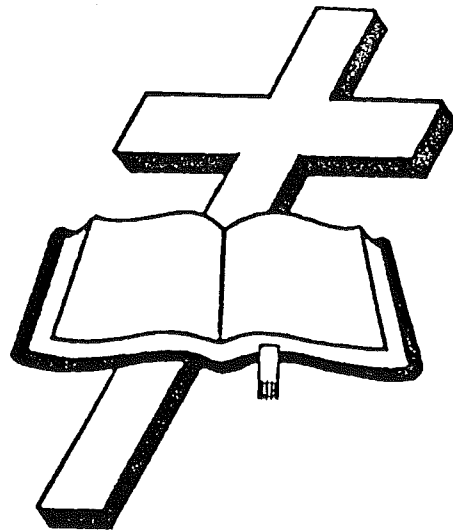


# CAPTAIN OF THE HOST

(Some Final Preparation Before Great Victory)

Joshua 5:1-15



## 3 PREPARATIONS TO OVERCOMING

- ◆ The Ministry Of "Separation" (Vs. 1-9)
- ◆ The Ministry Of "Celebration" (Vs. 10-12)
- ◆ The Ministry Of "Visitation" (Vs. 13-15)

"As The Captain Of The Host Of The Lord Am I Now Come" (Joshua 5:14)

Bill Kirk

# **“THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOST IS JESUS”**

**Text:** Joshua 5:1-15

**Subject:** “The Final Preparation For Victorious Warfare”

## **Introduction**

### **(Joshua Is A Book Of Conflict And Conquest)**

- ◆ How God calls us out of Egypt. (The slavery of sin)
- ◆ How God calls us into Canaan. (The place of victory and possession)
- ◆ How God calls us to battle. (And leads on in the march over every hurdle and opposition)

In chapter 1, “A Courageous Spirit”

In chapter 2, “The Legacy Of Rahab”

In chapter 3, “Crossing Over Jordan”

In chapter 4, “The Ministry At Gilgal”

## **Tonight:**

- ◆ The final preparation before conquering Jericho
- ◆ The final lessons before storming the walls
- ◆ The final instructions before overcoming giants
- ◆ The final admonition before experiencing revival

## **Our Setting Is Clear In Chapter 5**

1. The Israelites are safely on the other side of Jordan.
2. The crossing was totally miraculous by God.
3. The Canaanites were afraid of Israel’s marching forward. (Panic consumed their hearts)
4. And, it seems like it is the perfect time to launch an all-out offensive attack.

### **(But God Was Not In A Hurry)**

- ◆ Some of the people wanted to move in quickly.
- ◆ Some of the Israelites were ready to storm ahead.
- ◆ Some of the congregation thought, “Now Lord, let us show them who is serving the God of heaven”.

### **(But The Lord Says “Not Yet”)**

- ◆ The people had to be prepared for war.
- ◆ The people had to know it was God, not their own wisdom prevailing.
- ◆ The people needed three final steps to take, to be ready to advance.

## **(Tonight)**

- ◆ Three absolutes that prepare us for our tomorrows.
- ◆ Three absolutes that God instituted.
- ◆ Three absolutes that lead us, prepare us and assure us of the favor of God.

## Questions:

- ◆ “Pastor, why the circumcision in (vs. 1-9)?
- ◆ “Pastor, why the Passover in (vs. 10-12)?
- ◆ “Pastor, why the captain of the host in (vs. 13-15)?

(Tonight)

- ◆ The three articles of impeachment that spell doom for the enemy.
- ◆ The three preparations that enable you to overcome high walls in Jericho.

### **I. Circumcision Or “The Ministry Of Separation” ( vs. 1-9)**

(v. 2) “At that time the Lord said, circumcise again the children of Israel the second time”.

**Fact:** God had given circumcision as the sign of His covenant to Abraham and his descendants.  
(Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27)

**Fact:** It was a painful surgery and ritual that made the Jews a marked people.

**Fact:** It signified great meaning to the Jew.

- #1. It restored their covenant relationship with God.
- #2. It reminded them who they belonged to.
- #3. It reiterated to the Jews that they were a special people.

(But Most Of All)

- ◆ It marked the Jews as a separated and holy people, set apart for the glory of God. (Exodus 19:5,6)
- ◆ It meant that in the surrounding nations of idols and sensual living, (Israel was to maintain purity in their hearts, marriages and in their worship to God).

(Was It That Important?)

- ◆ As far as God was concerned, Israel couldn’t inherit the promise land until they were circumcised.
- ◆ For 40 years, this separating sign had been neglected (all through the wilderness).
- ◆ But now, on the verge of battle, God says stop!
  - “You’ll be surrounded by pagan people”
  - “You’ll be exposed to immoral practices”
  - “You’ll be tempted to compromise with the enemy”

(So Before You March Forward)

- ◆ Renew the covenant through circumcision (Why?)
- ◆ Because the physical operation on the body is symbolic of a spiritual operation on the heart!  
(Repeat)

(What’s It Mean To Us?)

(The Answer Is Found In Galatians 6:14-16)

(v. 15) “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature”. (In Other Words)

- #1. We have been separated through the cross.
- #2. We have the Holy Spirit at work in us, separating us from all impurities.
- #3. We have the grace of God available to mortify the deeds of the body.
- #4. We have God’s help to crucify the lust of the flesh.
- #5. We have the command and the enablement to live separated unto God.

## II. Passover Or “The Ministry Of Celebration” (vs. 10-12)

(v. 10) “And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal and kept the Passover”.

**Fact:** 40 years before, Israel had celebrated the Passover when delivered from Egypt. (Exodus 11-14)

**Fact:** Now, Gilgal would be a place of renewal with celebration of the Passover.

**Fact:** Only twice before had Israel held the Passover.

#1. In Egypt when blood was sprinkled on the doorposts. (Exodus 12)

#2. At Mt. Sinai. (Numbers 9:5)

### (Why The Passover?)

#1. The Passover was a celebration of emancipation from Egypt and slavery

#2. The Passover was a celebration that Israel belonged to God

#3. The Passover was a celebration that Israel owed their very life to God’s protection

#4. The Passover was a celebration of God’s ownership, protection and provision through the blood

### (But What About Us?)

◆ For you and me it means even more:

#1. We have cause to celebrate because of the blood of the cross.

#2. We have the joy of celebrating total emancipation from the power of Satan.

#3. We have the right and the reason to celebrate because of who we now belong to.

#4. We can celebrate with joy unspeakable and full of glory because our Passover Lamb has been slain for us.

### (Think Of This:)

◆ Right under the noses of the enemy,

◆ Right under the noses of the Canaanites,

◆ Right under the sight of enemies and evil (God says, rejoice and celebrate the Passover). (Why?)

◆ Because you belong to me and the enemy is nervous (not you) because you are under the watchcare of Jehovah.

### (Just Before Battle And Victory)

#1. The ministry of separation (Circumcision)

#2. The ministry of celebration (Passover)

## III. The Captain Of The Host Or “The Ministry Of Visitation” (Vs. 13-15)

(v. 13) “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes” (and lo and behold, look who he sees).

◆ Joshua is out viewing the military situation.

◆ Joshua has to go forward and he can’t go back.

◆ Standing in the way is Jericho (a great fortress of Canaan).

◆ Walls 90 feet high and 30 feet thick.

◆ And Joshua is out strategizing and seeking God as to how the walls will ever come down.

◆ If he ever needed an encouraging word, it was now.

**Question:** What happens on this day?

**Answer:** The Lord appears to Joshua as Captain of the armies of the Lord.

**Question:** Why did the Lord appear on this day?

**Answer:** To remind Joshua that he was not alone.

## (Remember)

- ◆ There was the pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus to Abraham.
- ◆ There was the pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus to Jacob.
- ◆ There was the pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus to the three Hebrew men in the furnace.
- ◆ And now, Joshua meets the Captain of the Host who is Jesus.

**Question:** Why did Jesus visit Joshua before the battle begins?

**Question:** How did the Lord encourage Joshua and you and me?

**Question:** What did the Lord say to Joshua?

## (3 Things That Speak To Us All)

### #1. "It's My Battle, Not Yours"

(v. 13) "The Lord had his sword drawn in His hand"

- ◆ Rest well beloved, and remember; worry is: Accepting responsibility that God never intended for you to carry.

### #2. "You Are Second In Command"

(v. 14) "I'm the captain Joshua, not you"

- ◆ Rest well beloved, the Lord comes to us to let us know, that He is still in charge and in control.

### #3. "This Is Holy Ground Because I Am Here"

(v. 15) "Take your shoes off Joshua, it's Holy"

- ◆ Joshua is standing in heathen territory.
- ◆ But wherever you are (if I am with you) it's a Holy Place.

## (What A Revelation)

- ◆ Satan was going to oppose Joshua.
  - ◆ Joshua wasn't fighting with flesh and blood.
  - ◆ Joshua's battles would be with evil powers under satan's rule,
  - ◆ And Joshua learns (and so do we).
- ◆ That our Captain gives us power to pull down strongholds that exalt themselves against the plan of God.

## Conclusion

### (What Precedes The Battle And Great Victory?)

- #1. The Ministry of **Separation** (as we are called to purify our hearts).
- #2. The Ministry of **Celebration** (as we rejoice in who we belong to).
- #3. The Ministry of **Visitation** (as we let the Lord lead on and follow His command).

(and)

- ◆ Recognize that He is here to Equip us and send us out to battle!!!

AMEN!

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