

Joshua 5:1-15 – A Call to Renewal and Submission

As the Israelites stood on the threshold of the Promised Land, God called them to an act of renewal—circumcision. For forty years in the wilderness, this covenant sign had been neglected, and now, before stepping into their inheritance, they had to be set apart once again. Circumcision was more than a physical ritual; it symbolized a heart that was fully devoted to God, cutting away the desires of the flesh to follow Him wholeheartedly.

For us today, this speaks of a spiritual circumcision—a cutting away of the things that hinder our walk with God. Paul echoes this in Romans, warning against an outward form of faith without an inward transformation. We can go through religious motions, attending church, reading Scripture, or even serving in ministry, but if our hearts are still driven by worldly desires, then we have missed the point. God calls us to walk by the Spirit, not the flesh (Romans 8:5-6). True victory in Christ comes when we surrender every area of our lives to Him.

Once the Israelites were circumcised, God declared, *“This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you”* (Joshua 5:9). Egypt represents our old life, our past sins, and the bondage we were once in. When we fully submit to God, He removes the shame and burden of our past. We don’t have to carry old failures into our new life in Christ. Just as Israel entered a new season, we too must leave behind the past and embrace the future God has for us.

Then, something remarkable happened. The Israelites celebrated the Passover and ate the produce of the land for the first time. The manna, which had sustained them for decades, ceased. Their diet changed, symbolizing a shift in their dependence. No longer would they live off supernatural provision from the wilderness; now, they would partake of the abundance of the Promised Land.

This reminds us that spiritual growth often brings changes. God calls us to move beyond spiritual infancy, where we rely on others for nourishment, and step into maturity, where we feed on His Word ourselves. The Christian life isn’t meant to be monotonous or stagnant—it’s a journey of faith, full of new experiences as we trust Him daily. Walking by the Spirit is an adventure where we never know what God has planned, but we can trust that it is always good.

Finally, Joshua encountered the *Captain of the Lord’s host*, standing before him with a drawn sword. When Joshua asked, *“Are You for us or for our enemies?”* the response was telling: *“Neither, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come”* (Joshua 5:14). Joshua immediately fell to his face in worship and asked, *“What does my Lord say to His servant?”*

This is a powerful reminder that God is not here to take sides—He is here to take over. We often want God to endorse our plans, to fight for our cause, but the real question is: Are we on His side? True leadership begins with surrender. Joshua was a great leader because he was first a servant, completely submitted to God’s authority.

Like Joshua, we must ask, *“Lord, what do You want me to do?”* Sometimes, the answer may be simple—*Take off your shoes, for this is holy ground*. In other words, humble yourself, recognize God’s presence, and let Him lead.

06-Bible Reading Study Notes

Joshua Chapter 05

Victory in the Christian life doesn't come from our strength or strategy but from full submission to God's authority. As we enter into new seasons, let's ensure our hearts are circumcised from anything that hinders our walk, trust Him for the next step, and align ourselves with His plan. Only then will we experience the fullness of the Promised Land He has prepared for us.