

BOOK OF JOSHUA
“GETTING READY TO CONQUER–Pt 1”
JOSHUA 5:1-8

Introduction *(Read Vs 1)*

When the heathen nations in **CANAAN** heard about the powerful manner in which the **LORD** brought **HIS CHILDREN** through the **JORDAN**, they were totally demoralized!

It might appear that this would have been the perfect time for **JOSHUA** to lead the people forward into the attack. However, we will see here that instead of commanding **HIS** people to go forward into the battle, the **LORD** commanded them to remain at **GILGAL** and to do several things that, on the surface, might appear very strange to us.

It might even appear that the things they were required to do put them at risk before their enemies! While the ways of the **LORD** may sometimes appear strange to us, **ISAIAH** reminds us that **HIS** ways are above our ways. *Isaiah 55:8–“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.”*

The **LORD** never gets in a hurry! **HE** has the **LIBERTY** to take **HIS TIME** and do things on **HIS SCHEDULE** because **HE IS SOVEREIGN!**

While the things that happen in this chapter appear strange against the backdrop of **IMPENDING BATTLE**, the truth of the matter is the **LORD** is simply **PREPARING HIS ARMY TO FIGHT!**

GOD’S BATTLES are **SPIRITUAL BATTLES!** If we expect to **FIGHT** in these **BATTLES** and do well, then we must make the right kind of **SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS!**

2 Corinthians 10:3-4–“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”

The **LORD** was **PREPARING HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL** here for the **BATTLE** that was ahead. And, **HE** wants to do the same in our lives. We all have **BATTLES** to **FIGHT**, and if we expect to overcome and achieve the **VICTORY**, then we must learn to make the right kind of **SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS!**

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ISRAEL appeared to be ready for the **BATTLE**. They possessed a large **ARMY** and they faced an **ENEMY** that was terrified at their presence.

However, the **LORD** knew that they would never be ready to **FIGHT** and win in **BATTLE** until the proper **SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS** had been made! That is what this passage is all about. The lessons taught here can help **PREPARE** us for **VICTORY** in our **WALK WITH HIM!**

I. WE SEE THEM RENEWING THEIR COVENANT WITH THE LORD! (Vs 2-7)

A. The First COMMAND The LORD Gave ISRAEL Is That All The Men Were To Be CIRCUMCISED!

1. It would seem that all the men who came out of **EGYPT** were **CIRCUMCISED** according to the demands of the **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT!**
2. However, the men who were born during the 40 years of wilderness wandering had not been **CIRCUMCISED!**
3. So, the **LORD** calls for all of the men to be **CIRCUMCISED!**
4. They had to renew the **COVENANT** with the **LORD** if they wanted **HIS BLESSINGS** on them and if they wanted to be guaranteed the **VICTORY!**

B. The Lesson For Us Is Simply This, We Must Remove From Our Lives Anything That Stands Between Us And TOTAL SURRENDER To The LORD!

1. The **BIBLE** is clear that there are times when we must engage in **SPIRITUAL SURGERY** in our lives.
2. *Colossians 3:1-2–“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

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In the next 9 verses of that same chapter we are we are instructed to *'put off'* the old man and *'put on'* the new!

4. This **PRINCIPLE** is vital to being **VICTORIOUS** in our **WALK WITH GOD!**
5. *2 Corinthians 6:17–“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*

C. To The JEW, CIRCUMCISION Was A Reminder That They Were A "Marked People."

1. They were to never forget that they were the servants of the living **GOD** and that they were under obligation to **OBEY HIM** in all things!
2. **CIRCUMCISION** was to be the outward reminder of an inward work of **FAITH!**
Deuteronomy 10:16–“Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.”
3. As **BELIEVERS**, we are supposed to **LIVE** like we are **SAVED!**
4. Anything that is displeasing to the **LORD** needs to be removed from our lives.
5. There are many who have failed to live out the **COVENANT** they made with the **LORD** when **HE SAVED** them.
6. We need to **RENEW** that **COVENANT**, and get back in **FELLOWSHIP** with the **LORD** and serve **HIM** like we know we should!

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II. WE SEE THEM REAFFIRMING THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD! (Vs 8)

A. Remember ISRAEL Was Encamped In ENEMY Territory!

1. After they had been **CIRCUMCISED**, every male in the **CAMP OF ISRAEL** was temporarily disabled and rendered unable to **FIGHT!**
2. It took **GREAT FAITH** for them to **SUBMIT** to the rite of **CIRCUMCISION!**
3. They had to be willing to **TRUST THE LORD** to protect them until they healed.
4. They were literally sitting ducks for the **ENEMY!**
5. However, their **FAITH** was the **SECRET** to their **SUCCESS!**
6. These men had learned the valuable lesson that their **BATTLES** would **NOT** be won by **MILITARY MIGHT** or by superior **BATTLEFIELD** tactics.
7. They knew that if they ever saw **VICTORY**, it would be because **GOD** gave it to them.
8. Theirs would be a **VICTORY** based wholly in **FAITH!**

B. As We Move Through This Life, We Will Face Times Of TESTING Just Like These Men Of ISRAEL Did!

1. They had just come from a great **VICTORY** and often, that is the time when pride will rise up in us and we will think that we are unstoppable.
2. When those times come in our lives, we can be sure that the **LORD** will allow us to go through a time of **TESTING!**

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3. When we go through times of **TESTING**, we must have **FAITH IN THE LORD!**
4. It isn't enough to be clean **SPIRITUALLY**, we must also be **WALKING IN FAITH** before the **LORD!**
5. We need to remember that our **GOD** can and will take care us as **HIS CHILDREN** as we **TRUST HIM!**

C. This SPIRITUAL TRUTH Is Taught Over And Over Again In The WORD OF GOD!

1. When we aren't able to take care of ourselves, our **GOD** is more than able!
2. There are many instances where **FAITH** in a **GREAT GOD** paid amazing dividends.
 - a. **NOAH** was **PROTECTED** in the **ARK** while the rest of humanity perished.
 - b. The **FIRSTBORN** of **ISRAEL** were **SPARED** while the **EGYPTIAN** children died.
 - c. **SHADRACH, MESHACH, and ABEDNEGO** were **SPARED** from the fire.
 - d. **DANIEL** was **SPARED** from the hungry lions.
3. Understand this evening that the **LORD** can take care of us during the difficult times of life.
4. **HE** is **STILL GOD** and **HE** is **STILL ABLE** to do all that we need, **IF WE TRUST HIM!**

*WE SEE THEM RENEWING THEIR COVENANT WITH THE LORD...
REAFFIRMING THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD.*