



“Worship and Warfare”

Pastor Jason West
September 15, 2024

Joshua 5:1 “As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.”

1. Worship is _____ for Battle

Psalms 144:1 “Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.”

2 Chronicles 20:17 “You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf.”

2. Worship is Giving _____ for God’s Work

Joshua 4:9 “And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.”

3. Worship Reminds us of a _____

Relationship with God and a Forgiven Past

(Joshua 5:2, 7-9)

Joshua 5:4-5 “And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised.”

4. Worship Reveals Christ as the _____ for our Sins

Joshua 5:10 “While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.”

Joshua 5:12 “And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”

5. Worship Requires Total _____

(Joshua 5:13-15)

Joshua 5:14a “And he said, ‘No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.’”

6. Worship Reminds Us of God’s _____

Joshua 6:1-2 “Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, ‘See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.’”

7. Worship Obeys God’s _____

(Joshua 6:5, 12-15; Isaiah 55:8-9)

Joshua 6:3-4 “You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.”

Joshua 6:10 “But Joshua commanded the people, ‘You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.’”

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

8. Worship Declares the _____ of God

Joshua 6:16 “And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, ‘Shout, for the Lord has given you the city.’”

Psalms 100:1 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!”

9. Worship is _____ to the Lord

Joshua 6:18 “But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it.”

Joshua 6:19 “But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.”

10. Worship Leads to Ultimate _____ through Faith

(Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57)

Joshua 6:20 “So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.”

Hebrews 11:30-31 “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.”



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1. Familiarize yourself with the Passage and the Gospels

- a. Read Joshua 5:1-15
- b. Read the book of Joshua several times (get to know the big story of the book)
- c. Identify the plot, setting, characters, and viewpoint of the narrator
- d. Identify positive or negative comments about people in the story
- e. Identify the narrator's remarks about God
- f. Notice comparison of characters

2. Introduction to the Passage

(Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

a. Literary Context: Upon crossing the Jordan River and the Israelites witness of God's power to safely usher them into the land of Canaan, chapter 5 introduces God's command of the Israelite males to be circumcised. During this brief period when they were encamped at Gilgal getting ready to attack Jericho, they also celebrated Passover for the first time inside the promised land. The order of events in chapter 5 is significant. According to *Exodus 12:43-49*, circumcision was a sign of Covenant with God and a requirement to participate in Passover. While Israel was supposed to perform circumcision on the 8th day after a male was born, they did not practice it during the 40 years in the desert. Therefore, all males were circumcised prior to celebrating Passover for the first time in the land (*Joshua 5:2-9*). The males who were circumcised coming out of Egypt had all passed away during the wilderness exile. The opening verse of chapter 5 is a reiteration of Rahab's words in chapter 2 when she shared with the two spies, twice, that the people of Jericho and other nations were terrified of the Israelites (*Joshua 2:9, 11*). *Joshua 5:1* is prepping the reader that Israel's enemies do not have a fighting chance.

b. Historical/Cultural Context:¹ Israel was not the only nation to practice circumcision. Circumcision was originally for cultic/religious purposes as a sign of cleansing or purity, since practices in ancient civilizations generally revolved around the centralized religious system. However, it is generally understood that the nations in the promised land were not part of the people-groups who practiced a form of circumcision. They were "uncircumcised" people (*Judges 14:3*). Israel's unique position regarding circumcision is in the fact that they circumcised male infants 8 days after birth. All other cultures who practiced this operated on male adolescents and adults.

Circumcision was vital to the Israelites, because it signified their covenant relationship with God, and it was also an act of submission to his directive. Full submission to the Lord through the law was necessary to experience the full blessing of God in the promised land (*Deuteronomy 28:1-14*).

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. Read 5:1 and 5:11-12. What is the Israelite's confidence level at this time and why? What can we learn from their boldness?
- b. What was the priority of circumcision for the Jewish people in the days of Moses and Joshua? How does circumcision operate in the church today (*Colossians 2:8-13*)?
- c. What is significant about God's preparation of the Israelites in Joshua 5? There seems to be three stages to this preparation (v. 1-9; 10-12; 13-15).
- d. What is the significance of Joshua needing to take his sandals off in *Joshua 5:15*? (This happened one other time to my knowledge in *Exodus 3:5*)

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. How does the Lord prepare us for battle today as we walk through this world as the Lord's soldiers (*Ephesians 6:10-20*)?
- b. The Israelite's exile in the desert is similar to our pilgrimage here on earth. God provided for the people in the desert (i.e. manna) and now he provides for us as we are headed to our promised land (i.e. heaven with God). Do you struggle being thankful, like the Israelites did, as we walk through this world trusting God?
- c. The removal of the sandals may be seen as a sign of submission to the commander of the Lord's army. How is the Lord wanting you to submit to him in your life or in a particular situation?

¹ John D. Barry, ed. *Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2016). T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2003).