

Final Preparations

Purpose: to show, by the example of the children of Israel, what we are commanded to do in order for us to defeat our enemies.

Do we really want to see a change in our circumstances? Do we really want to see the strategies of the enemy defeated? How much are you willing to do? There are quite a few things that we must be sure to do before we go into battle. So far,

Moses dies and Joshua takes over. Before their first battle they had to cross the Jordan river. Before we cross over:

- We must be strong and courageous
- We must follow the pattern in the book
- We must follow leadership
- We must be willing to serve

They encountered Rahab and learned:

- God is merciful to those who are willing to repent
- It's not how you start, but how you finish

Then they crossed over with the Ark of the covenant, where we learned:

- Follow the ark (of God's presence)
- Sanctify yourself (setting aside anything that may hinder our walk with God)
- Look to God for His plans and directions

After they crossed over, they took 12 memorial stones, and we learned:

- Remember what God has done
- Remember those who have gone ahead of us

1

#1 - Circumcise the new generation

Jos 5:1 - 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.

Jos 5:2 - At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time."

Jos 5:3 - So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

What was circumcision? It was an outward sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants:

Gen 17:10 - This *is* My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

Gen 17:11 - and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Gen 17:12 - He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

Gen 17:13 - He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Gen 17:14 - And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

We are told the reason why they had to do it:

Jos 5:4 - 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.

Jos 5:5 - 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.

Jos 5:6 - 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."

But why was this important?

Because circumcision was the seal of the covenant that was made with them.

Because circumcision was a picture of what had to happen to their heart in order to be victorious:

Deu 10:16 - Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

Deu 10:17 - And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Rom 8:28 - For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh;

Rom 8:29 - but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.

Before we begin to fight against our enemies, we must make sure that we "circumcise our hearts", or in other words remove anything that would hinder our walk with God:

Heb 12:1 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Once circumcised, their reproach was rolled away:

Jos 5:7 - 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.

Jos 5:8 - So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.

Jos 5:9 - 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.

What was the "reproach of Egypt"?

This was the condition of shame, disgrace and scorn that they had experienced while travelling through the wilderness. Their disobedience gave their enemies a chance to speak badly of them.

#2 – Keep the Passover

Jos 5:10 - Now 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.

Jos 5:11 - 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.

Jos 5:12 - 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.

- The Passover was a festival where they remembered when God delivered them from Egypt. They had to begin to do what God told them to do.
- For us, this we should go to the gatherings that are set up for us (church, home groups, etc.)
- At this time, they ate of the produce of the land for the first time.
- At this point, the manna ceased.

This was truly the beginning of a new season!

So, if we really want to see our enemies defeated...

- Be strong and courageous
- Meditate in God's word (get His word in you)
- Follow God's leaders
- Be willing to serve
- Follow the ark (God's presence)
- Circumcise your heart (sanctify yourself)
- Do what God tells you to do