

Armed for Battle 4

Joshua 4–5

4. The Principle of Remembrance

Joshua 4:1–7

When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,

“Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe.

Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’”

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen — one from each of the tribes of Israel.

He told them,

“Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder — twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

We will use these stones to build a memorial.

In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’

Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant went across.’

These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.”

1 Samuel 17:34–37 (NIV)

But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”

Exodus 13:3 (NKJV)

And Moses said to the people:

“Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place.”

Exodus 14:9–11 (NKJV)

So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

Then they said to Moses,

“Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?”

Reflection

What has the Lord done for you
that you have not placed in your trophy case?

Your remembrance library?

What miracles...

what provision...

what rescues...

what answered prayers...

have you moved past too quickly?

Frederick Buechner writes:

“There is a deeper need yet, I think — not all the time, surely, but from time to time — to enter that still room within us all where the past lives on as part of the present... The name of the room is remember — the room where with patience, with clarity, with quietness of heart, we remember consciously to remember...”

5. The Principle of Covenant Identity***Joshua 5:1–8***

When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.

At that time the LORD told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites.”

So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.

Matthew 3:13–17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

*And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying,
“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

The Manna Stops

Joshua 5:10–12

While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month.

The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land.

No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again.

So from that time on the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan.

6. The principle of Redemption

Joshua 5:10–12 (again)

While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month.

The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land.

No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again.

So from that time on the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan.

Luke 15:20–24

But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants,

"Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

And they began to be merry.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

John 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Luke 22

Jesus institutes communion at Passover.

7. The Principle of Perspective

Joshua 5:13–15

When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand.

Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?"

"Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the LORD's army."

At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence.

"I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?"

The commander of the LORD's army replied,

"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy."

And Joshua did as he was told.

2 Kings 6:15–17

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city.

“Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered.

“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

And Elisha prayed,

“Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.”

Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes,

and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Conclusion

Crossing the Jordan is not about heaven.

It is about preparation for warfare.

About moving from flesh-led Christianity
to Spirit-led living.

Joshua 4–5 shows us what God establishes
in His people after breakthrough:

Remembrance.

Identity.

Redemption.

Perspective.

Because God prepares a people
before He advances a people.

Before Jericho falls —

He forms hearts.

Before victory comes —
He settles identity.

Before strategy —
He establishes surrender.

And this is where many believers are today.

You are not in wilderness anymore.
But you are not fully in possession yet.

You are in the space between:
crossing
and conquering.

And God is doing a deep internal work.

He is asking:

Will you remember rightly?
Will you live from identity?
Will you stand in redemption?
Will you surrender to My leadership?

Because when a people are prepared internally,
God releases victory externally.