

## Joshua Chapter 05 Commentary

**1 ¶ And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which *were* on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which *were* by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them anymore, because of the children of Israel.**

Joshua already knew this from the report that Rahab the harlot gave the secret spies, which they delivered to Joshua. We believe; Joshua has shared this with the children of Israel, to encourage their hearts, and minds, and strengthen, their faith and trust in God. Joshua certainly wanted no repeat of the first time they were told to enter the land of promise, where Israel was afraid and said we can't.

What melted the hearts of the occupants of the land? The thing mentioned here is the way God parted the waters of Jordan as he had done the Red Sea. The Amorites and Canaanites had no such god as this among all their idols. However, the real cause is that God has moved to fear the God of Israel, of whom they had no real knowledge.

**2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. 3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. 4 And this *is* the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, *that were* males, *even* all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. 5 Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people *that were* born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, *them* they had not circumcised. 6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *that were* men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD swore that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. 7 And their children, *whom* he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. 8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. 9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.**

Israel had not practiced circumcising on the wilderness march. It seems that it was practiced from Abraham, the time of the covenant and commandment, until Israel left Egypt.

Why was it now necessary to do the circumcision? Because it was the sign, the token in the flesh, of the covenant of God made between God and his chosen people, which began with Abraham, seen in: ***Ge 17:5-11; 5 "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 7 ¶ And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. 9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy***

**seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. 11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you."**

**"This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you."** Understand; being uncircumcised made them look like the Egyptians, from whose land they had come. Being circumcised took away the last thing that gave any impression of them being Egyptians. Additionally, God had fulfilled what he told Israel about bringing them to a land of promise, out of Egyptian bondage.

By performing the act of circumcision, Israel renewed the covenant God made with Abraham and his seed. Circumcision of the flesh was the physical attribute, which separated Israel from the rest of the world of people. It signified that they were God's chosen people.

In application to our own lives, after we are born-again; the act of joining a church body and being baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, is the physical action, which sets God's people apart from the rest of the world of people. Designating they have laid aside the old life, of serving the lust of the flesh, and they have taken on the new life, of fulfilling the will of our heavenly Father. Jesus showed us the way of baptism, when he was baptized of John in the river, seen in: ***Mt 3:13-17; 13 ¶ "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***

There are many New Testament examples of the need of baptism when we are born-again. Here is one: ***Ac 10:44-48; 44 ¶ "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."*** Did you notice; the Holy Spirit had already come upon them, then they believed and were pricked in the heart. They were born-again, and then they wanted to do the right thing to please God.

**10 ¶ And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.**

We understand that it was four days after they entered the land of promise and were circumcised that they held the passover feast. We know this because of God's previous commandment telling them when to keep the passover, and the scripture from the previous chapter; stating when they entered the land of promise, seen in:

- ***Le 23:5 "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover."***
- ***Jos 4:19 "And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho."***

**11 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched *corn* in the selfsame day. 12 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.**

Consider; all the time Israel was on the wilderness journey their clothes did not wear out and they needed for nothing to live. Now, they enter the land of promise and eat of the supply of that land. From henceforth, they will have to make new clothes and make different provisions for their daily supply of food. They are entering into a completely new way of life, in nature. However, their daily need of God has not changed.

Israel has had manna for forty years on the wilderness journey into the land of promise. This was a reminder, every day, of the miraculous power of God to provide the needs of his chosen people. This is also an example to us; God is still able to provide our every need, just as he has promised in:

- **Mt 6:33** "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" In the context of the scripture leading up to this verse we find; all these things are our natural needs for living.
- **Lu 12:31** "*But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" Again, all these things are our natural needs for living.
- **Php 4:19** "*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*" We are here taught that the church of the Philippians supplied the natural needs of Paul in his ministry of the gospel, wherever they could. Paul is now telling them; you supplied my needs in nature and God will reward you with all things necessary for your natural life also.

Isn't it a wonderful display of God's supply; when Israel entered the land of promise, there was already a supply of the natural abundance they needed to sustain life? Likewise, when we enter the land of promise, the New Testament church, the supply of our every spiritual need is already there, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the bounties of the bible, are just waiting for us to gather and partake thereof. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

**13 ¶ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?* 14 And he said, *Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.* And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, *What saith my lord unto his servant?***

Joshua sees a man with a drawn sword. He immediately questions him with; are you for us or them? Notice, the man's answer; "***And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.***" This man identifies himself as captain of the host of the Lord, which is Israel, and thus positions himself over Joshua and Israel.

This man has a drawn sword, which indicates that God is going to fight for Israel. We have such a promise today in: ***Ro 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"***

**"And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship,"** Joshua immediately recognizes heavenly authority; he falls down in worship and ask what the Lord commands. This is an indication that this is the preincarnate Christ, how? An angel would not have received worship, but Christ would. In every trial and temptation we face; we should fall on our face before God, and humbly request, in Jesus's name, **"What saith my lord unto his servant?"** and request that he fight for us.

This man is representative of the pre-incarnate Christ, who is indeed, Commander in Chief of the armies of the Living God. How do we know this? In scripture what always happens when men knowingly encountered Christ? They fall on their faces before him. Here are a few examples:

- **Mr 5:33 "But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth."** Here the healed woman falls down before Jesus.
- **Lu 8:28 "When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not."** Here the Gadarene falls down before Jesus.
- **Re 4:10-11; 10 "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."** Even those in heaven fall before him and worship.

There are other examples in the Old Testament of the pre-incarnate Christ appearance, which we believe is the same body appearance he had in incarnation. Here are a couple, referenced in my study program, which we will explain our belief, the Lord willing.

- **Ge 18:1-3; 1 ¶ "And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, 3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:"** In verse three we see that three men appeared unto Abraham, who were on their way to destroy of Sodom and Gomorrah. Thus, we understand; God is giving Abraham a chance to pray for the salvation of Lot and his family. Abraham addressed one of the three men as **"My Lord,"** which is our indicator that this is the picture of the preincarnate Christ. Recognized as such because, Christ is the author of salvation. We find later in the chapter that Abraham continues to commune with the **"My Lord"** while the others go on their way. Abraham is pleading for the life of Lot. When you get to the angels appearing to Lot in the city of Sodom, there will be only two angels, not three men as we see here. This is another indication of the preincarnate appearance of Christ to Abraham.
- **Ge 32:24 "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day."** Many believe, as I do, that this is the preincarnate Christ, because Abraham identifies him as God in: **Ge 32:30 "And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."** Jacob understands that his life is preserved, meaning he has salvation from God, which comes to men through Jesus Christ.

We understand, as scripture testifies; no man can look upon the face of God and live. However, not only did men look upon the incarnate Christ and live; Peter, James, and John, Christ's disciples, looked upon the glorified Christ and lived.

**15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.**

We have heard this expression before in: *Ex 3:1-6; 1 ¶ "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. 4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."* In this text, Moses is meeting God, the preincarnate Christ, who is sending him forth to free Israel from Egyptian bondage. Moses would be the leader of Israel until the time of his death. Moses will receive instruction from God on how God will use him to deliver Israel.

Joshua is going to be the leader of Israel until his death. He is fixing to receive instruction from God on how to take and destroy the city of Jericho. Allegorically, being born again; we have met Jesus in the form of the Holy Spirit which has taken up residence in us, and the Holy Spirit now gives us instructions of how to fight the battles of the Christian life. We too, have received the same encouragement as Joshua, and Israel, because we know that Christ, our Commander in chief, has already won the battle and the war. Praise God for a victorious Saviour! Hallelujah! Amen!