

Joshua Chapters 5 and 6

Notes and Questions for Sunday, December 23, 2018

- 5:1 – What was the reaction of the Canaanite kings to news of the crossing of the Jordan?
 - Chapters 9, 10, and 11 start the same way. What is the significance of these reactions?
- 5:2-9 -- Why were the circumcisions in chapter 5 necessary?
 - What was about to take place?
 - What did God say regarding circumcision and His covenant in Gen 17:14?
 - Note the contrast of the two generations. The generation who came out of Egypt had been circumcised and yet they disobeyed God and were consumed (v. 5-6). The next generation was uncircumcised initially, but God raised them up. (v. 7)
 - What does Paul say about the generation that died in the wilderness in 1 Cor 10:1-5?
- 5:9 – states that Gilgal is named such because God has rolled away the shame of Egypt. Gilgal comes from a root word that means either circle or wheel.
 - Some commentators infer that the 12 stones at Gilgal were also displayed in a circle.
- 5:10 – Israel observes the Passover from their camp in Gilgal (on the boundaries of Jericho's territory).
 - How many times had they observed Passover before?
 - Why was circumcision necessary prior to Passover? Ex 12:43-44
- 5:11-12 – What is the significance of the cessation of the manna and eating of the produce of the land?
 - What was the purpose of the manna? Deut 8:3

- 5:13 – Who does Joshua meet in this verse?
 - The word “look” or “behold” indicates that Joshua was startled by this visitor’s appearance.
 - What is the visitor’s response when Joshua asks “for us or foe?”
- 5:14-15 What was Joshua’s reaction to his visitor and what was he instructed to do?
 - Compare this to Moses’ encounter at the burning bush. Exodus 3
- 6:1 – What is the status in Jericho?
- 6:4 – There is a quadrupling of the number 7 in God’s commands to Joshua.
 - 7 priests, 7 ram’s horns, 7 days, 7 times around.
- 6:2-7 – What is the role of the ark in God’s instructions?
- 6:10 – The people were not allowed to shout or make any noise until Joshua’s command.
- 6:16-20 --- Immediately at the critical point of action...”Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!” the author and Joshua explain God’s rules for Jericho’s destruction. The story action pauses from v. 16 to v. 20. Thus verses 17-19 are given special emphasis.
 - What does it mean that Jericho and all that was in it was devoted for destruction or under the ban as some versions put it?
 - What would happen if Israel violated God’s instruction regarding Jericho’s destruction?
 - Why was Jericho being destroyed? Review Lev 18:24-25, Deut 9:4-5, Deut 18:12, and Gen 15:16
- What were the instructions regarding Rahab and her household? 6:17, 22-23, 25
- Review 1 Kings 16:34 in light of Joshua’s curse from 6:26.