

## MESSIAH IN THE OT

JROC – Fall 2019

Week 10 – Conquest!

November 24, 2019

*Josh. 4:19-24 - Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup> And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. <sup>21</sup> Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ <sup>22</sup> then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; <sup>23</sup> for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, <sup>24</sup> that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.’*

Biblical principle in Scripture – God desires to make Himself known to the world!

And so we read...

*Josh. 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;*

*Josh. 5:1b - ...and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel. The people in the land of Canaan lost all confidence! Why?*

What a PERFECT time to attack Jericho! Why did the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh cross the dry Jordan River?

*Josh. 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.’*  
WHY?

*Josh. 5:3-7 - <sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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, (the first generation) 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.” <sup>7</sup> 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.

Circumcision is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 17:9-14).

Circumcision represented the sanctifying/the consecrating of life. Circumcision

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symbolized the purifying of the organ by which life is reproduced. Circumcision was a powerful act of consecration to God. It was stepping out in obedience and identifying as one of the LORD’s people.

Josh. 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.*

Josh. 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.*

“Gilgal” means rolling. On this day God rolled away the scorn and the shame that the children of Israel knew in Egypt – the degrading shame of slavery, of bondage. This is the same work God has done in hearts that have placed their trust in Jesus alone for their salvation. He takes away the shame of our sin and rebellion against Him. God called Israel to a place where they saw themselves as they were in Him. By faith, they could see themselves as an obedient, trusting people, and to stop seeing themselves as they were in their slavery and bondage. God causes us – we who are believers in Jesus – to see who we are in Him! NOT victims! We are MORE than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).

Col. 2:11, 13 - *In Him (in Jesus) you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, (being born again is a circumcision of the heart) ... <sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, GOD gave the Jewish people the rite of circumcision, the physical cutting of the foreskin of males, to look forward to the spiritual circumcision of the heart!*

Deut. 30:6 - *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.* Circumcision of the heart before the cross and after the cross has ALWAYS been based on Jesus’ finished work on the cross.

And, after crossing the Jordan, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, following the healing from the circumcision, the children of Israel celebrated. Josh. 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.* The original Passover itself could never be repeated (w/ the lambs' blood over the door and alongside the door), but God told them to always remember how He had delivered them. They were to always live remembering that they were a people delivered and remembering God's work of deliverance.

Josh. 5:11-12 - *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. <sup>12</sup> 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.* God stopped the manna. The people would now be able to provide for themselves. Think of the feasts God had given them and how they were instructed to plant and harvest.

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Josh. 5:13-15 - *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?"*

<sup>14</sup> *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?" And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked...*

Jericho, the great walled city near the Jordan, guarded the eastern approach into the land of Canaan. And so God had told Joshua...*especially Jericho!* In ancient warfare a city like Jericho was either taken by assault or surrounded and the people starved into submission. Its invaders might try to weaken the stone walls with fire or by tunneling, or they might simply heap up a mountain of earth to serve as a ramp. Each of these methods of assault took weeks or months, and the attacking force usually suffered heavy losses.

However, the strategy to conquer the city of Jericho was unique in two ways. First, the strategy was laid out by God Himself, and, second, the strategy was a seemingly foolish plan.

Josh. 5:13 - *And it came to pass, that when Joshua was by Jericho, 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?'*

This Man is in the same location as Joshua. From where has he come? Perhaps more concerning is that the Man's sword is drawn. Joshua moves toward the Man. What is Joshua's question perhaps implying?

Josh. 5:14 - *The Man's answer, 'No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.'*

The Man, by His answer, is stating that Joshua is not in charge – GOD is in charge.

*Commander of the army of the LORD...*, some translations state, *commander of the Lord's host*. The name "LORD of hosts," Adonai Tza-va-ot, occurs some 261 times in the Old Testament Scriptures. The word *LORD*, capitalized, refers to Yahweh, the self-existent, redemptive God. The word *hosts* is a translation of the Hebrew word *sabaoth*, meaning "armies"—a reference to the angelic armies of heaven. Thus, another way of saying "LORD of hosts" is "God of the armies of heaven." This Man Who appears to Joshua commands angels!

Josh. 5:14b-15 - *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"* <sup>15</sup> *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.* The command to remove his sandals (a picture of our humanity and contact with a "dirty" world), was to Joshua clear proof that the Man standing before him was the voice from the burning bush – the Angel of the LORD. This Commander of the army of the LORD uses the same language that Yahweh/Jehovah used in Exodus 3:5

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when He told Moses, as Moses approached the burning bush, *Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground*. Some may think this Man is a mere angel. BUT, we are not to worship angels (Ex. 20:3 - 1<sup>st</sup> commandment *You shall have no other gods before Me*; Matt. 4:9-10; Luke 4:7-8; Rom. 1:25; Col. 2:18; Rev. 22:8-9) .

Throughout the OT, God appears in the form of a man (Gen. 12:7; 17:1; 18:1) or the Angel of the LORD (Gen. 16:7-13; 22:11-12; 48:15-16; Ex. 3:2-6). In one instance, the Angel of the Lord is said to forgive sins (Ex. 23:21), and yet, we know that only God can

forgive sins (Mk. 2:7). Therefore, the Angel of the LORD must be a manifestation of God Himself. The Angel of the LORD is believed to be a pre-incarnate/pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus. “Angel” means messenger. This pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus comes with a message! AND, why wouldn’t we have a pre-Bethlehem appearance of the Messiah? Jesus existed before Bethlehem. Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God is ETERNAL!

The NASB calls this Commander “Captain”. I think of...

*Heb. 2:10 - For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things an/d by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

This Man doesn’t appear again in the book of Joshua.

The book of Joshua shows HOW God wages war against sin...and HE takes the initiative. GOD Himself would lead the Israelites in battle. The pagan nations believed their gods controlled the forces of nature (read Elijah on Mt. Carmel – I Kings 18:16-45

I’m suggesting that this Man, Jesus, appeared to let Joshua know that it was His will, God’s will, to conquer Israel before Israel could conquer any city, any person, in the Promised Land. Israel had to be conquered by God. Joshua bowed down before this Man. Joshua worshipped God. Joshua was a servant of the LORD of hosts.

The battle of Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

*Josh. 6:1-2 - Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.*

Why were the inhabitants of Jericho shut up?

From God’s perspective, the battle was already over and there was VICTORY in the camp! Victory would come only through the miraculous power of God!

*Josh. 6:3-5 - You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. <sup>4</sup> And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of*

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*rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat.*

Where were the Israelites, at this point, in their minds and hearts? What had they recently seen?

This absurd military method required TOTAL dependence upon God...the God Who led them through the wilderness and provided every need. CONSIDER: It would be difficult for Joshua to explain God's method of warfare to the people. But Joshua had been personally visited by the Angel of the LORD – by GOD the Son! And, the men of war and the priests would need to follow the instructions. They followed instructions at the banks of the Jordan. AND, what did God do in the hearts of all the people as they lodged by that SWOLLEN river for three days?

This battle was TOTALLY of God! Yet God gave the children of Israel different roles, tasks...so that Israel could work in partnership with God!

*Josh. 6:6- Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.' <sup>7</sup> And he said to the people, 'Proceed, and march around the city,*

*<sup>8</sup> So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people.... <sup>9</sup> The armed men went before the priests .... <sup>11</sup> So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.... So they did six days. <sup>15</sup> But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! <sup>17</sup> Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, ...<sup>20</sup> So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup> And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. <sup>22</sup> But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." <sup>23</sup> And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives*

*and left them outside the camp of Israel. <sup>24</sup> But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. <sup>26</sup> Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his*

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*youngest he shall set up its gates." <sup>27</sup> So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.*

God simply told Joshua to have the people to march silently around Jericho for six days, and then, after seven circuits on the seventh day, to shout. Joshua followed God's instructions to the letter. When the people did finally shout, the massive walls collapsed instantly, and Israel won an easy victory. In fact, God had given the city of Jericho to them before they even began to march around its walls (Joshua 6:2, 16). It was when the people of God, by faith, followed the commands of God that the walls of Jericho fell down FLAT (Joshua 6:20).

#### Lessons:

Even when God's commands seem foolish, victory is ours! (I Cor. 1:18-25).

We must have faith that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do (Hebrews 10:23; 11:1).

The power of God is supernatural, beyond our comprehension (Psalm 18:13–15; Daniel 4:35; Job 38:4–6). The walls of Jericho fell, and they fell instantly. The walls collapsed by the sheer power of God.

In addition, the story tells us that God keeps His promises (Joshua 6:2, 20). The walls of Jericho fell because God said they would. God's promises to us today are just as certain.

God's methods/ways often seem strange and, at times, foolish. BUT GOD simply asks us to trust Him and obey Him!

How did the children of Israel, in the beginning of the book of Joshua, move forward in their conquest of the Promised Land? They submitted to God's standard of holiness. In submitting to circumcision they demonstrated their commitment to God. They obeyed God's directives.

In Joshua we see God's faithfulness in giving Israel the land of promise based on His covenant promises in the Abrahamic Covenant. He was giving them the land for the KINGDOM He had promised (Ex. 19:6). He promised to make of Abraham a GREAT NATION. God spoke of giving them a KINGDOM. (The Millennial Kingdom is the fulfillment of God's promise of land/of a Kingdom to Abraham) AND, in the book of Joshua, we see God's hatred of sin/wickedness! (Dt. 9)

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The book of Joshua prepares us for later revelation. Regarding the continuing Messianic theme in the OT... Heb. 4:8-9 - *For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. <sup>9</sup> There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.* And so Israel continued to wait for the One – the Messiah – Who would bring complete rest.