

JOSHUA CHAPTER 5

PART II

THE PASSOVER

5:10-12

On arrival in the Promised Land, Israel **DID NOT** rush into conquering it.

- Rather she showed unusual grace in putting **GOD** first and waiting for **His Timing**. ('waiting for the Lord's timing': cf Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 37:7; Psalm 40:1; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 130:5; Psalm 104:27; Job 35:14; Habakkuk 2:3)
- The miracle of crossing the Jordan must have dispirited the Canaanites because they **retreated inside** their fortress towns.
- Israel had to recover from the circumcision and so it would have been absolutely wrong for Israel to go ahead with fighting before her own people had recovered from the circumcision.

Notice that under the very obedient Joshua that God's people behaved in very **unworldly** ways.

Instead of attacking Jericho – which was nearby – they stayed at Gilgal for spiritual reasons namely Circumcision followed by Passover.

- In other words they were concerned about doing the Divine Will of Him who was Present before them – unseen – in the Ark.
 - The miracle of the Jordan made that Presence **deeply felt** by all.
- Circumcision was the first priority for they were **NOW** – officially – belonging to Abraham's Covenant (Gen ch 17), and subject to **the Promise** given to Abraham to possess the **Promised Land** (Gen 13:14-17)
 - without circumcision they had no **RIGHT** to it! It was not given to them just because they were the physical descendants of Abraham – but to those descendants who were:
 - (a) believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - (b) participants in the Covenant God cut with Abraham and his descendants forever.
 - As circumcised believers in the Covenant they had just **COME HOME**.
 - the shame of the Wilderness – where they lived under God's judgement for Apostasy – is over.

5:10

- They kept the Passover: this, too, was in obedience to the Lord.
Ex 12:48 No uncircumcised person may eat the Passover.
- The LAST time Passover was celebrated was in **Num 9:1-5** as they were about to leave Sinai for the deeper Wilderness in the **second year** of the Exodus.
- It was not celebrated for the past 38 years – hence Israel was Spiritually crippled (Jn 5) and she was under Judgement... they did not circumcise the children born in the Wilderness who are now the adults about to take possession of the Promised Land.
- The Passover was celebrated on the 14th Nisan at eventide.
The lambs were killed at 3 pm – the exact time of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis ch 22).
Ex 12:14 **This is a memorial for you.**
Ex 12:26 When the children ask **What does this mean?**
You are to say: **It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover.**
Ex 12:42 **This must be kept as a vigil in honour of the Lord.**
- Therefore the Passover was instituted to remember the **great act of God** in the Exodus
 - fulfilled fully and completely by Jesus in the Eucharist: **Do this in memory of Me.**

- The Passover manifested the great mercy of God for His enslaved children
 - both physical (Exodus) and Spiritual (Redemption)
 - it displayed God's Righteousness (Holiness) for He didn't just let His children "off the hook".
A lamb had to die for their salvation.
The blood of the lamb pleaded for salvation for the people.
1 Jn 2:1-2: **Jesus is the sacrifice that takes our sins away.**
- The Passover of Israel was prophetic for that of Christ in NT.
1 Cor 5:7 **Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.**
Ex 12 is fully fulfilled in Him – to the last detail.

Jesus also was killed at 3.00 pm on the 14th Nisan!

Notice that the first Passover was celebrated in Egypt **AFTER** God's Judgement in the plagues

- all the first-born in the land of Egypt were to die that night
- in Jesus' Passover it was God's Only Begotten Son who died in place of the rest of us.

- It was **THE LORD'S** Passover: it was **God's** deliverance of His People.
In Gen 22:8 we read **that God will PROVIDE HIMSELF a Lamb.**
 - for only a person who was Divine could satisfy **Divine** Holiness
 - " " " " " **Human** could represent HumanityJesus had both Natures within His own Person, so was the **PERFECT LAMB**

5:9 (NB) **Today I have ROLLED BACK the reproach of Egypt from you.**
They named the place where this happened: **Gilgal** = "rolling"

- The reproach of Egypt was their Spiritual slavery to sin and idolatry, followed by their physical slavery to open them up and allow God to save them.
- During their apostasy in the Wilderness, the Egyptians sneered at them saying:
Ex 32:12 "It was in treachery He brought them out to do them to death in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the earth"
 - now that they are a humble, loving, obedient people God has **rolled away** all reproach from them:

5:11 (NB) The day **AFTER** Passover they ate the produce of the land! It was **OLD CORN**.
They crossed over into Promised Land just in time for the wheat harvest – so they ate last year's corn – the last of the old harvest.

(NB) **Then** the **MANNA** stopped falling!! God had fed them through their **Apostasy!**

'NOBODY IS GOOD EXCEPT GOD ALONE': Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19

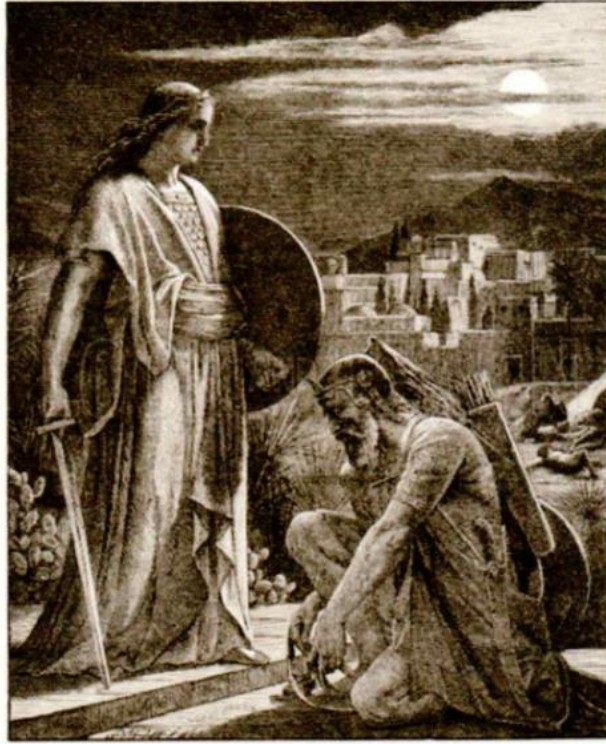
The Captain of God's Army is St Michael the Archangel **OR Pre-Incarnate Christ!!**

God's Heavenly Hosts fight **WITH** us and **FOR** us when we are in right relationship with God.

The fight against Satan and evil is Heaven's fight:

*"If God is **For** us, who can be against us?" Rom 8:31*

"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" Rom 8:37



The Commander of God's Army

5:13-15 This is one of the most amazing events in the Bible.

5:13 Joshua saw a **MAN ... with a drawn sword in his hand.**

Joshua asked: '**Are You with us ...** or the enemy?

The "Man" replied NO! He did not take sides!

5:14 **But as Commander of the Army of the Lord I HAVE NOW COME**

Joshua fell on his face **AND WORSHIPPED**

What does my Lord say to His servant?

5:15 **Take the sandal off your (right) foot, for the place where you stand is Holy.**

Joshua did so.

1 Sam 2:30 Those who honour Me I will honour...

- As a reward for his obedience Joshua gets a heavenly visitor – and a **BIG** revelation.
- Joshua's visitor was there 'in the flesh' – but his **sudden appearance** alerted him to 'lift up his eyes and look' – which indicates both **spiritual** as well as **natural** seeing.
- Joshua was a brave man and so addressed this Person without fear.

Who is the Man? At first glance it seems to be St Michael, the Archangel, who is the protector of God's People. In the Pentateuch we often read that the Angel of the Lord appeared to someone – and then God Himself spoke e.g. at Mamre for Abraham:

Gen 18. There He came as **a Traveller: Lk 24:33-35**

But We are not allowed to **WORSHIP** Angels! cf Rev 19:10; 22:18

In Rev 19:10 the Angel scolded John and told him that he was a creature of God

- just as John was. **Worship God alone!**

Yet here in Joshua 5 **the Man** allows Joshua to worship him!

And He also says what God said to Moses at the Burning Bush in Ex 2:

Take off your shoes... this is holy ground!

Identity: John 14:21 **“He who keeps my commandments is the one WHO LOVES ME and I will love him and I will MANIFEST myself to him”**

→ Yeshua visits Yohua! It was the Son of the Father, the Lamb of God, who was also the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev 5:5),

The Warrior, who fights and **WINS** God’s wars: Rev 19:12-21

→ **ECCE HOMO!**

(NB) God, in His Triune Reality is **invisible** to human eyes: Ex 33:20 **No one can see Me and live.**
1 Tim 6:16: **God dwells in unapproachable light:** Jn 1:18 also.

Yet Gen 32:20 Jacob called the place **PENIEL** which means the Face of God, after he fought the Angel all night.

Ex 24:10 **they saw the God of Israel** – on Sinai after signing the Covenant.

Num 12:6-8 **If there is a prophet among you I show Myself in VISION... not so with my servant Moses... he sees the “Form” or likeness of God.**

(NB) They had authentic Communion with God, but never could see Him in His **ESSENCE**,

Yeshua, Jesus in New Testament, became Incarnate to SHOW us **the Face of God**

Jn 1:18 He was in the Bosom of the Blessed Trinity eternally – He can **REVEAL** God

Jn 14:9 **To have seen Me is to have seen the Father”**

1 Cor 1:15 / Heb 1:3 Jesus is the IMAGE (ICON) of the Invisible God.

→ **An interesting text** in Ex 23:20 and 21 **I will send an Angel before you...**

Be careful with Him, obey Him, do not provoke Him... BECAUSE MY NAME (my Person) is in Him”.

- this means that God the Father would send **His Son** as their guide **in Exodus!**

- He sent **His Son** frequently until He came fully as **A MAN** in the Incarnation to guide His New Testament People on their long journey of Redemption.

So, it was God, the Son who visited:

Hagar in Gen 16:7,

Abraham: Gen 18:1

Jacob: Gen 32:24-30

Israel: Judges 2:1

Gideon: Judges 6:12-18

Manoah: Judges 13:21

→ In Malachi 3:1 the Messenger... Angel of Covenant is the Coming One who will suddenly appear in God’s Temple.

(NB) These are all incidents of the pre-Incarnate Word, preparing the Way for His Coming in the Incarnation e.g. 1 Cor 10:5 **... they drank from the spiritual Rock which FOLLOWED them and that Rock was CHRIST!** cf **Heb 11:26**

To the Prophets & Saints in Old Testament He came **IN VISION** Ezek 1:26; Dan 10

He came in **Prophecy** ... all prophetic Books of Bible

He came **in Person** to Joshua!

Finally, we are being shown in this incident that when **we** put ourselves on **Heaven’s side** that Heaven comes to **our** side!

• Joshua now knows for sure **who it is** who is guiding this war, so he asks humbly

What does my Lord say to His servant?

- “Not my will but Thine be done”

- **Be it done unto me according to Your Word**

Rom 8:31: If God is For us, who can be against us?