

Joshua 5: Preparing for Battle

Getting started: Did you have a pre-game ritual or routine that you or your team followed before a major match or competition? How did it help your performance?

Read vv. 1-9 Circumcision

1. What happened when news of the Jordan River crossing reached the nations in Canaan? What were they likely thinking about the children of Israel? (v. 1)
2. If circumcision was the distinguishing mark of the sons of Abraham, why was Joshua asked to circumcise Israel a “second time”? When was the last time Israel had been circumcised? (vv. 2-5)
3. Why did the children of Israel spend 40 years in the wilderness and all the men of Israel die there? (v. 6) What did the sign of circumcision show? (vv. 7-9; Acts 7:8, Rom. 4:11) What nickname was given to the town where circumcisions took place? What does the Hebrew name of the town mean?

Read vv. 10-13 Celebrating Passover

4. On what day of what month did Israel celebrate the Passover? (4:19) What did this day celebrate? (v. 10)

5. What changed the day after Passover for the children of Israel? (vv. 10-12) What did eating from the produce of the land prove to Israel? (Exodus 3:8; Lev. 25:19)

Read vv. 13-15 Commander of the Lord’s Army

6. What did Joshua see while surveying the city of Jericho? What suggests that Joshua was surprised and unsettled by what he saw? (v. 13). How did the Man answer? (v. 14)
7. How can we be sure that the Man Joshua saw was divine? Since this Man received worship and appeared in physical form, what do we call this Person? When Joshua realized who he was talking to, what did He want? (v. 14).
8. How can we answer those in modern times who claim to have been visited in a similar way by Jesus or some other heavenly being and to have heard a message straight from God?
9. Why did the Man ask Joshua to remove his sandals? (v. 15) What connection is being made here with Joshua’s removal of sandals and being on holy ground? (Exodus 3:2-5) If holiness is an internal trait and not external, why did He have these men remove their sandals? What things might we do before entering the presence of a holy God today?