**“A Life Lived for God” [The Book of Joshua]**

**“Holy Ground”** – Joshua 5:13-15 October 10, 2021

Review from last week: **“Tasting the Promised Land,” Joshua 5:10-12**

We considered the Israelites’:

1. Location: Gilgal
2. Timing: The Passover (Closing of the wilderness chapter)
3. Provision: for 40 years God sustained them (now God stops the manna)
4. Transition: Spiritual Maturity (from being hand fed to feeding themselves)

**Joshua 4:6** “That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?”

**Holy Ground**

**Joshua 5:13-15** *“13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”*

**Key Points about the Messenger**

1. Mystery
2. Loyalty
3. Majesty
4. Identity

**1. Mystery**

*“13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand:”*

**1 Chronicles 21:16** *“And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.*

David “lifted up his eyes” and saw a man with “a sword drawn in his hand.”

“The Angel of the Lord”

David and the elders were “falling on their faces.”

**2. Loyalty**

Joshua 5:13-14 *“13…and* ***Joshua*** *went* ***unto him****, and* ***said*** *unto him,* ***Art thou for us****, or* ***for our adversaries****?*

*14 And* ***he said****,* ***Nay****;….”*

**Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?**

**“Nay!”**

**Deuteronomy 6:5** *“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

**Deuteronomy 6:13-14** *“13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.* *14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;*

**Deuteronomy 6:18** *18 And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,”*

**Their loyalty and commitment must be to God.**

**The sword in His hand is pointing to the judgment that God is going to bring on those who are not faithful to Him.**

**Ephesians 6:10-17** *“10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”*

**3. Majesty**

**Joshua 5:14** *And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?*

“*as captain of the host of the LORD*”

**I am a representative of the Almighty God**

“…Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.”

**People fall on their faces in reverence and submission to God!**

When God confronts people who oppose Him, the scripture reveals a different response.

**John 18:4-6** *“4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.”*

**John 6:70** *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?*

**Isaiah 28:13** *“But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.”*

**Jeremiah 7:24** *“But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.”*

**Those who are in submission to God always fall forward.**

**Those who oppose God always fall backwards.**

**4. Identity**

**a. His Weapon**

**Joshua 5:13** *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**Revelation 2:12** *And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;*

**b. His Title**

14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.

 **He identifies Himself**: “Am I….now come…” “as captain of the host of the LORD”

**Hebrews 2:9-10** *9But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

**Jesus is called the “Lord of hosts” 235 times in the Bible.**

**c. Receiving of Worship**

**Joshua 5:14** *“… And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?”*

**Revelation 19:10** And *I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

**Exodus 20:3-5** *3Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

**James 4:4** *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

**d. His Command**

**Joshua 5:15** *And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*

**Exodus 3:2-5** 2*And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. 4And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*

**Colossians 2:8-9** *8Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

**Genesis 3:8** *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

**Joshua was face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 8:10** *10And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

**Galatians 2:20** *20I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**We deny our flesh, surrender our hearts to Him, and walk in the path**

**of righteousness on “Holy Ground”**

**“Be ye holy; for I am holy.”**

This is God’s command to us.

How are we doing?