



INTRO

- Share something in our studies of Joshua that has meaningfully impacted you

THE LORD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE FOR VICTORY...

1. ...Through *IDENTIFICATION*: He Secures Us, by Identifying Us as His People

Read **Joshua 5:3-9**

- Why did Joshua have all of the males in Israel circumcised after crossing the Jordan?
- Read **Genesis 17:1-11,24**. Was circumcision just a random rite? If not, what insight do you see as to why God would choose it as the sign of His covenant w/ Abraham

God's intent was that this sign would evoke faithfulness to Him and holiness in us.

Read **Romans 2:28-29** and **Colossians 2:11-14**.

- What has Christ has achieved *for* us (and what does He do *in* us) that the physical rite of circumcision was supposed to have evoked in the old covenant people of God?
- what is the new covenant rite (in the New Testament) that "marks" the people of God, hinted at in **Colossians 2:12**?

In parts of the world, it is a Christian's baptism, not their decision to believe in Jesus, that evokes persecution. What might be the reason that baptism brings such response?

- Share where/when you were baptized and what it means to you.

Read **Revelation 13:14-14:3**; it contrasts two "markings" on the foreheads of two groups of people in our world — what is it that differentiates which mark a person has?

2. ...Through *CELEBRATION*: He Assures Us, by Our Celebrating His Deliverance

Read **Joshua 5:10-12a**. Recount the original event that became memorialized by the Passover celebration (if you need help, see **Exodus 12:21-27**).

- why would celebrating the Passover upon entering the land assure God's people?

Read **1 Corinthians 5:7b**, and **1 Corinthians 11:23b-25**.

- How has Jesus fulfilled the old covenant celebration of Passover?
- What is the new covenant celebration that assures believers of their deliverance?
- How does communion strengthen our souls/faith towards victorious Kingdom living?

Read **Matthew 26:26-29**. How does Jesus' prophetic word in vs.29 assure us towards victorious Kingdom living and service?

3. ...Through *REVELATION*: He Inspires Us by Revealing His Presence

Read **Joshua 5:13-14**. Joshua is alone near Jericho, we assume to strategize how to take this city, when he is confronted by a mysterious stranger with a drawn sword. He identifies himself as the commander of the army of the Lord.

Gerry taught this was a “theophany”, or specifically, a “christophany” — a pre-incarnate manifestation of Christ Himself

- What leads us to believe this was Christ and not just an angel?
- Can you think of any other theophanies/christophanies in the Bible? (recall some)

Joshua’s immediate response of prostration reveals a total surrender of his life and his leadership to Christ

- How does your life-response to Christ compare with Joshua’s life-response to Him?
- How thorough is your level of surrender to Jesus? Can you sincerely say as Joshua, “what does my Lord say to His servant?”, committed to do whatever He says?
 - if not, why not? (e.g. lack of trust? fear of what He’ll say? want to be in control?)
 - if so, share a current example of such surrender

Erwin Lutzer, “Jesus came, not to take sides, but to take over.”

The manifestation of Christ to Joshua reveals to that there is a spiritual dimension to life and that there is interplay between the earthly dimension and the heavenly dimension. We often forget the positive side of this — not only that we have the very presence of Christ active within us through the Holy Spirit, but also that God sends his holy angels (2/3 of all spirit-beings) to minister to believers as well. Read **Hebrews 1:14**.

On the negative side, fallen angels (1/3 of all spirit-beings) do Satan’s bidding to try to oppress, accuse and interfere with the lives of believers. Read **Ephesians 6:10-13**.

- How should the awareness that we live in a spiritual battle influence our trust and connection with Christ, the captain of the hosts?

Finally, read **Joshua 5:15**. With Joshua’s full surrender, Christ teaches a profound insight, that the manifest presence of Christ sanctifies places — even Canaan. The places you go, become “holy ground” (sacred spaces) with the presence of Christ — e.g. work, school, coffee shop, gym, stores, neighbourhood and your home

- How does this reality inspire you toward victorious Kingdom living and service?

PRAYER TIME

- for every believer at Summit to be baptized
- for a deeper experience of God’s assuring grace in receiving Communion
- for full and complete surrender to Jesus Christ — in all areas of our lives
- for “**strong.courageous.faith.**” in victorious Kingdom life and service