilderness after coming out of Egypt. Vs. 4
- 2) The second generation born in the wilderness had not been circumcised. Vs. 5
- 3) Their uncircumcision was symbolic of their flesh life, rebellion and self-willed, not being able to enter the promise land, flowing with milk and honey. Vs. 6

5:7-9 Their obedience rolled away their reproach.

- 1) Joshua obey the command. Vs. 7
- 2) The surgical procedure left them incapacitated for a few days. Vs. 8
 - * There was not one complaint or objection!
- a) God gave the covenant to Abram after thirteen year of silence at age ninety-nine and God changed the name of Abram, exalted father to Abraham, as a sign of the covenant. Gen. 17:9-14
 - * It represented the cutting off of life in the flesh and walking in the Spirit!
- b) Abram and Sarai had attempted to help God, in His promise of a son by fulfilling it through Hagar. Gen. 16

- c) God promised to Abraham a son, Isaac, who Sara would bear. Gen. 17:15-22
- d) Abraham was 99 years old, Ishmael 13 years old. Gen. 17:23-25
 - * The sons of Jacob killed all the men of Shechem for defiling Dinah, using the sign of purity to do treacherous. Gen 34
- e) Circumcision was a required for partaking the Passover, so much so that God was going to kill Moses because he had not circumcised his own children. Ex. 4:25, 12:44, 48
- f) The Jews placed a great importance on circumcision as the distinguishing mark of the people of God, calling the Gentiles, the “uncircumcised”. 1Sam. 14:6
- g) Every male child, on the eight day was to be circumcised. Lev. 12:3
- 3) The Lord declared He had removed the reproach of Egypt. Vs. 9
 - a) Reproach that God had brought them to die in the wilderness without entering the promised land, due to the rebellion at Kadesh-Brnea. Num. 14:12-16
 - * The word Gilgal means rolling!
 - b) Moses reminded God of this very thing, as the nations would mock

- them. Ex. 32:12, Num. 14:13-16, Deut. 9:28
- c) The real issue was that of the heart as Moses told them. Deut. 10:16, Jer. 4:4
 - d) The New Testament placed the emphasis on the circumcision of the heart, not the physical surgery, at the first church council. Acts 15
 - e) Paul told the Romans and Galatians the same thing, it was the seal of the covenant. Rom. 2:25-29, 4:9-13, Gal. 5:1-4, 6:12-15
 - f) To the Colossians he said that we are circumcised made without hands. Col. 2:11
* 1Pet. 4:14-15

5:10-12 The celebration of the Passover.

- 1) The people commemorated their past deliverance there at Gilgal, on the fourteenth day of April. Vs. 10
 - a) Forty years to the day of the Exodus. Ex. 12:1-6
 - b) They kept the Passover on the plains of Jericho, before all the unbeliever as a witness of their confidence and dependency, having been delivered from judgment..
* This was in obedience to the Law, when they entered the promised land. Ex. 13:5

- c) This is the third time they had partaken in the Passover.
 - 1)) The first time was in Egypt, prior to the Exodus. Ex. 12:1-6
 - 2)) The second time was in the wilderness of Sinai. Num. 9:5
 - 3)) Again circumcision was-suspended during the wilderness due to their flesh life and reproach. Ex. 12:48, Amos 5:25-26
* Forgetting the plagues, the separation, the death of the first born, the deliverance of Israel! Ps. 106:13, 21
- 2) They people ate the produce of the land. Vs. 11
 - a) They experience freedom from the wilderness life and entered into their rest. Heb. 4
 - b) They ate unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day, celebrating the Feast of Unleavened Bread, from the 15-22 of April. Ex. 12:14-20, Lev. 23:6
 - c) The reference to parched grain is barley, roasted corn, not wheat, that was in June or that from the previous year.
 - 1)) Jesus, "I am the bread of life". Jn. 6:32-37

- 2)) First fruit of land symbolic of Christ's resurrection
- 3)) Except a corn of wheat die, it abides... Jn. 12:24
- 3) The people consummated a sample of their future provisions. Vs. 12
 - a) They witnessed the cessation of manna. Vs. 12a-b
 - * Angels food from heaven for forty years. Ps. 78:25
 - b. The children of Israel no longer ate manna.
 - * That which their father's complained, remembering the melons, leaks and onions while forgetting the whip and taskmasters.
 - c) God now provided through the wealth of the land, that the people had planted and stored, as part of God's judgment and faithfulness to His people. Ex. 16:14-36, Num. 7-9, Deut. 8:3, 16
 - d) We as believers live in abundance through the New Covenant celebrated in the communion. Lk. 22:15-16, 1Cor. 11

5:13-15 The appearance of Jesus.

- 5:13** Joshua encounters a man as he is on a reconnaissance to view Jericho.
- 1) Joshua lifted his eyes and looked, only to see a man standing opposite of Joshua with his sword drawn in his hand. Vs. 13a-d
 - a) The man is ready to fight in the warfare.
 - b) The prophet Balaam saw this same sight. Num. 22:31
 - 2) Joshua went to Him and asked Him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" Vs. 13e-f
 - * Joshua acted very courageously and ready to engage the enemy.
- 5:14** Joshua receives his answer.
- 1) The man tells Joshua, No. Vs. 14a-b
 - a) No I am not for your adversaries.
 - * This must of brought a great relief to Joshua.
 - b) But I think that that we should also take the answer of no, for Joshua and Israel.
 - * The reason being, as one commentator put it, is that the important thing is not to try and get God on our side but that we are on God's side!

- 2) The man said, “But as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”
Vs. 14a-c
- a) Literally as General of the Army of Yahweh have I now come”, He would defeat the enemy, it was His war.
Gen. 15:16, Deut. 9:5, 18:12
 * The army are angels.
- 1) Lord was sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him ... 1Kings 22:19
- 2) Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts: ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Ps. 103:21
- 3) Praise him, all his angels: praise him all his hosts. Ps. 148:2
- b) Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped God. Vs. 14d
- c) Worship is ascribed and allowed to God alone, angels themselves prohibit worship by man. Rev. 19:10
 *This is a Christophany, an appearance of Jesus prior to the incarnation.
- 1) He appeared to Abraham, at Manre, when three angels appeared, one was Jesus Christ.
Gen. 18
- 2) He appeared to Hagar. Gen. 21
- 3) He appeared to Jacob and wrestled with a man all night. Gen. 32

- 4) He appeared to Gideon. Jug. 6:12-18
- 5) He appeared to Samson parents. Judges 13
- 6) John tells that no one has seen God but the Son Jesus He reveals Him, in fact he tells us the Isaiah saw Jesus in his vision. Jn. 1:18, 12:41, Is. 6
- 3) Joshua said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?” Vs. 14e-f
- a) Joshua entrusts Himself to the service of God in submission to His orders.
- b) Joshua had one more confirmation of God being with Him, in order that he not be afraid.
- c) Worship and service go hand in hand.
- 5:15** Joshua obeys and submits before God.
- 1) The Commander of the LORD'S army, Jesus Christ told Joshua to take his sandal off his feet, for the place where he stood was holy. Vs. 15a-c
- a) These are the very same word told to Moses. Ex. 3:5
- b) Joshua knew that as God had been with Moses, so He would be with him, exactly as God told him. Josh. 3:7d-e
- 2) The servant Joshua asked for his orders. Vs. 15e

- a)) What does my Lord say to His servant? Like Paul. Acts 9
- b)) Jesus is the captain of our salvation Heb. 2:10
- c)) God uses angels.
 - 1)) Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of Gahazi as the Assyrian army had surrounded them. 2Kings 6
 - 2)) The prophet said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: `Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the **battle** is not yours, but God’s. 2Chron. 20:15

6:1-5 The Lord’s battle plan for Jericho.

- 6:1** The conditions of Jericho.
- 1) This verse is a parenthesis, verse two continues to give plan of attack.
 - 2) A better break would be, 5:12 or 6:5.
 - 3) Literally it says “shutting and closely shut up”.
 - * My angel shall go before you. Ex. 32:34

6:2-5 The plan of attack and conquest.

- 1) God had already given them the city. Vs. 2
 - * This was the first of three campaigns in the conquest of the land.
 - a) Jericho and Ai securing the central Ridge. Josh. 6-9
 - b) The second in the south conquering the Amorites. Josh. 10
 - c) The third in the northern confederacy. Josh. 11
- 2) They were to march around once for six days. Vs. 3
- 3) The priest would bear seven trumpets, literally seven jubilee trumpets. Vs. 4
 - a) Seven is the number of completeness or perfection.
 - b) This would expose them to danger and attack.
 - c) The 7th day they would be tired from going around.
 - d) To make sure they knew it was God, not them. Heb. 11:30
- 4) The long blast of the ram’s horn-jubilee and a shot would and the wall would fall down. Vs. 5
 - * This is the first time mentioned since Exodus, prior to the year of Jubilee. Ex. 19:13

6:6-7 The plan is presented by Joshua.

* Take note how God had prepared them for this day by all the past evidences and manifestations.

6:6 Joshua addressed the priest.

- 1) The priest were the first to be instructed and obey as leaders.
- 2) The ark would bear the ark and the seven trumpets.

6:7 Joshua addresses the people.

- 1) The people were to go around the city.
- 2) The armed men would go before the ark.

6:8-20 **The execution of the plan for the conquest of the city of Jericho.**

6:8-11 The priest obeyed and people obeyed.

- 1) The priest marched, bearing the ark and blowing the trumpets. Vs. 8
- 2) The armed men proceeded the ark and the rear guard followed the ark. Vs. 9
- 3) The people were to be absolutely quite as they went around the city, until Joshua gave the order to shout. Vs. 10
- 4) The ark would circle the city once a day and then rest in the camp. Vs. 11
 - a) Heb. 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed seven days.

b) What is faith? Obedience to God's word, He will bring it to pass, Gal. 2:20

c) Jericho was the first and strongest city of Canaan

* All was dedicated to God.

d) The ark was to be their guide, the presence of God, it is mentioned nine times?

6:12-16 The seven day march around Jericho.

- 1) The first day march began early in the morning, as all were instructed. Vs. 12-13
- 2) The second to the sixth was repeated, resting in the camp each day. Vs. 14
- 3) The seventh day they marched around Jericho seven times. Vs. 15
- 4) The seventh day the command by Joshua was to shout, the reason being, the Lord had given them the city. Vs. 16

6:17-18 The city was dedicated to the Lord.

- 1) The word doomed "cherem" means that devoted to destruction completely dedicated to the Lord. Vs. 17a-b
 - a) Ex. 22:20, Lev. 27:29, Deut. 13:15-17, 1Kings 20:42
 - b) Saul violated this command 1Sam. 15:3

- 2) Rahab was the only one to be spared, along with those in her house for hiding the spies. Vs. 17c-e
- 3) The warning to all, that no one take anything dedicated to the Lord. Vs. 18

6:19 The things set apart for the Lord.

- 1) The silver, gold and vessels of bronze.
- 2) To be taken into the treasury of God.

6:20 The city was taken.

- 1) The priests blow the trumpets.
- 2) The people shouted.
- 3) The walls fell flat in there place.
- 4) The people advanced into the city and took it.

6:21-27 The details of the conquest of Jericho.

6:21-25 The judgment was complete and total.

- 1) Both human life and the animals were slain. Vs. 21
- 2) The only exception was Rahab and her family. Vs. 22-23
 - a) The miracle of the wall was one thing, the miracle of Rahab's house was another, it was not destroyed being on the wall! Vs. 22
-God keeps his own. Heb. 11:30-31
 - b) They were brought to rest outside the

camp of Israel, maybe seven days according to the law. Vs. 23,
Num. 31:19

- 3) The spies sough Rahab out. Vs. 24
- 4) Rahab became one of the people of God, being in the genealogy of Christ. Vs. 25

6:26-27 The fulfillment of the mission.

- 1) Joshua prophecies a curse over the person who would built Jericho. Vs. 26
 - a) The word charge means to swear.
 - b) The fulfillment is in First King, Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho, reign of Ahab. 1Kings 16:34
- 2) Joshua saw the fulfillment of God being with him and his fame spread. Vs. 27