

Joshua 5:1-15 **Dread of Israel – Circumcision – Passover – Commander & Joshua** **Canaanites and Amorites in dread of Israel**

¹ So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.

Circumcision of the Sons of Israel

² At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time." ³ So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. ⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵ For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. ⁶ For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD--to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey." ⁷ Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. ⁸ So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

Passover at Gilgal

¹⁰ So the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

Commander of Yehowah's army

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Canaanites and Amorites in dread of Israel

- ✧ So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel. [Joshua 5:1]

- ✧ The people of the land of Canaan have been following the progress of the Children of Israel from the time Israel was brought out of the land of Egypt.
- ✧ They know where Israel is going, and what is determined by God for themselves. [Genesis 15:17-21, 17:1-8, 21, 21:12, 26:2-5, 28:13-15, 35:9-12, 48:4, Exodus 3:7-10, 16-17, 6:3-4, 13:3-5, 15:14-17, 23:20-28, 33:1-2, 34:11, Leviticus 25:38, Numbers 33:50-54, 34:2, Deuteronomy 7:1-2, 20:16-18]
- ✧ They know about the plagues in Egypt, crossing of the Red Sea, visit at Mount Horeb in Midian, forty years God sustained Israel in the wilderness, the defeat of all that came out against Israel, and now the crossing of the Jordan on dry ground when the river was at flood stage.
- ✧ It is no wonder that the people of the land of Canaan were terrified of Israel.

Circumcision of the Sons of Israel

✧ 2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time."

3 So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

4 And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. 5 For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. 6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD--to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

7 Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

8 So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day. [Joshua 5:2-9]

- ✧ Circumcision was the sign of the Covenant God made with Abraham. [Genesis 17:9-14]
- ✧ With the circumcision of the sons of Israel after the previous generation had passed away during the forty years in the Wilderness, God is starting with a new Generation who no longer carry the reproach of slavery in Egypt, restored to the Covenant with Abraham, fit to inherit the promise.
- ✧ The removal of the reproach is God's doing. [Joshua 5:9]
- ✧ The name Gilgal means: "rolled away," as the reproach was rolled away. [Joshua 5:9]
- ✧ Gilgal is the name given to the first encampment after crossing the Jordan River on the east border of Jericho. [Deuteronomy 11:29-30, Joshua 4:19-20, 5:9]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where they set up the twelve stones taken from the midst of the Jordan River as they crossed over on dry ground. [Joshua 4:20]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where the new generation of the Sons of Israel were circumcised. [Joshua 5:2-9]

- ✧ Gilgal is the place where they stayed until the circumcision was healed, and they celebrated their first Passover in the Promised Land. [Joshua 5:2-10]
- ✧ Gilgal is the place where the manna ceased and the Children of Israel ate the first fruit of the Promised Land. [Joshua 5:11-12]

Passover at Gilgal

- ✧ 10 So the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the **Passover on the fourteenth day of the month** at twilight on the plains of Jericho. [Joshua 5:10]
- ✧ 11 And **they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread** and parched grain, on the very same day. 12 Then the **manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land**; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year. [Joshua 5:11-12]
- ✧ Israel crossed the Jordan River entering the Promised Land on the 10th day of the First month, the day they selected the Passover Lamb. [Joshua 4:19, Exodus 12:3]
- ✧ Israel kept the Passover on the 14th day of the First month in its appropriate time. [Joshua 5:10, Exodus 12:6, Leviticus 23:4-5]
- ✧ The day after Passover, the 15th day of the First month, Israel ate the First Fruits of the Promised Land, the time established as the Feast of the First Fruits, Feast of Unleavened Bread. [Joshua 5:11, Exodus 13:5-6, 23:19, Leviticus 23:6]
- ✧ On the day after Israel ate the produce of the Promised Land, the manna ceased to fall. [Joshua 5:12]

Commander of Yehowah's army

- ✧ 13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" [Joshua 5:13]
- ✧ 14 So He said, "No, but as **Commander of the army of the LORD** I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "**Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.**" And Joshua did so. [Joshua 5:14-15]
- ✧ The appearance of the Commander of the army of Yehowah was a reassurance to Joshua that God was literally present with Israel and would indeed keep His promise to deliver the Land into the hands of Israel.
- ✧ Joshua needed this assurance for the coming attack against Jericho and the following defeat at Ai. [Joshua 6 and 7]
- ✧ Angels do not accept worship. [Revelation 19:10-11, 22:8-9]
- ✧ The commander of the Lord's army did accept worship and commanded Joshua to take off his sandals for **the place he was standing is Holy**, that is the same thing Yehowah had said to Moses at the Burning Bush. [Exodus 3:4-5]
- ✧ This leads us to realize that the identity of the Commander of Yehowah's army was Yehowah Himself in a pre-appearance of God the Word Whom we know as Jesus. [John 1:18, 1 John 4:12]
- ✧ On Holy Ground, God does not want anything manmade between us and ground that is holy.