

## JOSHUA 5: SACRAMENT 15 September 12

### Review

Joshua 1: Strong in the Lord  
Joshua 2: Spies  
Joshua 3: Surge  
Joshua 4: Stones  
Joshua 5: Sacrament

### Scene Setter

1. Gilgal is on the western bank of the Jordan River. So if attacked, they have no place to retreat as the Jordan River is still at the flood stage. Fighting with your back to a river is considered very poor military decision. Robert E. Lee did that at the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam) (150 years ago!! 17 Sep 62). "The Confederate position was strengthened with the mobility provided by the Hagerstown Turnpike that ran north and south along Lee's line; however there was risk with the Potomac River behind them and only one crossing back to Virginia. <http://www.nps.gov/anti/historyculture/upload/Battle%20history.pdf>  
So why did Joshua move his people into such a militarily untenable position? Lee had one crossing. Joshua had no crossings.

Look up Exodus 14:5-12.

2. Circumcision for adult males is very painful. "Take a week off from work" was a common theme from those who were circumcised as adults. Look up Genesis 34:22-27. Two boys (14 & 13), Simeon and Levi kill all the males in the city of Shechem. Shechem may have had over 100 males. (Note that some of the males may have been under the influence of alcohol to kill the pain.)
3. So humanly speaking, this is as stupid as you get. First, Lee had one fordable river across which he could retreat. But Joshua and Israel have their backs to the Jordan River which is at flood stage with no possibility of retreat. Second, all the males are circumcised and would be in extreme pain for a week. A small army could wipe out all of Israel just like Simeon and Levi did with Shechem.

### The Text

#### A. Consternation 5:1.

1. Who was afraid? *Amorite kings west of the Jordan and Canaanite kings along the coast*
2. Amorite means "Westerner"
3. Why were their hearts melted? *Jordan had been crossed at flood stage - Who is this God?*
4. Look up Exodus 23:27. Look up Joshua 2:11. Was Joshua 2:11 before or after they crossed the Jordan River? *Before they had crossed and because of the 10 plagues and Exodus they were very afraid.*
5. Does the fear of God translate into belief? John Calvin: "We have already seen elsewhere how unbelievers, when smitten with fear, cease not to wrestle with God, and even when they fall, continue fiercely to assail heaven. Hence the dread which ought to have urged them to caution had no other effect than to hurry them on headlong."

## B. Circumcision

1. Repeat - 5:2
  - a. ESV: "At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time."
  - b. NIV: "At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again."
  - c. Why is circumcision the first order of business after crossing the Jordan River? *As they enter the new land, they are making a covenant with the Lord*
  - d. Exodus 4:24-26
2. Reason - 5:3-7.
  - a. What does Gibeath Haaraloth mean? (Hint: see footnote.) *Hill of foreskins*
    - 1.) How many military aged men are there in Nu. 26:51? *601,730*
    - 2.) Perhaps ½ of them were the under 20 that had crossed the Jordan.
    - 3.) 300,000 + their male children = one million????
  - b. Why is circumcision so important? *When God established the covenant with Abraham, it is it is the*
  - c. Thought question: Why were not the Israelites circumcised in the desert? *Nothing to do with sanitary - as the Lord provided the rock of water. They were rebellious.*
  - d. What is excommunication? *Cutting off communication due to refusing to repent*
  - e. What happens first - circumcision or Passover? *Circumcision. Just like one has to be baptized before one partakes of Communion.*
  - f. What is the New Testament equivalent? *Baptism*
    - 1.) Who is to be circumcised in Exodus 12:48? *All aliens. Note that if the father wants to participate, all those in his household must be circumcised*
    - 2.) Who is baptized in Acts 16:34? *The jailer and his family*
  - g. What does that say about the covenant? *God works the covenant through the family*
  - h. NIV Study Bible states that "flint made a more efficient surgical tool." *Cleaner.*
3. Remained - 5:8
  - a. Why did they have to remain in place? *Pain was intense for adults*
  - b. What lessons may the people have learned?
    - 1.) *Circumcision is important - must be circumcised before the Passover*
    - 2.) *Trust - circumcised with no means of defending themselves*
4. Reproach - 5:9 What was the reproach that was rolled away? *Their uncircumcision*
  - a. Lord had saved them from Egypt but could the Lord deliver them to Canaan? They had been wandering 40 years. Nu. 14:13-16
  - b. Exodus 32:12

5. Reminder - 5:9
  - a. What does Gilgal mean? *Roll*
  - b. Why would this be a reminder for the people? *The reproach was rolled away*

### **C. Celebration**

1. Time line:
  - a. 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month - select the lamb
    - 1.) Exodus 12:3
    - 2.) Joshua 4:19 - select the lamb and cross the Jordan
  - b. 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> days of the month: circumcision
  - c. 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month - celebrate Passover
    - 1.) Exodus 12:6
    - 2.) Joshua 4:10
2. How do you view Good Friday? What is a tenebrae service? *Darkness - Good Friday should be a day of celebration, not of darkness.*
3. How do you view the Lord's Supper? *We celebrate the Lord's Supper.*
4. What happens first - baptism or the Lord's Supper? *Baptism*
5. Exodus 12:25. This is just the third time that Passover was celebrated.

### **D. Cessation**

1. Time line
  - a. 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month - eat of the produce of the land - unleavened bread and roasted grain
  - b. 16<sup>th</sup> day of the month - manna ceases
2. How does the time line differ from fairy tales, movies, detective novels?  
*This really happened!!*
3. Exodus 16:35
4. What does the cessation of manna mean to the Israelites? *They have arrived in the Promised Land*