

JOSHUA: *presence, courage, action.*

A New Beginning - Joshua 5:1-12
February 26, 2017

And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. - **Joshua 5:9**

I. TWO SACRAMENTS

- The crossing now complete, the kingdoms of Canaan sense an overwhelming fear of Israel and their God (vs. 1; Deut. 2:25; 11:25; 28:10; Josh 2:9).
- God directs Joshua to enact the first sacrament: circumcision of the new generation of Israel (vss. 2-3).
- The author provides a brief explanation of why circumcision needed to be performed, including the historical narrative behind it (vss. 4-7).
- Circumcision was the sign and seal of the covenant Israel enjoyed with Yahweh (Gen. 17).
- The rite of circumcision looked backward to the covenant God made with Abraham, and forward to the fulfillment of all God's promises to Israel as his people (Gen. 17).
- The second sacrament required by God is the observation of Passover (vss. 10-12).
- The Passover looked back to the Lord's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt, and forward to the coming "lamb of God" (Ex. 12; Lev. 23:4-8; John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7).
- As a sign that Israel was now "home" and the days of wandering had ceased, the manna no longer appeared, and they ate from the produce of the land (vs. 12; Ex. 16).

II. A FRESH START

- God's people get a fresh start in the Promised Land. People need fresh starts occasionally (1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21).
- Forgiveness offers us fresh starts (Luke 22:32; John 21:15-19; Eph. 4:1-3).

KNOW: We all need new beginnings. We all need do-overs occasionally. Don't be afraid to ask God for one, or to offer one to a friend seeking reconciliation.

DO: Get a fresh start with God.

Recommended Reading:

What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey

(LifePoint library call # 234 YAN - three copies available)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Joshua chapter 5:1-12.

1. What effect did the Jordan River crossing have upon the kingdoms in Canaan?
2. Why was circumcision necessary for the Israelites who crossed into the Promised Land?
3. What was the difference between how Israel ate in the wilderness and how they ate in the Promised Land?
4. What was significant about taking the Passover in the Promised Land? What does the Passover look forward to?
5. So far in this story, how has God fulfilled his promises to Israel?
6. In what ways has God worked in your life in both ordinary and extraordinary ways?